

Questions and Tips for Speaking with Candidates

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.

As we approach election day, candidates and their volunteers will be making phone calls and knocking on doors. These conversations are a valuable opportunity to voice your concerns directly to your future MPP. Candidates value what they hear at the door or over the phone. What you say matters to them. These conversations help us to advance our collective message.

Having a few questions ready can let candidates know that support for caregivers is an important issue in your community. Here are a few that you can ask:

- What will you and your party do to support caregivers?
- Will you commit to including caregivers in the policy decisions that affect them?
- If elected, will you support a direct financial benefit for unpaid caregivers, similar to programs in other provinces?
- How does your party plan to improve access to respite care so that caregivers can get the relief they need?
- How will your party ensure caregivers have access to affordable mental health services?

Other tips to keep in mind when talking to your candidates:

- If you get a knock on the door from a volunteer, you can always ask to speak with the candidate as they will likely be just down the street.
- If you get a phone call from a volunteer, you can ask if the candidate can call you back. Mention you would like to know more about their commitment to supporting caregivers.
- If you haven't heard from any of your candidates yet, you can always call their campaign office. If it is a candidate you are considering voting for, mention this over the phone but ask to speak to the candidate first about their support for caregivers. The candidate will likely call you back within a few days.
- You can always ask these questions at a local debate if one is being held near you!

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.

