

Private Member's Resolutions Guide for HOC

Welcome to the Canadian House of Commons (HOC), the most unique and special committee you will ever be a part of in Model United Nations. For this committee to function correctly, every Member of Parliament must write a Private Member Resolution, commonly abbreviated to PMR. Here are some VYMUN-specific guidelines on how to write one.

What is a Private Member's Resolution (PMR)?

A Private Member's Resolution (PMR) is a bill put forward by a Member of Parliament (MP) on behalf of their own interests, regardless of the party they represent. At Vancouver Youth Model United Nations, MPs from Canada's House of Commons will prepare two Private Member Resolutions (PMRs) instead of position papers: one on topic A, affordability, and a second one for topic B, the energy sector.

When writing your PMRs, consider the following three responsibilities that impact your stance on the issues at hand: party, constituency and portfolio. You must suggest policies are in line with the greater party you are part of, like the Liberal Party or the Conservative Party. You must also take into consideration where your riding is (e.g. metro Vancouver or rural Québec) and tailor it to your constituents interests. Finally, please take into account your portfolio (e.g. Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations) and what it stands for.

Please find an example PMR on page 4.

Preambulatory Clauses

Preambulatory clauses are recognised as facts and should be based on credible sources or studies. These clauses serve as a vehicle for presenting your research, like statistics and realities. They serve as a framework for the enacting clauses, explaining their purpose and reasoning. As for the conventions of them, each preambulatory clause should start with *Whereas* and they should always be separated by semicolons.

Example: *Whereas:* Canada emits 13.60 metric tons of carbon dioxide per capita;

Enacting Clauses

Enacting clauses give the Member of Parliament an opportunity to combine critical thinking with facts. The PMR writer should include clauses outlining how they resolve government problems and take action. The MP must develop a strategic methodology to address the topic outlined in the preambulatory clauses. These are full sentences. These clauses must be practical and realistic, taking budgetary and time constraints into account.

Sub-points (in full sentence form) for clarification are welcomed, with alphabetical ordering and clauses may modify or redact previous Acts.

Example: 1. Pennies are to no longer be produced or circulated by the Royal Canadian Mint.

Formatting

Private Member's Resolutions should include the MP's constituency, name, and portfolio (e.g. Minister of Labour or Prime Minister). **They should always be in Times New Roman with a 12-point font size and 1-inch document margins, and be no longer than one page.**

- Do not include pictures, diagrams, decorations, watermarks, national symbols, or page borders (these are not permitted and your PMR will not be read)
- Include a bibliography in MLA 9 format and footnote citations, giving due credit to research sources (not included in the 1-page limit)
- Use [easybib.com](https://www.easybib.com) to help you make citations

Due Dates and Submission

Both PMR's need to be submitted by **midnight on October 16th, 2024.**

After completing your PMRs, **save them both in the same PDF file** named "Political Party: Member's Riding, Portfolio" (e.g. NDP: Burnaby South, Minister of Health).

Attach it to an email and send it to hoc@vymun.org with the subject in the same format, "Political Party: Member's Riding, Portfolio." Please do not include any additional attachments in the email or text in the subject line or body.

They must be in a PDF or Google Doc that is shared with hoc@vymun.org. Other formats will not be accepted. An email is always required to ensure confirmation.

Please view the example on the following page. Good luck!

Title (e.g. An Act to Establish a National High-Speed Rail Network)

Your Name

Portfolio (e.g. Leader of the Official Opposition, Minister of Transportation, etc.)

Constituency (e.g. Vancouver Quadra, Beloeil—Chambly, etc.)

Preambulatory Clauses (*Aim for 5-6 preambulatory clauses*)

Whereas: the Government of Canada recognizes the need for efficient, sustainable, and modern transportation systems to meet the challenges of the 21st century;

Whereas: high-speed rail is a proven method of reducing greenhouse gas emissions, decreasing road congestion, and enhancing economic connectivity between regions;

Whereas: the Government of Canada is committed to reducing Canada's carbon footprint in accordance with its international climate commitments, including the Paris Agreement;

Whereas: Canada's vast geography and growing population require the development of faster, more reliable, and environmentally friendly transportation options to connect major cities;

Whereas: modern rail infrastructure will promote regional development, support tourism, and improve access to jobs, education, and services for all Canadians;

Now, therefore, His Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate and House of Commons of Canada, enacts as follows:

1. The Government of Canada shall develop a high-speed rail network connecting key urban centers across Canada.
2. The national high-speed rail network shall prioritize routes connecting urban centers with a population of over 500,000 and regions demonstrating high economic, social, and environmental benefits, with the initial routes focusing on the Toronto–Ottawa–Montreal, Calgary–Edmonton, and Vancouver–Seattle corridors.
3. A dedicated High-Speed Rail Infrastructure Fund will be created to finance the construction and operation of the network.
4. The government shall engage in meaningful consultation with Indigenous communities affected by the rail network development.
5. All high-speed rail projects must undergo environmental assessments to minimize impacts on ecosystems and reduce carbon emissions.
6. The government shall encourage public-private partnerships to support the design, construction, and operation of the high-speed rail network.
7. The Ministry of Transport shall submit an annual report to Parliament detailing the progress, funding, and environmental impacts of the high-speed rail network.

(You should never have less enacting clauses than preambulatory clauses)