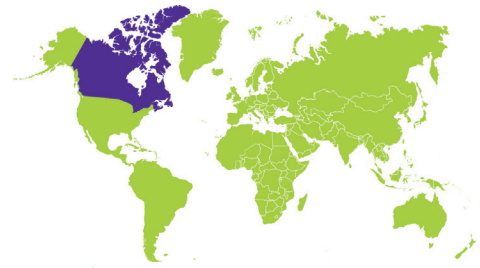


Number of Carers

Estimated number **8.1 Millionⁱ**
 Percentage of population **28%**



Current Practices	Opportunities to Increase Support
There is no federal legislation formally recognizing unpaid carers. The Manitoba Caregiver Recognition Act sets out principles and actions for government and non-government agencies to support unpaid carers. ⁱⁱ	Safeguard the health and well-being of unpaid carers by ensuring they are formally recognized and their needs are identified and supported through specific assessment tools.
Although unpaid carers are not formally recognized, financial supports are available. The Caregiving Recognition Benefit is for those caring for veterans. The Canada Caregiver Credit is a tax credit. ⁱⁱⁱ Nova Scotia provides direct allowances. ^{iv}	Minimize excessive financial burden placed on unpaid carers through a range of options that alleviate out-of-pocket expenses and address reduced income due to employment loss.
Canadian law prohibits discrimination based on a person's family caregiving responsibilities. Federally regulated employees have job protection while they are receiving caregiving benefits and the right to request more flexible work arrangements. The Employment Insurance Act entitles employees to three different income benefits: the Compassionate Care Benefit, the Family Caregiver Benefit for Children and the Family Caregiver Benefit for Adults. ^v	Support flexible workplace/educational environments that respect caregiving obligations.
The Canadian Pension Plan offers protection against periods where individuals may have low or zero earnings for a variety of reasons, including to provide care to a family member. ^{vi}	Increase pension contributions for employees who need to leave the workplace to provide care.
Respite care is provided through publicly funded home care programs administered by each province and territory. These programs provide in-home respite services. Facility-based respite and adult day programs enable unpaid carers to take extended time away. ^{vii}	Provide adequate support and access to flexible respite.
Caregiver Readiness is a national informational campaign through the Canadian federal government consisting of user-friendly tip sheets, checklists and a video.	Enable unpaid carers to access user friendly information and education. Fund research and knowledge dissemination as a foundation for evidence-informed decision making.

Legislation	Working arrangements	Respite care
Financial support	Pension credits	Information and training

Government Recognition

Caregiver Recognition Act (Manitoba, 2011)

Employment Insurance Act (1996)

Canadian Human Rights Act (1985)

References

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