



Ontario's 2025 General Election: What It Is and Why It Matters

The Ontario Caregiver Coalition is the voice of caregivers in Ontario. Since 2009, we have been advocating for recognition and support for the family, friends and neighbours whose unpaid care is the hidden backbone of Ontario's health system.

An election can be a complex affair with many concepts that not everyone may be familiar with. This document is meant to provide an overview of the basics: who is being elected, how they're being elected, and why that matters.

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

At least once every four years, Ontario holds a general election in which the people of each riding vote to elect their 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 that signifies their priorities and what they would do if elected.

The party that elects the most MPPs is invited to form the government, with that party's leader then becoming Premier. While party leaders get most of the attention, it is the local candidates of each riding for whom Ontarians cast their ballot on **election day** (which is **February 27th, 2025**).

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

Together, Ontario's 124 elected MPPs make up the Legislative Assembly. This is the governing body of the province: new or amended laws are voted on by the Assembly (also referred to as Ontario's Legislature, or colloquially as Ontario's Parliament).

The outcome of each local election helps to determine which party will form 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 government**. This means that a party has enough MPPs to act on their platform without the support of the MPPs from the other parties. A government formed by a party with **fewer than 63 seats** is known as a **minority government** and will need to work with one or more of the other parties, or independent MPPs to get laws passed.

Some of the candidates from this election will become MPPs, and as elected officials **they will be able to influence and make decisions regarding our health and long-term care systems**. By engaging with candidates **now**, the OCC hopes to build relationships with the individuals who will soon shape the laws and social programs of our province as MPPs.

We can be contacted at ontariocaregivercoalitionocc@gmail.com. For more information about the OCC please see our website at www.ontariocaregivercoalition.ca, or follow us on social media.

