



## Value of Family Caregiving in Canada

Making a meaningful difference in the lives of older adults and their families by bridging research, policies and practice

Family caregivers assist family members, friends and neighbours with long-term health problems, disabilities or functional limitations. In Canada, in 2018, there were



1 in 4 Canadians aged 15+ (26%) were caregivers in 2018.

### 7.8 million caregivers

#### Caregivers' time is valuable

Caregivers provided

### 5.7 billion hours

of unpaid care. Time spent caregiving reduces opportunities for education and employment, connecting with family and friends and maintaining caregivers' own well-being.



The work of family caregivers supports the social connections, dignity and well-being of those they care for. The annual economic value of family care work is

### \$97.1 billion



### 2.8 million FTE

That's the number of full-time equivalent (FTE) workers it would take to replace the 5.7 billion unpaid hours that family caregivers provide. Without caregivers' care work, home, community and long-term care would collapse.

#### Caregivers' contributions to Canadian society are significant

Caregivers' contributions to the Care Economy represent:

### 4.2%

of Gross Domestic Product

### 32.2%

of national expenditures on health care

### > 3 times

national expenditures on home, community & long-term care

### Caregivers' aggregate time and value by province

| Province                | % of population who are caregivers | Total Time (hours/year) | Economic Value |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------|
| Alberta                 | 26.3                               | 647 million             | \$11.0 billion |
| British Columbia        | 26.5                               | 864 million             | \$14.7 billion |
| Manitoba                | 29.3                               | 230 million             | \$3.9 billion  |
| Ontario                 | 27.1                               | 2,519 million           | \$42.8 billion |
| New Brunswick           | 25.5                               | 140 million             | \$2.4 billion  |
| Newfoundland & Labrador | 25.2                               | 106 million             | \$1.8 billion  |
| Nova Scotia             | 28.1                               | 221 million             | \$3.8 billion  |
| Prince Edward Island    | 28.3                               | 23 million <sup>a</sup> | \$0.38 billion |
| Quebec                  | 22.1                               | 808 million             | \$13.7 billion |
| Saskatchewan            | 27.5                               | 153 million             | \$2.6 billion  |

<sup>a</sup>Estimate with high sampling variability

### Methodology

The findings reported in this infographic are based on analysis of Statistics Canada's 2018 General Social Survey, which was conducted with respondents aged 15+ living in the ten Canadian provinces. The conservatively estimated monetary value of unpaid care work is calculated using the generalist replacement cost method. Aggregated annual hours of unpaid care work in seven different care tasks were multiplied by the national median hourly cost of hiring home support workers at \$17 per hour to replace family caregivers' care work. (<https://www.jobbank.gc.ca/wagereport/occupation/20667>)

