



Ontario Caregiver Coalition

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Ontario's 2022 General Election: What It Is and Why It Matters

So, what's all this about anyway? There are some terms and phrases used throughout this toolkit and in the media with which not everyone is familiar. This document is meant to provide an overview of the basics: who is being elected, and why that matters.

Ontario is divided into 124 **ridings**, or **constituencies**. These ridings can vary in size from a few densely-populated city blocks to millions of hectares, and most will include around 100,000 people.

At least once every four years, Ontario holds a **general election** in which each of the 124 ridings votes to elect its **Member of Provincial Parliament**, or **MPP**. People running to become an MPP are known as **candidates**. Candidates who are running as individuals are called **independents**, though most will be affiliated with a **political party**. Parties are groups of like-minded candidates, running under a common **platform**: basically, what that party would do were it to form the **government**.

The party that elects the most MPPs is invited to form the government, with that party's **leader** then becoming **Premier**. So while party leaders get most of the attention, it is actually individual, local candidates for whom Ontarians cast their ballot on **election day** (which is June 2, 2022).

Candidates who are already MPPs and are running to be re-elected are known as **incumbents**.

Collectively, Ontario's 124 MPPs constitute the **Legislative Assembly**. This is the governing body of the province: all laws must receive the consent of the Assembly (also referred to as Ontario's **Parliament**). So each provincial election is actually 124 separate, local contests, with the outcome of each helping to determine which party forms the government and how powerful that government will be.

If the winning party gets 63 or more seats, they have what is called a **majority**: enough MPPs to act on their platform without the support of other parties. A government formed by a party with fewer than 63 seats is known as a **minority** and will need to work with one or more other parties and/or independent MPPs to get laws passed.

Some of these candidates will become MPPs, and as MPPs, they will be in a position to influence our health and long-term care systems. By engaging with candidates now, the OCC hopes to build relationships with most of the individuals who will soon run our province as MPPs.