



CANADIAN CENTRE FOR ELDER LAW

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The Family Caregiving Project

The British Columbia Law Institute and the Canadian Centre for Elder Law have embarked on the first legal research project on family caregiving law in BC. The purpose of this project, which is generously funded by the Law Foundation of British Columbia, is to:

- (a) examine the current legal framework governing leave, accommodation and other entitlements available to employees who are providing care for family members;
- (b) consider whether the laws reflect our society's values with respect to caregiving;
- (c) evaluate whether the current laws adequately address the concerns and needs of BC's family caregivers; and
- (d) make recommendations for law reform and future study.

To assist our research the BC Law Institute is interested in hearing from the family caregivers of BC. We are interested in learning about your particular caregiving circumstances, your experience of accessing BC laws to improve your lives, and what kinds of supports you have received or been denied in your ongoing struggle to balance work and caregiving. We are also interested in your perspective on how laws, policies and practices should be reformed and how you think our society should value family caregiving.

Are you a family caregiver?

We define a family caregiver as a person who is providing care, without pay or wage, to a friend or family member, including an adult child, for at least 2 hours a week. This care is provided outside of a hospital or care facility and may include any of the following activities: assistance with attending and scheduling appointments; transportation; feeding, meal planning or diet management; personal care (bathing, dressing, toiletry); household chores, including cooking and laundry; shopping; medications management and administration; mobility assistance.

Family Caregiver Survey

A. Your Caregiving Relationship

For whom are you providing caregiving services?

- ☐ Mother
 - ☐ Father
 - ☐ Mother-in-law
 - ☐ Father-in-law
 - ☐ Partner or Spouse
 - ☐ Adult child
 - ☐ Grandparent
 - ☐ Sibling
 - ☐ Friend
 - ☐ Other. Please specify: _____
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On average, how many hours a week do you spend providing care for your family member or friend?

- ☐ 2 – 5 hours
- ☐ 6 – 10 hours
- ☐ 11 – 15 hours
- ☐ 16 – 20 hours
- ☐ 21 – 25 hours
- ☐ over 25 hours

What kinds of activities do you perform?

- ☐ Assistance with attending and scheduling appointments
 - ☐ Transportation
 - ☐ Feeding, meal planning and diet management
 - ☐ Personal care (bathing, dressing, toiletry)
 - ☐ Household chores, including cooking and laundry
 - ☐ Shopping
 - ☐ Medications management and administration
 - ☐ Mobility assistance
 - ☐ Other. Please specify: _____
-
-

If this were affordable, would you prefer to have your family member cared for by a paid professional?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ No opinion

B. About you

Sex

- ☐ Male
☐ Female

First language _____

Country of origin _____

Annual income

- ☐ under \$10,000
☐ \$10,000 - \$20,000
☐ \$20,000 - \$30,000
☐ \$30,000 - \$50,000
☐ \$50,000 - \$70,000
☐ \$70,000 - \$100,000
☐ over \$100,000

C. Employment

Are you currently employed?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

Did you leave or lose your job because you needed to provide care for someone?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

Did you do any of the following to be able to provide care for someone?

- ☐ Change jobs
☐ Accept a lower paying position
☐ Reduce your hours of paid employment
☐ Take a paid leave
☐ Take an unpaid leave
☐ Change your work schedule
☐ Use up your vacation time
☐ Use sick time
☐ Other. Please specify _____

Have you ever been denied time off work to care for your family member or friend?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

D. Other benefits

Has your employer ever helped you in any of the following ways in order to assist you with your caregiving?

- ☐ Change in hours of employment
- ☐ Change in location or working from home
- ☐ Change in number of hours per week
- ☐ Other. Please describe: _____

Have you received any of the following to offset the loss of income you experience in order to provide care for your family member or friend?

- ☐ Tax benefits or credits
- ☐ Income assistance
- ☐ Employment Insurance benefits

Do you have access to respite services? [Respite services are a form of subsidized substitute care that allows you to take a break.]

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Please identify any benefit that, if available, would significantly improve your life as a caregiver?

- ☐ Caregiver allowance
- ☐ Greater tax credits
- ☐ Pension credits
- ☐ Respite care
- ☐ Greater job flexibility
- ☐ Time off work
- ☐ Extended unpaid leave with job protection

Please describe anything else you can think of that would be helpful: _____

Do you believe you should be paid for your caregiving labour?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Please see our website at <http://www.bcli.org/ccel/projects/family-caregiving> for additional information about the Family Caregiving Project.

Also feel free to contact us directly at familycare@bcli.org.

Thank you for your time.

The **BC Law Institute** is a non-profit agency whose purpose is to promote the clarification and simplification of the law and its adaptation to modern social needs, promote improvement of the administration of justice and respect for the rule of law, and carry out scholarly legal research.

The **Canadian Centre for Elder Law** is a national, non-profit body dedicated to exploring legal issues that affect older Canadians. The CCEL conducts research and produces law reform and educational materials to enrich and inform the lives of older adults and serve as a focal point for this emergent field of law.