



Ontario Caregiver Coalition (OCC) April 2022 Newsletter

Family Caregiver Day - Tuesday, April 5, 2022

Submitted by: Daniel Nowoselski, Chair, OCC Awareness & Communications Committee and OCC Board Member

In honour of Family Caregiver Day, which we will be celebrating on **Tuesday, April 5**, we have put together a toolkit, including a News Release, Social Media content and Graphics, and a template message that can be customized to tell all parties to make caregivers a priority in this upcoming election.

To access the toolkit, go to <https://www.ontariocaregivercoalition.ca/post/family-caregiver-day-2022-toolkit>

Here you should find all the Family Caregiver Day resources.

Please let us know if there's anything you can't find or that doesn't work for you.

.

Caregivers' Corner

Submitted by Claire McMenemy, OCC Board Member and Member, Awareness & Communications Committee

Most caregivers are practical folks – we're focused on solving problems of today and troubleshooting those that may arise in the future. Each day is full of enough daily challenges that we don't have time to wonder too far about the "Big questions" in what we do. However, I was delighted to recently come across a branch of philosophy that is centered on understanding and reflecting on the meaning of the daily experience of caregiving for those that provide and receive it and for the wider society in which caregiving takes place. It invited

me to pause and reflect upon what meaning caregiving has in my own life, and the same and different meanings it may have in other people's lives.

The theory that I came across is called the Ethics of Care. There are many different theorists who both support and critique it, so all that I can offer is a general overview of what some of these theorists have written. Generally, they argue that when we're asking questions like what is a "good" society, we should start by looking at ways we all live in interdependent relationships over our lives and the ways that, in these relationships we all end up at some points giving and receiving care. They argue that although these relationships of love and connection are often ignored, they are usually important to preserve and protect. In fact, they argue that society would be a better place if we all recognized our interdependence on each other, and tried to create diverse, inclusive communities where giving and receiving care is the rule of the day!

It's an interesting perspective, and one that we don't hear a lot about in debates in the news! Perhaps it invites us to ask what society would look like if we all embraced all of the opportunities we have to give and receive care? How might it change the ways we organize our lives and our communities? How might it create space to honor and support the many diversities in caregiving experience that our OCC members and other caregivers across Ontario experience? **This year on Family Caregiver Day**, I invite you to pause and reflect upon the meaning of the care you give and receive, and the ways you are making a difference not only in the lives of those around you, but perhaps also helping a movement of caring in our province!

Advocacy update

Submitted by Lauren Bates, Chair, OCC Research & Advocacy Committee and OCC Board Member

Raising Caregiver Priorities with the Political Parties Ahead of the 2022 Provincial Election

Ahead of the provincial election, which is coming up on June 2, 2022, the OCC's Research and Advocacy Committee has been reaching out to Ontario's political parties to make the voices of Ontario's caregivers heard, and advocate for changes that will improve our lives.

We have reached out to all of Ontario's major political parties, including the Ontario PC Party, the Ontario Liberal Party, the Ontario New Democratic Party, and the Green Party to ask for meetings with their 'platform committees'. These committees are responsible for drafting the formal commitments that each party will make as part of their election campaigns.

Thus far, we have had the opportunity to meet with members of the platform committees responsible for the health portfolios for both the NDP and the Ontario Liberals. With each, we raised our three caregiver priorities:

1. **Recognizing the essential contributions of caregivers** by addressing their needs as part of policy initiatives in health care, labour market and income security reforms
2. **Addressing financial distress among caregivers** by providing direct financial supports, whether through a Caregiver Allowance or a Refundable Tax Credit
3. **Improving supports in the community**, including through investments and reforms in home and community care, and by strengthening Direct Funding programs.

With both the NDP and the Liberal platform committees, our conversations were receptive, engaged and positive.

The Research and Advocacy Committee will soon be sharing with you tools to help you engage directly in this election campaign, whether by attending townhalls or debates, emailing candidates, talking to candidates on the doorstep, or sharing information with friends and neighbours in person or on social media. Together, we can make caregivers, and caregiving, part of the conversation in this election.

At the OCC Annual General Meeting in May, we will be providing you with the information that you need in the final days of the election, including information about the platforms of each of the parties as they relate to caregivers and caregiving.

To keep abreast of our election activities, follow us on Twitter or Facebook, check out our website, or keep an eye on this space for updates.

Upcoming event of interest

Submitted by: Amanda Calzolaio

Email: amanda.calzolaio@mail.utoronto.ca

I am a leadership and team coach, and a caregiver. I recently started a podcast with an episode on caregiving as leadership and I am hosting an event open to all caregivers or those interested in the topic. Today's Leaders Circle is a safe space to discuss a particular topic and continue the conversations that began from the "Today's Leaders for Tomorrow's Future" podcast: A podcast to redefine the narrative about what it means to be a leader in society. Topic: Caregiving is Leadership featuring Donna Thomson Date: Tuesday April 12th 2022 Time: 12:00 - 12:30 PM ET Register: <https://lnkd.in/eUBFeFYG> It's free and open to all. Please let me know if you have any

questions. Thank you in advance for your support, Amanda Calzolaio (she/her/hers) Leadership and Team Coach www.amandacalzolaio.com

Note: This event is external to OCC and the material has not been reviewed by us. We do not specifically endorse the event. This notice is for information purposes only.

Thank you to the following OCC Organization Members for their support of our newsletter:

AdvantAge Ontario; Baycrest; Bellwoods Centre for Community Living; Canadian Cancer Society; Circle of Care; Evergreen Hospice; Mosaic Home Care; MS Society; Ontario Association of Social Workers; SRT MedStaff; Wesway; Woodgreen.



Disclaimer: This newsletter is for information purposes only.

Deadline for submissions to OCC May newsletter is April 25, 2022.