

Care in the Big Picture: Realities and Opportunities in Fall 2025

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Big Picture

- New(ish) federal government with very clear mandate from the voters
- Budget 2025
 - Ringfencing of transfers to people and provinces
- Trump, tariffs, the economy
- Provincial governments (mostly) in lock-step behind the PM
- Austerity
- Productivity
- Demographic realities
- People feeling pressure of the times
 - Precarity
 - Shifting global order
 - Instability



Big Picture – Health and Social Care Systems

- Fall Economic Update (Nov 2025)
- All care systems under pressure – workforce shortages, capital stock
- Policy continues to push people into the community rather than care settings
- Trajectory of long-term care in Canada
- Ontario Health Teams implementation
- Status of disability supports
- Emphasis on primary care
- Broadening scopes of practice





WHAT ARE THE 3 MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES FACING CANADA TODAY? PLEASE SELECT 3 ISSUES.

TOP ISSUES FACING CANADA: CHANGE FROM LAST WAVE

Issue	Today	Oct 29, 2025	Change
The rising cost of living	66%	62%	+4
The economy	39%	37%	+2
Donald Trump and his administration	34%	37%	-3
Healthcare	35%	34%	+1
Housing affordability and accessibility	33%	34%	-1
Immigration	25%	28%	-3
Crime and public safety	17%	17%	NC
Job security and unemployment	16%	17%	-1
Inequality and poverty	11%	12%	-1
Climate change and the environment	13%	11%	+2



- Caregivers and care providers are the backbone of Canadian society.
- One in four Canadians is a caregiver today. Half of all Canadians will be a caregiver at some point in their lives.
- Insufficient support is hurting us all:

Two-thirds of caregivers have experienced financial hardship in last year. Nearly a quarter spend at least \$1000 a month

Mental, physical, and health of caregivers is precarious and getting worse

3 hours of care are provided by caregivers **for every 1 hour** provided by the healthcare system

\$1.3B in lost productivity per year – the equivalent of **500,000 workers** lost to the workforce

80% of the care provider workforce has considered leaving the sector.

Policy Opportunities

- Overton Window widened by people feeling pressure of the times
 - Precarity
 - Shifting global order
 - Instability
- Productivity
- Demographic realities
- Opening policy space
 - Commitment to develop National Caregiving Strategy
 - Commitment to Health Care Workers Hero Tax Credit
 - Retirement savings project for personal support workers

Thank you!

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