



The Ontario Caregiver Coalition (OCC) 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 members include both caregivers from across Ontario and organizations that support them. For more information about the OCC and our work, please see our website at www.ontariocaregivercoalition.ca, or follow us on social media.

October 2025 Newsletter

At the OCC

Interview with CBC's Ontario Today

On October 1st, OCC Vice-Chair Daniel Nowoselski represented the Ontario Caregiver Coalition on [Ontario Today with Amanda Pfeffer](#).

The episode, which featured Ontario's patient ombudsman, focused on access to homecare. Daniel spoke to the caregiving experience, including from the OCC perspective. Particular topics covered included the need for respite care, compensation to alleviate caregiver financial distress, and the difficulty navigating resources offered to caregivers.

The episode is available now on [CBC Listen](#).

Check Out Our 2025 Member Spotlight Series

The OCC's second annual Member Spotlight is complete! The series, which we released across our social media channels in August and September, is both a celebration of the tireless work our Organization Members contribute to our cause, and a chance for our members and friends to learn more about the important work our Organization Members do outside the OCC. For those who missed it, you can view the entire series on our website:

<https://www.ontariocaregivercoalition.ca/member-spotlight>

If your organization missed our Member Spotlight but still wants to be featured on our website, reach out to us via our general email: ontariocaregivercoalitionocc@gmail.com.

Announcing the Dates for the 2025-26 OCC General Members Meetings

Our General Members Meetings for 2025-26 will be held on the following days:

- December GMM: Thursday, December 11, 2025 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- June GMM: Thursday, June 18, 2026, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Annual General Meeting: Thursday, October 1, 2026 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Details for our April meeting will be announced at a later date. Invites for the remaining meetings have been sent out through Google Calendar.

Member Initiatives

Supporting Caregivers in the Workplace: Strategies for Employers and Care Partners

Are you an employer looking for ways to support the family caregivers on your team?

As we transition back to in-person work, caregivers face additional challenges in balancing work and caregiving responsibilities. Join the Regional Learning Centre tomorrow, Wednesday, October 29, 2025 from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. for a one-hour free virtual session, to explore ways for employers to encourage caregiver success at work and at home.

Registration link: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/dvtP0yxoQgGY1I_CyAKCFQ

Attend the Second Annual Canadian Caregiving Summit in Ottawa

The [Canadian Centre for Caregiving Excellence](#) (CCCE) is hosting their second [Canadian Caregiving Summit](#), which will take place from November 3–4, 2025 at the Fairmont Château Laurier in Ottawa. The two-day event brings together leading voices on care experience, research, and policy to find ways to make Canada the greatest place in the world for caregivers and care recipients. While in-person registration is now sold out, the summit is still offering virtual summit passes. To register for the summit or to learn more, [visit their website](#).

Opportunities to Participate in Caregiver-Focused Research

Caregivers of Stroke Survivors in Canada: Share Your Experience!

Are you a family member or friend providing unpaid care for an older adult who has had a stroke? Your experiences are incredibly valuable!

Fernanda Dal Pizzol, a PhD Candidate at the University of Alberta, is seeking caregivers of stroke survivors in Canada to participate in her dissertation study. Men who are caregivers are especially encouraged to participate, as their perspectives are currently underrepresented in the sample.

The goal of this research is to understand how to better prepare and support caregivers like you. Your insights may help shape recommendations for more effective resources and assistance within the healthcare system.

Participation is easy and takes just 20 minutes. You will be asked to complete a single, confidential online survey. The survey also concludes with a brief optional section where you

can let the researchers know if you'd be willing to participate in a short follow-up interview to share more about your experience.

Your participation can make a real difference in the lives of current and future stroke caregivers.

Please click [here](#) to take the survey.

For further information, reach out to researcher by email: fenglerd@ualberta.ca

Of Interest

Report on Policy Options Related to Ageism Targeting Older Canadians

Earlier this month, Employment and Social Development Canada released the [Report on Policy Options Related to the Topic of Ageism Targeting Older Canadians](#). This report identifies strategies, approaches and best practices to address ageism targeting older adults from the perspective of Canadians and researchers. It is based on a cross-content analysis of two reports that were led by the Federal/Provincial/Territorial Ministers Responsible for Seniors Forum:

- [An Examination of the Social and Economic Impacts of Ageism](#)
- [Consultations on ageism in Canada: "What we heard" report](#)

These reports reflect on ageism in five domains: health and health care, employment and workforce, social inclusion, safety and security, and media and social media.

Tenth Annual Patients Redefining the Future of Health Care in Canada Summit

The [10th annual Patients Redefining the Future of Health Care in Canada Summit](#) will take place virtually from November 25–27. This year's theme, "A Decade of Patient Leadership Towards a More Just Future," celebrates 10 years of collective efforts by patients, caregivers, advocacy groups, and allies to transform Canadian health care. This year focuses on opportunities to scale excellence, including in shared, equity-informed health data. [Registration is free.](#)

Of particular focus at this year's summit include the following:

- First Nations, Inuit, and Métis (FNIM) perspectives leading equitable, culturally grounded solutions.
- Urgent discussions on Canada's housing crisis and its direct health impacts.
- Strategies to overcome the financial strain of acute/chronic conditions and systemic barriers.

Stat Can Publishes Study on Life-Limiting Illness

Statistics Canada has published a new study, [Living with a Life-limiting Illness: Access to Care and Related Experiences \(LLLI-ACRE\)](#). The purpose of the study is to better understand the experiences and access to care for individuals with life-limiting illnesses and their unpaid caregivers.

Conducted as a crowdsourcing, those who took the questionnaire were Canadian residents aged 15 years or older living with a life-limiting illness or unpaid caregivers of those living with a life-limiting illness in the previous two years. Notably, the study found that 89% of caregivers reported that they did not have an assessment to determine their needs for support in their caregiving role. While about half (49%) of unpaid caregivers reported receiving partial support, over a third (39%) stated they received no help at all.

Caregiver Contributions

Make Your Voice Heard!

What kind of change do caregivers want to see in Ontario in 2026? If you're a Caregiver Member at the OCC, we encourage you to submit your answer to our monthly newsletter. Reach out to us by email and make your voice heard: ontariocaregivercoalitionocc@gmail.com.



If you have items that you would like to see included in future issues of this newsletter, please let us know. Sharing the accomplishments and activities of our members is part of our mandate. If you have received this newsletter in error, or no longer wish to receive it, please reply to this email to let us know, and we will remove you from our mailing list.