Meeting Request Email

**Subject:** Local Caregiver Meeting Request

Dear [candidate name],

My name is [your name], and I am a caregiver living in your riding.

Nearly a third of all Ontarians are unpaid family caregivers, with almost 850,000 people across the province providing ten hours or more per week in unpaid care. In Ontario, around 70% of home care hours are given by an unpaid caregiver. It is no surprise then that caregivers save health care systems across Canada between $30-40 billion a year.

Ontario cannot afford to replace unpaid caregivers, so must do everything it can to support us.

Caregivers also need care, and we aren’t getting it today. One-in-three caregivers in Ontario say they need additional support—more than in any other province. Caregivers are burning out, and our health care system is put under even more pressure as a result.

The Ontario Caregiver Coalition, a non-partisan group representing caregivers such as myself, has three recommendations that I would like to discuss with you. I am attaching a copy of our Caregiver Manifesto here, which lays out the greatest needs of caregivers in Ontario.

Recognising that you and your team will be busy knocking on doors leading up to election day, I am happy to work around your schedule to find a meeting time that works either virtually or at your office. I can be reached at this email address or at [your phone number].

Thank you,

[Your name]

Meeting Between [Candidate Name] and the Ontario Caregiver Coalition

*Attendees:* [List]

1. About the Ontario Caregiver Coalition
	1. The voice of caregivers in Ontario
2. Caregiving in Ontario today
	1. Caregiving touches millions
	2. Most care is unpaid
	3. Ontario needs to do more
3. Caregivers also need care
	1. Include caregivers in the conversation
	2. Address financial distress
	3. Improve supports at home
4. Advice and opportunities to work together

Meeting Script

**1) About the Ontario Caregiver Coalition**

This first agenda item is meant to provide an overview of who we are and what we do. Mention the OCC’s mission to advocate for all caregivers, and that we are a non-partisan coalition of both caregivers and associations that support caregivers.

**2) Caregiving in Ontario today**

This is a chance to give your candidate an idea of the scale of caregiving in Ontario today. Some key messages to keep in mind:

* 29%, or 3.3 million Ontarians are unpaid family caregivers.
* About 70% of all home care in Ontario today is provided by unpaid caregivers, with nearly 850,000 caregivers providing more than 10 hours of unpaid care per week.
* Across Canada, caregivers save health care systems between $30-40 billion a year.
* Governments cannot afford to replace caregivers—so must do all they can to support them.
* Ontario has fallen behind in caring for its caregivers: one-third of caregivers in Ontario say they need more help, higher than any other province.
* One quarter of all caregivers in Ontario report drawing on their personal savings to pay for costs associated with their caregiving.

**3) Caregivers also need care**

This is where you should introduce the OCC’s election asks:

1. **Include caregivers** in policy decisions affecting them.
2. **Address financial distress** through direct support models.
3. **Expand care options** at home and in the community.

More detail on each ask can be found in the “Caregiver Platform” document.

**4) Advice and opportunities to work together**

This final agenda item is meant to end your meeting on a positive, helpful note. Offer the OCC’s support should your candidate get a question from a voter asking about supports for caregivers. And should your candidate get elected, the OCC would be happy to meet again to discuss how we could support their constituency team.