



ABOUT US

The Ontario Caregiver Coalition is the voice of caregivers in Ontario. We advocate for recognition and support for the family, friends and neighbours whose unpaid care is the hidden backbone of Ontario's health system.

Our mission: to improve the lives of caregivers by advocating for fair access to needed support.

Our vision: an Ontario where caregivers feel valued, respected, recognized and supported.

Our members: 3.3 million or 29% of Ontarians are unpaid family caregivers. This includes 500,000 young carers between the ages of 15 – 24 years of age providing on average 14-27 hours of care per week.

In Canada, family or unpaid caregiving is worth an estimated \$30-40 billion in “free” labour. It is estimated that 70% of home care is provided by Ontario's family or unpaid caregivers, with nearly 850,000 of them providing more than 10 hours of care per week.

The intensive demands of caregiving can make it difficult to balance work and family demands, and there can be significant out-of-pocket costs associated with caregiving. As a result, many family caregivers experience financial distress. Caregivers also commonly experience impacts on their physical, emotional, mental, and psychological health due to the strain of caregiving.

Our accomplishments: the Ontario Caregiver Coalition has been working to advocate for caregivers since 2009 and has been incorporated as a not-for-profit organization since 2018. Our membership includes both caregivers, care providers, and health charities across the province and organizations. Recent initiatives include our helping to create the St. Elizabeth CareChannel portal for caregivers, collaborating with The Change Foundation on The Caring Experience project, and playing an instrumental role in the recognition of Family Caregiver Day.

Our advocacy priorities:

Caregivers have told us they need more access to support at home and more support to address financial constraints to keep supporting their loved ones.

We advocate for:

- ◆ Increased financial supports for caregivers, such as through caregiver allowances, refundable tax credits or paid caregiver leave
- ◆ Improved access to Direct Funded care programs
- ◆ Expanded respite supports