



Breakthrough T1D Network for Canada (BTNC) grassroots Advocacy Toolkit – engaging your Member of Parliament

Updated April 2026

How to use this toolkit (start here)

This toolkit is designed to help people living with type 1 diabetes (T1D), caregivers, and allies confidently and consistently advocate with their Member of Parliament (MP) in support of the **Breakthrough T1D Network for Canada (BTNC)**.

You do not need policy expertise to be effective. Your role is to:

1. **Make the issue real** by sharing why T1D matters to you.
2. **Make the ask clear** by asking your MP to sign a template support letter.
3. **Make it count** by ensuring that the signed letter is shared with Breakthrough T1D.

👉 Recommended path through this toolkit

- If you are new to advocacy: read *Section 1* and *Section 2* first.
 - If you are meeting with your MP: go to *Section 3* and *Section 4*.
 - If your MP asks detailed questions: use *Section 5 (Q&A)* as a backup.
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☑ Quick guide: What to bring, what to ask, what to do after

Bring to the meeting

- ☑ Template Letter for Parliamentarians (printed, for the MP to sign)
- ☑ BTNC Leave-Behind (printed, to support the discussion)
- ☑ This toolkit (digital or printed)

Ask during the meeting

“Would you be willing to sign this template letter to the Minister of Finance endorsing the \$62M investment to establish the Breakthrough T1D Network for Canada?”

Do after the meeting

- ✉ If the MP signs during the meeting: take the signed letter with you and email a scan or clear photo to advocacy@BreakthroughT1D.ca
- ✉ If the MP wants time to review: attach the electronic template letter to your thank-you email, ask them to sign it, and copy advocacy@BreakthroughT1D.ca
- 👉 Share your advocacy on social media

Securing a signed letter is the most important outcome of your advocacy.

Section 1: The ask — what we are asking MPs to do

The core ask (say this early and repeat it at the end):

Ask your MP to sign the Template Letter for Parliamentarians addressed to the Minister of Finance, endorsing a \$62M federal investment over five years to establish the Breakthrough T1D Network for Canada, as outlined in Breakthrough T1D's Budget 2026 pre-budget submission.

What to bring to the meeting

Before your meeting, please print and bring the following two documents (located in the same folder as this toolkit):

- Template Letter for Parliamentarians (for the MP to sign)
- BTNC Leave-Behind (for reference and discussion)

What success looks like

- The MP signs the template letter during the meeting, *or*
- The MP agrees to review and sign the letter shortly after

What to do once the MP signs

- If the MP signs on the spot, take the paper copy home and email a scan or clear photo of the signed letter to advocacy@BreakthroughT1D.ca
 - If the MP prefers to review before signing, attach an electronic copy of the template letter to your follow-up thank-you email and copy advocacy@BreakthroughT1D.ca
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Section 2: What Is the Breakthrough T1D Network for Canada?

The Breakthrough T1D Network for Canada (BTNC) is a national, public-private partnership designed to coordinate and accelerate cell-based and gene therapy clinical trials for type 1 diabetes, starting in Canada. It connects:

- Clinical trial sites
- Manufacturing readiness
- Regulatory expertise
- Commercialization pathways

The goal is to move promising therapies into patient care faster and ensure the health and economic benefits stay in Canada.

Type 1 diabetes is the starting point, not the endpoint. The same infrastructure can support future therapies for cancer, rare diseases, and organ repair.



Section 3: How to engage your MP (step by step)

Step 1: Request a meeting

Use the email template provided below to request a meeting with your MP or their staff. Personalize:

- Who you are
- Your connection to T1D
- Your community or riding

Step 2: Prepare for the conversation

Your meeting is not a technical briefing. Focus on:

- Why this matters to you
- Why this matters to Canada
- The clear ask: **sign the template letter**

Use the three key talking points:

1. **Why now** — Canada is at a decisive moment in regenerative medicine
2. **Why T1D** — It is one of the most clinically ready areas for curative therapies
3. **Why this approach** — A practical way to speed progress toward cures and keep the economic gains here in Canada

Step 3: Make the ask

State the ask clearly: "Would you be willing to **sign this template letter** to the Minister of Finance endorsing the \$62M investment to establish the Breakthrough T1D Network for Canada?"

Step 4: Follow up

After the meeting:

- Send a thank-you email
- Re-attach the template letter (if it has not yet been signed)
- Restate your request for the MP to **sign the letter**

If you do not receive a response after two weeks, use the **follow-up template** provided.

Section 4: Ready-to-Use Email Templates

Use the templates below to communicate with your Member of Parliament. You may copy, paste, and personalize them. Tone is respectful, non-partisan, and designed to support a clear ask: **signing the template letter**.



Email 1: Request a meeting with your MP

Subject: Meeting Request – advancing type 1 diabetes research and regenerative medicine in Canada

Dear [MP's Name],

My name is [Your Name], and I am a constituent living in [City/Town] in your riding. I am writing to respectfully request a meeting with you or a member of your staff to discuss an important opportunity for Canada to advance type 1 diabetes (T1D) research and regenerative medicine.

I am connected to type 1 diabetes as a [person living with T1D / parent of a child with T1D / caregiver / advocate], and I am involved with Breakthrough T1D, an organization focused on accelerating cures and improving lives for people affected by T1D.

I would welcome the opportunity to briefly share my lived experience and discuss the Breakthrough T1D Network for Canada, a proposed national initiative designed to accelerate clinical trials for promising cell and gene therapies. This initiative represents a coordinated way for Canada to turn world-class research into real-world patient benefit, while also strengthening our economy and leadership in regenerative medicine.

I would greatly appreciate the opportunity to meet at your convenience, either in person or virtually. Thank you for your time and for your service to our community.

Warm regards,

[Your Full Name] [Postal Code] [Phone Number] [Email Address]

Email 2: Thank you and follow-up after the meeting

Use this email after you have met with your MP or their staff. It thanks them for their time and formally asks them to sign the template letter.

Subject: Thank you for meeting – Breakthrough T1D Network for Canada

Dear [MP's Name],

Thank you very much for taking the time to meet with me on [date]. I appreciate your willingness to listen and engage on issues affecting people living with type 1 diabetes and the opportunity for Canada to strengthen its leadership in regenerative medicine.

As discussed, Breakthrough T1D is proposing the Breakthrough T1D Network for Canada, a coordinated national approach to accelerating clinical trials for promising cell and gene therapies for T1D. This initiative would help translate Canadian research excellence into real benefits for patients, while also supporting innovation, jobs, and long-term economic growth in Canada.

As a follow-up, I am writing to ask whether you would be willing to **sign the template letter** addressed to the Minister of Finance in support of a \$62 million federal investment over five years to establish the Breakthrough T1D Network for Canada.



I have attached the letter for your review. Please do not hesitate to reach out if additional information would be helpful.

Thank you again for your time and consideration.

Warm regards,

[Your Full Name] [Postal Code] [Phone Number] [Email Address]

Email 3: Follow-up if you do not receive a response (after ~2 weeks)

Use this email if you have not received a response about signing the template letter within approximately two weeks of your meeting or last follow-up. It serves as a polite reminder.

Subject: Follow-up – Breakthrough T1D Network for Canada

Dear [MP’s Name],

I am writing to follow up on my recent email regarding the Breakthrough T1D Network for Canada. I appreciate how busy your schedule is and wanted to respectfully reiterate my request.

As a constituent affected by type 1 diabetes, this issue is important to me personally. The Breakthrough T1D Network for Canada represents an opportunity for Canada to advance life-saving therapies, retain research and talent, and strengthen our regenerative medicine ecosystem.

I would be grateful if you would consider **signing the template letter** to the Minister of Finance in support of federal participation in this initiative. I have re-attached the letter here for ease of reference.

Thank you again for your time and consideration. I would be happy to provide any additional information your office might find helpful.

Sincerely,

[Your Full Name] [Postal Code] [Phone Number] [Email Address]

Section 5: Advocacy Q&A — If your MP asks questions

Use this section **only if needed**. It is okay to say:

“That’s a great question. I can follow up with Breakthrough T1D for more detail.”

Key facts you can confidently share:

- The request is \$62M over five years, matched by partners to create a \$100M initiative



- Every \$1 invested in health R&D generates approximately \$5.75 in economic value
 - Accelerating a T1D cure by even five years could help avoid ~\$15B in healthcare costs over time
 - BTNC is not a new institute and adds no new bureaucracy
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Section 6: Do's and don'ts for grassroots advocacy

Do:

- Be respectful and non-partisan
- Keep returning to your ask: **sign the template letter**
- Emphasize impact on people living with T1D and Canadian leadership

Don't:

- Overwhelm the conversation with technical detail
 - Debate unrelated political issues
 - Feel pressure to answer every question on the spot
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Section 7: Share your advocacy on social (photo + post)

Sharing a photo and a short post helps put a real face and lived experience behind policy conversations. Even one post can make a difference—you don't need a big following.

At the end of your meeting: ask for a photo

At the close of the conversation, ask your MP (or staff) if they would be comfortable taking a quick photo together.

Suggested script (optional):

"Would you be open to a quick photo together? I'd love to share that we met about type 1 diabetes and the Breakthrough T1D Network for Canada."

Quick best practices:

- Keep the caption respectful and non-partisan.
- Post from your own account. Authentic posts resonate most.

What you can share

Ideas for individual MP meetings include:

- Why you chose to reach out and what T1D means in your life
- A simple takeaway from the meeting (for example: "We talked about why progress can't wait")
- A thank-you to your MP for meeting with you



Tag Breakthrough T1D Canada so we can amplify your post

Tagging allows our team to engage with and re-share your content:

- **Facebook & Instagram:** @BreakthroughT1DCanada; @PercéeDT1
- **LinkedIn:** @Breakthrough T1D Canada / PercéeDT1

You can include any of the following:

- #T1DAdvocacy
- #BreakthroughT1DCanada
- #Type1Diabetes
- #T1D
- #T1DLives

Ready-to-use caption options (tailored for a 1:1 MP meeting)

Feel free to copy, paste, and adjust so it sounds like you. Each option invites others to also take action by writing to their MP in support of the Breakthrough T1D Network for Canada.

1. "Today I met with my MP, [MP Name], to share what it means to live with type 1 diabetes – an around-the-clock reality for an estimated 300,000 Canadians and their families. I'm proud to advocate with @BreakthroughT1DCanada for progress that can't wait.
👉 Want to add your voice? Write to your MP by clicking [here](#)."
2. "Grateful to [MP Name] for meeting with me today. We discussed the Breakthrough T1D Network for Canada and Canada's opportunity to accelerate breakthroughs toward cures while strengthening our life sciences leadership.
👉 You can help too – [write to your MP](#) in support of the BTNC."
3. "Living with type 1 diabetes means navigating an extra 180 decisions a day. That's why I met with my MP to ask for federal partnership and meaningful investment to accelerate research and better outcomes for Canadians.
👉 Join me – [write to your MP](#)."
4. "Advocacy matters. Lived experience matters. Today I shared my story with [MP Name] and asked for support for the Breakthrough T1D Network for Canada.
👉 Take action too: [write your MP](#)."
5. "Thank you, [MP Name], for taking the time to meet. I'm using my voice to help decision-makers understand what it means to live with T1D and why progress can't wait.
👉 Add your voice [here](#)."
6. "I met with my MP today to talk about why Canada has a chance to lead in life-sciences innovation and why people living with type 1 diabetes deserve bold action.
👉 You can help push progress forward: [write your MP](#)."



Final reminder

Your voice matters. MPs consistently say that constituent stories influence priorities – especially when paired with a clear, reasonable request.

By using this toolkit, you are helping speak on behalf of the entire T1D community and strengthening Canada's ability to lead, innovate, and deliver cures at home. Thank you!
