



How much do employed caregivers contribute to the Canadian economy?

RAPP bridges research, policies and practice to make a meaningful difference in the lives of older adults and their families

Annual cost of replacing the unpaid care work provided by employed caregivers is \$51.5 billion

We wondered what it would cost to replace employed family caregivers' unpaid care work with the services of paid home support workers. To calculate the monetary value, we used the national median hourly wage paid to home support workers (\$17/hour). We estimated, conservatively, the value of employed family caregivers' contributions to be \$51.5 billion per year, which represents three times the national expenditures on home, long-term, and continuing care services.¹

3 billion hours

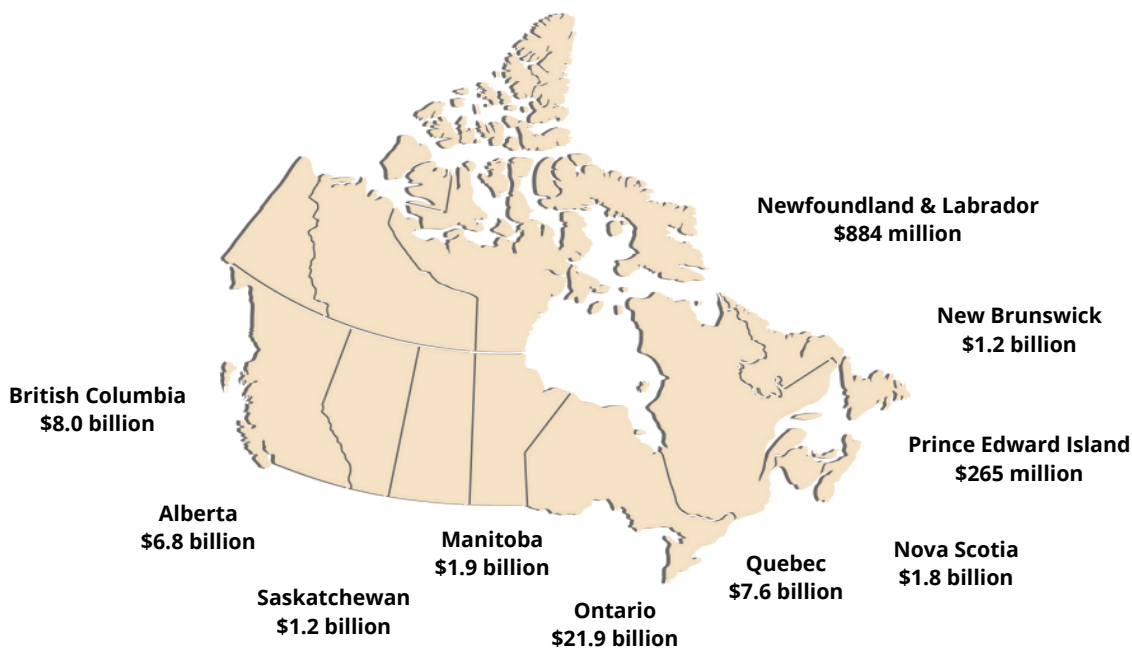
The total amount of care provided annually by 5.2M employed caregivers in Canada.



1.9 million full-time workers

The number of full-time workers (based on full-time equivalency of 30 hours per week) needed to replace the care work provided by employed caregivers.

Economic value of caregiving labour provided by employment age (19 to 70) Canadians by province



¹Health Expenditure Data in Brief – Canadian Institute for Health Information (Nov. 2021)

Employed caregivers' aggregate time and value by province

Province	% of caregivers among employees (19-70)	Total number of employed caregivers	Total time spent caregiving (hours/year)	Economic value of unpaid caregiving labour
Alberta	25	630,000	400.4 million	\$6.8 billion
British Columbia	27	696,000	473.2 million	\$8.0 billion
Manitoba	28	202,000	109.2 million	\$1.9 billion
Ontario	27	2.1 million	1.3 billion	\$21.9 billion
New Brunswick	26	99,000	67.6 million	\$1.2 billion
Newfoundland & Labrador	28	72,000	52.0 million	\$884 million
Nova Scotia	30	142,000	104.0 million	\$1.8 billion
Prince Edward Island	28	23,000	15.6 million	\$265 million
Quebec	23	1.0 million	447.2 million	\$7.6 billion
Saskatchewan	26	165,000	67.6 million	\$1.2 billion
Total	26.5%	5.2 million	3.0 billion	\$51.5 billion

Methodology

Findings are based on analyses of Statistics Canada's 2018 General Social Survey (GSS), which was conducted with respondents aged 15+ living in the Canadian provinces. Our sample of 4,940 employed caregivers was aged 19 to 70 (typical employment age) and combined paid work with caregiving to family and friends who had a long-term health condition; physical or mental disability; or challenges related to aging during the 12 months prior to the GSS survey. Results are weighted to the population.