

# Canada Needs Petitions With Power

Many Canadians feel something is wrong.

They may not know every detail of how Parliament works. They may not follow every bill, committee meeting, or government announcement. But they know when life is getting harder. They know when groceries are too high, taxes keep rising, families are struggling, and decisions made in Ottawa do not seem to reflect the concerns of ordinary people.

Across Western Canada, that frustration is growing. In Alberta, separation talk is no longer just background noise. In Saskatchewan, many people also feel that Ottawa does not listen. Different provinces may express it differently, but the complaint is often the same:

Ottawa makes decisions, and Canadians are expected to live with them until the next election.

That is not good enough anymore.

Canada does not need more division. Canada does not need provinces talking about leaving. Canada does not need citizens feeling powerless between elections.

Canada needs one necessary change.

Canada needs a Citizens' Trigger.

The idea is simple. Canada already has petitions. Canadians can sign petitions and ask Parliament to act. But under the current system, petitions mostly require a response. They do not give citizens real decision-making power.

**Canada needs petitions with power.**

**Under a Citizens' Trigger Law, if 250,000 verified Canadians sign on to a national issue, that issue would legally trigger a national referendum - a direct vote by Canadians on the issue.**

That means Canadians would have a peaceful, legal, democratic tool between elections.

This is not about left or right. It is not about one party. People can still vote Conservative, Liberal, NDP, PPC, Green, Bloc, Independent, or anyone else. The Citizens' Trigger is bigger than party politics.

**It is about accountability.**

Right now, a majority government can often operate as if an election gives it a blank cheque for four years. Canadians may complain. They may protest. They may write letters. They may call their MP. But if Ottawa refuses to listen, what then?

That is where the Citizens' Trigger would change the power relationship.

If an idea is weak, it will not get enough signatures. It dies on its own. But if hundreds of thousands of Canadians are willing to sign, then the issue clearly matters. Ottawa should not be the only one deciding which issues deserve attention. Canadians should decide what matters by reaching the signature threshold.

That is the beauty of the idea.

Anyone can try. Only serious issues move forward.

This gives frustrated Canadians a lawful path. Instead of anger turning into division, protest, or separation talk, citizens would have a democratic way to force an issue into the open.

Switzerland already shows that citizens can be trusted with this kind of responsibility. Swiss citizens can collect signatures to challenge laws or bring major issues to a national referendum - a direct vote by the people. They do not vote on every small matter. They still elect representatives. But the people keep a tool in their hands between elections.

**Canada needs its own version.**

Not a foreign system. Not a complicated political theory. Just one clear accountability tool.

If the people say yes, Ottawa may proceed.

If the people say no, Ottawa must stop.

If enough Canadians sign, Ottawa must listen.

**That is not radical. That is responsible democracy.**

Canadians should not have to wait four years to be heard. Albertans should not have to talk about leaving Canada to get Ottawa's attention. Saskatchewan people should not feel ignored in their own country. Working families, taxpayers, parents, business owners, and ordinary citizens should have a peaceful way to make Parliament answer.

The first step is simple: Canadians should collect 250,000 signatures asking Parliament to create a Citizens' Trigger Law.

That petition would not yet trigger a referendum. The law does not exist yet. But 250,000 signatures would send a serious message to every MP, every party, every federal candidate, and every newsroom in the country:

**Canadians want accountability between elections.**

**Canada already has petitions.**

**Now Canada needs petitions with power.**

**That power is the Citizens' Trigger.**