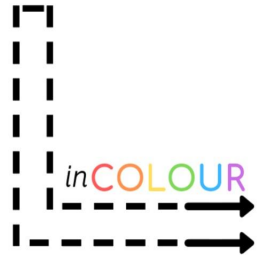
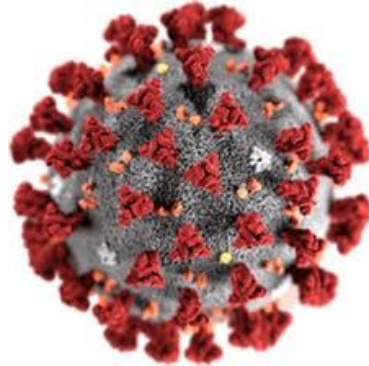


# Listen UP!

“How to Get Your Voice Heard in Politics”

COVID19 Edition



@leadingincolour | @serishaiyar

leadingincolour.ca

# Leading in COLOUR

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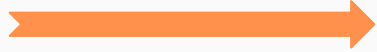
Leading in COLOUR was founded in 2019 after a growing frustration with the rejection of racialized experiences in advocacy spaces. We aim to provide young racialized leaders and activists with the necessary tools needed to conduct their advocacy efforts. We offer **FREE** training in the form of webinars, workshops, and events for young racialized leaders to develop their advocacy skill set.

How to ADVOCATE

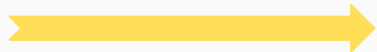
# Who Are Your Representatives?



- Federal
  - MP - Member of Parliament



- Provincial
  - MPP - Member of Provincial Parliament
    - Ontario
  - MNA - Member of the National Assembly
    - Quebec,
  - MHA - Member of the House of Assembly
    - Newfoundland & Labrador
  - MLA - Member of the Legislative Assembly
    - Rest of Canada






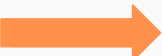
- Municipal
  - City Councilor
  - Mayor

# Being Heard During a Pandemic

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- Find places to ask questions:
  - Town Halls
  - Fundraisers
  - Constituency Events
  - Debates
- Make use of digital platforms.
- Use social media to join conversations, ask questions, navigate opinions etc.
- Follow-up on election platforms, promises and announcements.
- Volunteer for your constituency, political party, advocacy group etc.
- Request video conferencing meetings and phone calls.

# Engaging With Policy Makers

- If you support your representative, volunteer with their constituency office or for their campaigns.
- Invite your representatives to events you're hosting.
-  ■ Attend events where your representative will be speaking.
- Request meetings with your representatives or their staffers.
-  ■ Engage in meaningful dialogue. Find a connection on anything even if you don't agree politically.
-  ■ Follow up with emails/letters or a phone call on the progress made or lack thereof pertaining to the issues discussed.
-  ■ Ask questions that require a direct response. (yes/no)

# Meeting With Representatives

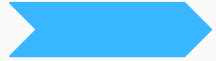


- Establish a Connection
  - Are you a constituent?
    - Leverage Your Vote
- If they are not receptive:
  - Ask Questions
    - Why is \_\_\_ their position on \_\_\_?
  - Challenge Them
    - Use facts, data, evidence and concrete examples to back your point.
  - Navigate Other Issues
    - Change tone or subjects as needed to continue the engagement without seeming adversarial and without compromising your stance.
- If they are receptive:
  - Applaud any progress made on the issue.
    - If there is more to be done, push for it.
  - Offer opportunities to collaborate, where appropriate.
  - Ask what you can do to push your issue forward.

# Meeting With Representatives



- Collaborate
  - There is strength in numbers!
    - Meetings = 2-4 people
    - Form Coalitions
      - Organizations & Individuals



- Do Your Research!
  - Keep your points clear and concise.



- Bring materials.
  - Relevant Reports/Briefs
  - Petitions
  - Contact Cards

Remember they are just people like you!  
If you're a constituent it's their JOB to listen to you!



QUESTIONS

Try it TOGETHER

# Group Activity

- 1 • List Team Members (select a member to fill out slides and one to present)
- 2 • Select an issue you care about.
- 3 • Identify your representatives.
- 4 • Plan your meeting.
  - Brainstorm 2-3 key points.
  - What materials would you send?
    - What advocacy would you do to show them you care? (e.g. protest, petitions etc.)
  - What is your ask? / What do you want them to commit to?
- 5 • How would you engage them post-meeting?
- 6 • Present to the group.