



Canada's Care Economy

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Delivering insight through data for a better Canada



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What is the Care Economy?

The care economy is that sector of the broader economy comprising the **provision of paid and unpaid care work** that supports the physical, psychological and emotional needs of care-dependent persons*.

*Care-dependent persons are comprised of children under 15 and adults over 15 with long term conditions or disabilities

Public policy perspectives

“Caregiving is the next frontier of public policy in Canada” Cdn Centre for Caregiving Excellence

PM acknowledged “the importance of taking early action to address inequalities in the **care economy**”

Report of the Standing Committee on the Status of Women: Women’s Unpaid Work in Canada □ recommendation to Statistics Canada to:

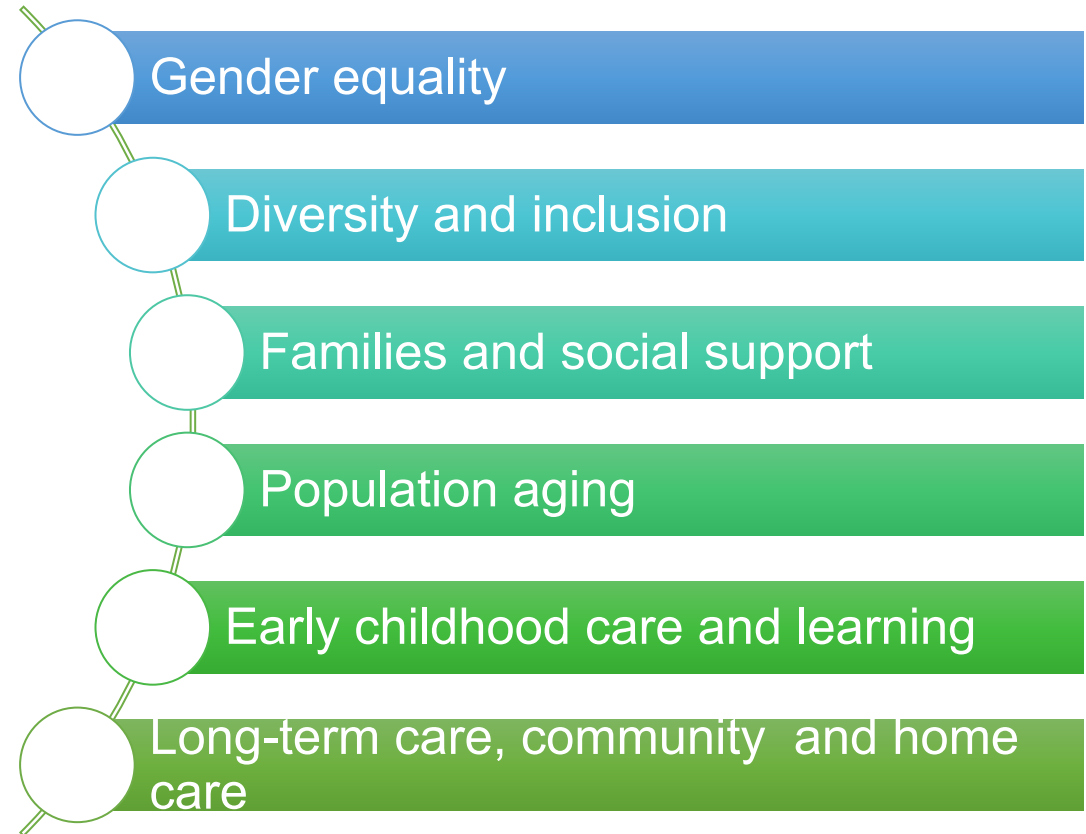
“properly and more frequently collect data on and track **unpaid and caregiving work** in all regions across Canada and expand data collection”

2021 Federal Budget: discussed “care economy” and mentioned “care” nearly 400 times

Canadian Labour Congress and Oxfam Canada request that the federal government value care workers by investing in public care services.

Why is it important?

- **2.3 billion** people in need of care by 2030 (ILO, 2018)
- **Women**, especially migrant and racialized women, do the majority of care work
- **Pandemic** has shed light on ‘crisis of care’ in Canada – paid and unpaid
- A **doubling of annual long-term and home care** costs in Canada by 2031, from \$29.7 billion to \$58.5 billion



Facts on paid and unpaid care in Canada

15

million
Canadians 15+ provided care
(paid/unpaid) to either
children or care-dependent
adults

1 in 2

women
Provided care to either
children or care-dependent
adults

31%

Of Canadians provided
some form of care to
children

23%

Of Canadians provided
some form of care to
care-dependent
adults

Source: 2022 Canadian Social Survey, Statistics Canada

Recent Trends: implications for how care gets delivered today and tomorrow

Smaller, older households

- **Rise in one-person households, potential “kinlessness”:**
 - 1-person hhlds became the dominant type in Canada (2016, 2021) - 1st time in Canada’s 150-year history
 - 4.4 million lived alone (2021); up from 1.7 mi. (1981) – almost entirely explained by population aging
 - 42% of people aged 85 & older in private households lived alone
 - Projection: population 85 & older will more than triple by 2068.

Key Drivers: population aging, lower fertility, “delayed” family formation, longevity.

Diversification of living arrangements

- **Rise in multiple family households:**
 - Nearly 1 million hhlds were composed of multiple families, or a family plus additional persons (2021): 45% growth in past 20 years
 - About 10% of children 0-14 years lived with at least one grandparent, mainly in multigenerational hhlds
 - Multigenerational most frequent among Indigenous, immigrant & racialized groups

Key Drivers: immigration; cultural or individual preferences.

Unpaid care work is valuable

\$517-\$860 billion
(25-37% of GDP)

Valuation of unpaid household work* in Canada (2019)

* Includes, but broader than, care work

\$97.1 billion
(4.2% of
GDP)

Valuation of unpaid care from family caregivers*

* Only includes care for Canadians with long-term conditions or disabilities

?

Valuation of unpaid care for children

Valuation of total care economy (paid + unpaid)

?

Conceptual model

Scoping the domains of the care economy and identifying data indicator topics

What is Statistics Canada doing?

- **Environmental scan** □ Scoping the research
 - What do we mean by “care” & the “care economy”?
- **Conceptual framework** □ Defining the domains and boundaries
 - The “what” we need to measure
- **Data mapping and data strategy** □ Identifying existing data and data gaps
 - The “how” we measure



CARE ECONOMY

That sector of the broader economy comprising paid and unpaid care work for care-dependent groups.



CARE WORK

The activities, responsibilities, and relationships involved in meeting the physical, psychological, and emotional needs of care-dependent groups.

Care-dependent groups include:

- Adults: Over 15 years old with long-term conditions or disabilities
- Children: Under 15 years old



PAID

Care with remuneration, performed in the social care (e.g., for older adults, for persons with disabilities) and child care sectors of the labour market.



UNPAID

Care without remuneration, performed because of a personal relationship or through a voluntary organization.



Key questions

- I. Who **provides** paid and unpaid care in Canada?
- II. **How much** paid and unpaid care is provided?
- III. What is the **quality** of care (e.g. intensity, duration)?
- IV. Who **receives** care?
- V. What are the **impacts** of caregiving for paid and unpaid care workers?
- VI. What **supports** are provided for unpaid caregivers in Canada?
- VII. What is the **magnitude** of the economic contribution of the care economy?

Thank you!

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