

## Long-Term Care Costs in Canada Projected to Triple to \$71B in Only 30 years

*Baby boomer generation facing risk of unsustainable systems of care, unmet care needs in future*

**TORONTO, 10/08/2019** – The [National Institute on Ageing](#) (NIA) released a report projecting that long-term care costs will more than triple within 30 years, from \$22B today to \$71B by 2050. With baby boomers starting to turn 75 next year, time is running out to improve system sustainability and the availability and quality of long-term care options in Canada. A generation of Canadian seniors is at risk of going with unmet care needs as they age. This projected increase in cost would amount to 19 per cent of personal income tax by 2050, up considerably from 9 per cent today - expressed as proportion of total provincial and federal personal income tax revenue.

*The Future Cost of Long-Term Care in Canada* by [Dr. Bonnie-Jeanne MacDonald](#), [Dr. Michael Wolfson](#), and [Dr. John Hirdes](#), builds on Statistics Canada's population microsimulation model to project the future costs of long-term care in Canada to both the public purse as well as the care support provided to Canadian seniors by their families. By quantifying the economic and personal costs that Canada will face in home- and nursing home care by continuing to follow its current path, the report is intended to promote informed and targeted discussion by governments, providers of long-term care, and individual Canadians on how best to move forward on this pressing national concern.

"Baby boomers are strongly advised to take a long and hard look at their own personal circumstances and plan ahead, to the extent that they have the health and means to better protect their future and possibly more vulnerable selves," says Dr. Bonnie-Jeanne MacDonald, NIA Director of Financial Security Research. "At the public policy level, the availability and sustainability of long-term care in Canada should be an immediate and high national priority."

The report also raises concerns about Canada's current reliance on unpaid care for seniors by family and friends. Between 2019 and 2050, there will be 30 per cent fewer unpaid caregivers in Canada available to provide unpaid support to seniors in need. This means that by 2050, the average Canadian unpaid caregiver would need to increase their efforts by over 40 per cent to keep up with current levels of unpaid care. This is a burden Canadians may not be able to shoulder, which would further increase costs to public services. If all the projected hours of home care provided by unpaid caregivers were instead paid publicly, \$27 billion would be added to public sector costs by 2050. This report follows a landmark report by [Dr. Samir Sinha](#), *Enabling the Future Provision of Long-Term Care in Canada*, which profiles long-term care across Canada and the challenges of meeting the needs of our rapidly ageing population. These two reports are part of a three-part NIA Policy Series on the future of long-term care in Canada.

The third and final report will provide recommendations for much needed reforms to our systems of care for seniors.

*This report is sponsored by and in collaboration with AdvantAge Ontario, the Canadian Institute of Actuaries, the Canadian Medical Association, Essity Canada Inc, and Home Instead Senior Care.*

Quotes:

“This is a seminal report and a must read for all. The future cost of long-term care is staggering and the shortage of unpaid caregivers is concerning. As proud partners on this critical series, we urge governments, stakeholders, and the public to heed the important messages in this paper.”

-Lisa Levin, Chief Executive Officer, AdvantAge Ontario

“Because actuaries help develop and maintain programs that deliver financial security to Canadians, we see significant risk in the increasing costs of long-term care. The actuarial profession is on board to help find a solution.”

-Marc Tardif (FCIA), President, Canadian Institute of Actuaries.

“This report presents a stark projection of the challenges that Canada faces with providing long-term care and underscores the urgent need to better value and support the tireless efforts of informal caregivers. It should be a wake-up call for everyone.”

-Dr. Sandy Buchman, President, Canadian Medical Association

“With an aligned long term vision we see more seniors afforded the opportunity to age in place with comfort and dignity. We are better equipped in partnership to raise awareness and remove barriers so we can best address the unique needs our country, and the globe, will face over the upcoming years.”

-Angela Douglas, Marketing Director, Essity Canada Inc.

“Families will need to almost double their efforts to keep up with care needs and more than twice the number of seniors will be looking for that help. Productive collaboration across all sectors is essential to a respectful ageing journey.”

-Phyllis Hegstrom, Government Affairs Director, Home Instead Senior Care

*About the [National Institute on Ageing \(NIA\)](#)*

*The National Institute on Ageing is a Ryerson University think tank focused on the realities of Canada’s ageing population. We are Canada’s only think tank dedicated to policy solutions at the intersections of healthcare, financial security, and social well-being. Through our work, our mission is to enhance successful ageing across the life course and to make Canada the best place grow up and grow old.*

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