

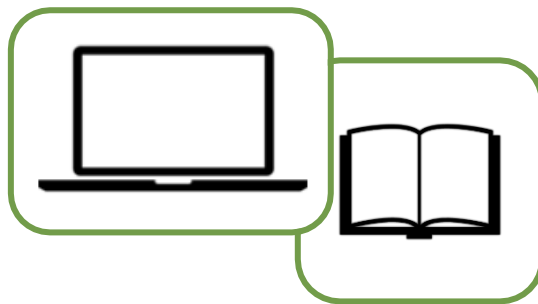
Doing Research

Being well-informed is an essential part of advocacy. Find out as much as you can about the issue you are passionate about, what is currently being done about it, and the alternatives that have been proposed. CPJ's report provides information on four critical issues you can advocate on. The following are some places to continue your research:

- **Newspaper articles**
- **Organization websites** like www.cpj.ca/half-welcome.
- Organization Facebook pages, Twitter feeds, & blogs are also great ways to keep up-to-date!
- **Parliamentary reports** on wait times, travel loans, allocation limits, etc.
- **Websites of government departments such as the Department of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC)**. This can be found at www.cic.gc.ca. Periodically, IRCC outlines current initiatives and changes to resettlement policies.
- **Party websites** and election platforms will tell you the commitment of the government and the opposition parties.
- The **Speech from the Throne** and ministerial speeches outline a government's proposed direction
- **Parliament of Canada LEGISinfo** website (www.parl.gc.ca/LEGISINFO) provides information on bills currently undergoing the parliamentary process. This site gives you the text of the bill, major speeches that have been made about it, and its current status.
- **RSS Feeds** allow you to be notified when new information is published online. Subscribing to RSS feeds on news websites or relevant blogs will keep you up-to-date on the latest news on a specific topic.

Next Steps

When you have spent some time researching your issue (along with the government's position and the stance other organizations have taken), you will be ready to begin envisioning your advocacy activities. Being informed will give you confidence and credibility and will help you develop clear objectives and an effective strategy.



Keep in Mind:

Accessing Information.

For access to government correspondence or documents pertaining to an issue, contact the government department responsible. You may be able to obtain this information informally, or you may have to submit a formal request under the Access to Information Act. If this is the case, you must fill out an "Access to Information Request Form" available online at bit.ly/access-infoform



Go Deeper: Political Parties. To learn more about Canada's political parties and their positions on specific issues, visit the "Political Parties" page on the "Apathy Is Boring" website at bit.ly/poliparties

