



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



7.8 million caregivers

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

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 ^a	\$0.38 billion
Quebec	22.1	808 million	\$13.7 billion
Saskatchewan	27.5	153 million	\$2.6 billion

^aEstimate 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>)

