



Caring for Caregivers: Developing Strategies to Support Caregivers

Dr. Samir K. Sinha MD, DPhil, FRCPC

Peter and Shelagh Godsoe Chair in Geriatrics and Director of Geriatrics
Sinai Health System and the University Health Network Hospitals

Assistant Professor of Medicine

University of Toronto and the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine

CRNCC Caring for Caregiver Forum

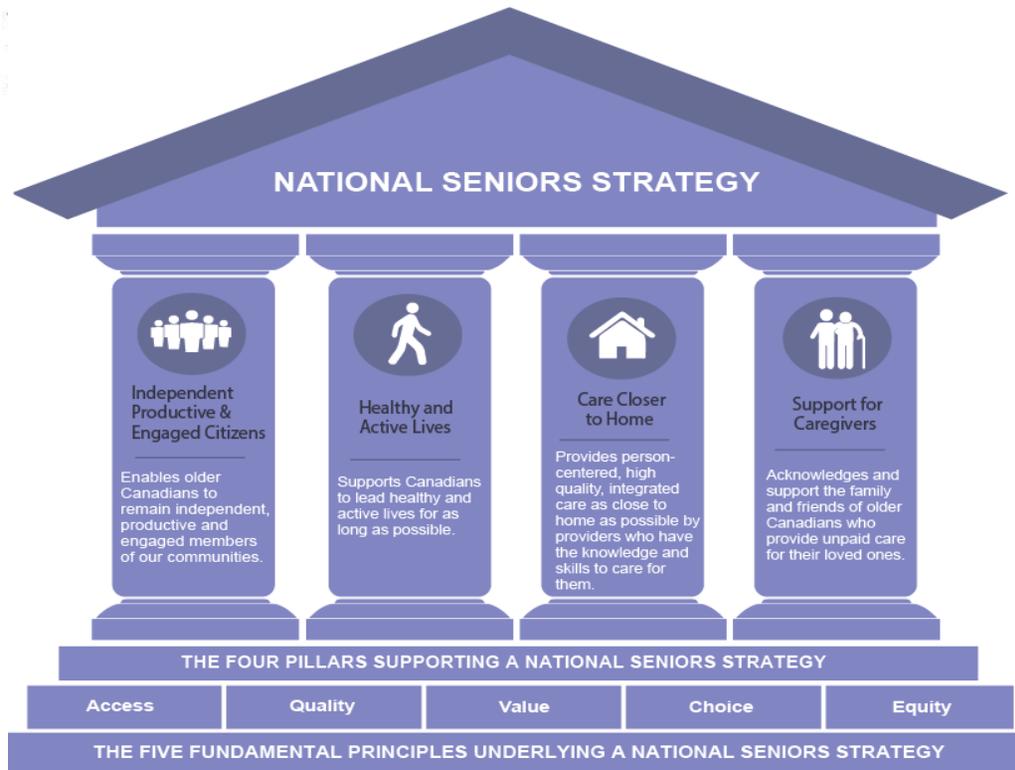
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 Twitter: @DrSamirSinha



How Ready Are We?

A National Seniors Strategy for Canadians



Older Canadians are now the fastest growing segment of our population with their numbers expected to double over the next two decades so that by then, one in four Canadians will be older than 65 years of age. This unprecedented demographic shift will present both challenges and opportunities.



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Tweets

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Samir Sinha @DrSamirSinha 14h
Great to See @RobertGhiz and Canada's Premiers calling for a NATIONAL SENIORS STRATEGY! [globalnews.ca/video/1803715/...](https://globalnews.ca/video/1803715/) @Kathleen_Wynne @CMA_Docs
Expand

Samir Sinha @DrSamirSinha 14h
80% of Older Canadians VOTE, and 87% want a NATIONAL SENIORS STRATEGY! ow.ly/i/5ad2q @CMA_Docs @CanadaNurses @CarpAdvocacy

87% of respondents in key ridings **agree** that federal political parties should make the issue of seniors care a **top priority** in the next federal election.

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NATIONAL SENIORS STRATEGY



Independent Productive & Engaged Citizens

Enables older Canadians to remain independent, productive and engaged members of our communities.



Healthy and Active Lives

Supports Canadians to lead healthy and active lives for as long as possible.



Care Closer to Home

Provides person-centered, high quality, integrated care as close to home as possible by providers who have the knowledge and skills to care for them.



Support for Caregivers

Acknowledges and support the family and friends of older Canadians who provide unpaid care for their loved ones.

THE FOUR PILLARS SUPPORTING A NATIONAL SENIORS STRATEGY

Access

Quality

Value

Choice

Equity

THE FIVE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES UNDERLYING A NATIONAL SENIORS STRATEGY

We Need Robust Capacity Planning



- 98% of older adults receiving paid support to meet their needs, receive additional support from an unpaid caregiver.
- 20% of Ontarians serve as a Caregiver to a family member, and often provide 70% of their total needs.
- While 500,000 Older Ontarians receive some form of care at home – 175,000 report having unmet home care needs.
- 14% of Ontario's Hospital Beds are occupied by ALC designated patients.
- If we know where we stand and where we need to go, why don't we start planning and responding to the future.

We Need to Be Clear with Canadians



- Government funded home care and long-term care are not enshrined in the Canada Health Act
- Canadians and their caregivers are navigating their experiences within a 'postal code' lottery of care.
- 38% of Ontario Caregivers were unfamiliar with what CCACs were and what services they provided.
- There are no legislated 'guaranteed minimums, just guaranteed maximums' while caregivers are not even recognized as a part of the overall unit of care
- Making criteria entitlements and eligibility clear adds value...

Our Caregivers are a Diverse Lot



- 62% of Unpaid Caregivers are females, and the fast growing group of Caregivers are neighbours and friends
- Only 14% of Spousal Caregivers and 5% of Children Caregivers report receiving any financial assistance.
- We need to examine how we define 'caregivers' and 'dependents'
- Our growing ethnocultural diversity presents opportunities and challenges.

Social Networks are Important



- We are less likely to live in intergenerational households and communities compared to 50 years ago...
- 27% of Older Ontarians report not being well connected to others – enough to rely upon them to help with basic tasks.
- Encouraging Social Participation reduces social isolation and stimulates and strengthens natural caregiving networks

Evidence-Based Policy Options



- Create National Standards or a Framework to Support More Flexible Working Environment for Caregivers.
- Establish a Federal Recognition program of Employers with Best Practices for Engaging and Supporting Caregivers
- Improve Access to Information Around Available Financial Support for Caregivers
- Broaden the Definition of Caregivers and Family Members Eligible for Financial Assistance
- Remove Financial Assistance Barriers for Low-Income Caregivers



This is Our Time to Lead

Thank You

Samir K. Sinha MD, DPhil, FRCPC

Director of Geriatrics

Mount Sinai and the University Health Network Hospitals

✉ ssinha@mtsinai.on.ca

🐦 Twitter: [@DrSamirSinha](https://twitter.com/DrSamirSinha)