



Kevin Flynn, MPP Oakville

Support for Caregivers Making a Difference for Families in Oakville

Ontario Funding Respite Services to Help Families Care for Loved Ones

NEWS

April 4, 2017

This year, Ontario increased supports for people caring for their loved ones at home in Oakville, by increasing access to respite services for over 70 local families.

Today — on National Family Caregiver Day — MPP Flynn is thanking people in Oakville for the work they do every day to care for their loved ones. A caregiver is someone who takes on the unpaid role of helping a family member or loved one with their physical or cognitive condition, injury or chronic life-limiting illness.

Investments from the province have allowed the Mississauga Halton Community Care Access Centre (CCAC) to expand their in-home respite services to families in Oakville. These much-needed supports enable carers to temporarily step away from their caregiving responsibilities to focus on their own health and wellbeing. Carers return from respite breaks with refreshed strength and focus, helping them to continue safely caring for a loved one at home.

Betty's Story:

"I am the primary caregiver for my husband. Before I started receiving the in-home respite supports from the Mississauga Halton CCAC, I was exhausted. I was so close to burning out. It's really hard being his only caregiver as I have my own health issues, too. The respite hours give me back some freedom and independence. With this support, I am able to attend a writing class every Wednesday, while not having to worry about how my husband is doing at home. It's nice to have time to myself doing something I love, which is only possible because I know my husband is getting great care while I am away. He gets along pleasantly with his respite worker. This extra support has been a blessing for us both."

Patricia's Story:

"My husband has dementia, so he requires constant care – 24/7. I've been seeking respite support for a number of years, so when my care coordinator told me about a new service through the Mississauga Halton CCAC, I was ecstatic; it's such a much-needed resource for many people like me. Having the respite services for the past few months has already helped us incredibly much. Now, I am able to go out and get done what I need to get done, whether it's groceries or going to my own doctor's appointments. I finally have some more freedom. I like that the hours are flexible – scheduling visits is always easy. While my husband doesn't like me leaving, he enjoys his time with his support worker. It helps that she's the same PSW for his other care. That continuity is good for him. Honestly, I really couldn't ask for anything else."

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Ontario's support has allowed for approximately 600,000 additional hours of respite services for caregivers across the province this year.

Supporting patients and their caregivers is part of the government's plan to build a better Ontario through its [Patients First: Action Plan for Health Care](#). This plan is providing patients with faster access to the right care, better home and community care, the information they need to stay healthy and a health care system that's sustainable for generations to come.

QUOTES

"Improving home and community care is one of our government's most important health care priorities. Informal caregivers, like family members and friends, contribute to more than seventy per cent of their loved ones' caregiving needs, and we know how stressful that can be. We want to ensure caregivers are supported and able to take rests from providing care to their loved ones."

— Dr. Eric Hoskins, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care

"Today we mark our gratitude to caregivers who offer support to loved ones in their time of need. Their compassion, time, and care are appreciated each and every day and the health and well-being of those in their care depends greatly on their own health and well-being. That is why I am pleased that Ontario has invested in better support for our caregivers and increased their access to respite services. I extend a sincere and heartfelt thank you to all our caregivers who are integral to the success of our community and home care programs."

— Kevin Flynn, MPP for Oakville

"We know that many caregivers are overwhelmed and exhausted. Caregiver respite programs are providing services and supports that enable caregivers to care for their loved ones and also take care of themselves. These are important steps towards strengthening home and community care for patients. Caregiver respite programs in the Mississauga Halton LHIN have been honoured in 2016 with the Minister's Medal for Excellence in Health Quality and Safety and the National 3M Health Care Quality Team Award both recognizing the fundamental role caregivers play in our health care system and the need to support and empower them."

— Bill MacLeod, Chief Executive Officer, Mississauga Halton LHIN

QUICK FACTS

- Informal caregivers represent approximately one in five Ontarians.
- The province has invested \$1.2M to better support caregivers across the Mississauga Halton LHIN increasing access to respite services for 600 local families.
- A [Carer Support Guide](#) is available, which is a great tool for any carers, in any region, at any step of their caregiving journey.
- Ontario invested \$100 million last year to enhance support for home care clients with high needs and their caregivers.
- The investment provided \$80 million to support enhanced care for clients who are most in need and \$20 million for caregiver respite, allowing caregivers who need it the most to take rests from providing care to their loved ones.
- Through consultations with people in Ontario and members of Ontario's Patient and Caregiver Advisory Table the province recently established a [Statement of Home and](#)

[Community Care Values](#). This Statement reflects the needs and priorities of home and community care clients and their caregivers and ensures their values are reflected in the care they receive.

- These initiatives support the commitments made in [Patients First: A Roadmap to Strengthen Home and Community Care](#).

LEARN MORE

- [Patients First: Action Plan for Health Care](#)
- [Patients First: A Roadmap to Strengthen Home and Community Care](#)
- [Bringing Care Home](#)
- [Ontario's Dementia Strategy](#)

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