



CARING FOR CAREGIVERS

STRATEGIC PLAN 2018-2021



THE ONTARIO

caregiver

ORGANIZATION

THE ONTARIO CAREGIVER ORGANIZATION

Our Vision

All caregivers in Ontario feel supported and valued

Our Mission

Enhancing the caregiving experience in Ontario

Across Ontario there are 3.3 million caregivers – ordinary people including children and youth who are caring for family members, partners, friends and neighbours, who have physical and/or mental health needs. These caregivers deliver roughly three quarters of all patient care, including personal, emotional and often medical care. They are the single most valuable resource to our health care system, our communities and society at large.



While many caregivers find their role rewarding, they have made it clear they are struggling to cope. Caregiver burnout is on the rise as caregivers struggle to navigate complicated systems of services and supports, while also balancing their own physical, emotional and employment needs.

Evidence from other provinces and from international caregiver programs demonstrate the tremendous opportunity to change the caregiving experience in Ontario; and there is tremendous need to do it now.

Our 2018-2021 strategic plan is rooted in what caregivers have said they need and focuses on six key priorities that will have the most impact on the caregiving experience in our province. This plan is our road map to action. At every step of the way, our work will be anchored in our guiding principles so all caregivers in Ontario feel supported and valued in their important role.

Our Strategic Plan builds on the consultations that were done with hundreds of caregivers and providers to inform the BEED report, as well as the research and work of The Change Foundation.

OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES

We exist on behalf of, because of, and for caregivers

We listen, learn and act to improve services and supports for caregivers

We welcome everyone who self-identifies as a caregiver

We believe there is no hierarchy among caregivers

We always ask, 'How does this help caregivers feel supported and valued?'

We evolve as caregiving evolves

We leverage and build on existing successes

We accelerate others, and have others accelerate us

We inspire innovation that will positively impact the lives of people living in Ontario



OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Enhancing access to resources for caregivers by decreasing silos, closing gaps and sharing successes



- Creating, coordinating and highlighting initial easy-to-use resources for caregivers and organizations

Co-creating solutions for caregivers by working with networks of individuals, organizations and advisory groups



- Connecting with organizations and individual caregivers to build networks of contributors who will work to inform, guide and enhance services and supports for caregivers

Inspiring innovation and amplifying existing programs



- Partnering with existing organizations and programs to accelerate successful, sustainable solutions to address caregiver needs across Ontario

Increasing public awareness of the role of caregivers in our communities



- Educating caregivers and the people of Ontario about the role and value of caregiving in Ontario

Understanding Ontario's caregivers and their needs



- Leading research into Ontario's caregivers to understand the different profiles and diverse needs of caregivers, and to tailor programs and services to meet their needs

Partnering with government to give voice to Ontario's caregivers



- Working with government to engage caregivers in shaping and advancing government priorities