

Saskatchewan Provincial Caregiver Strategy



Prepared By:
The Saskatchewan
Caregiver
Information and
Support Centre
306-652-4411
1-888-652-4411



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1. Vision

A Saskatchewan where caregivers of older adults are recognized, supported, and resourced equitably across urban and rural communities, ensuring better outcomes for caregivers and those they support.

2. Guiding Principles

- Equity – Address urban/rural gaps.
- Accessibility – Simplify navigation of health and social supports.
- Sustainability – Build long-term structures and partnerships.
- Collaboration – Engage caregivers, communities, employers, and government.
- Evidence-Informed – Guided by the Saskatchewan Caregiver Experience Study (Hall et al., 2024).
- National Collaboration - Align priorities with the National Caregiving Strategy.

3. Strategic Priorities

A. Urban Focus

1. Affordable Respite Care Services – Expand availability of respite and day programs.
2. Workplace Support for Caregivers – Advance flexible policies and employer incentives.
3. Address LTC Staffing Shortages – Training and retention initiatives.
4. Advocacy and Awareness – Provincial campaigns to normalize caregiving.
5. Improve Navigation of Systems – “One-stop” caregiver navigation hub.

B. Rural Focus

1. Strengthen the Home Care Workforce – Incentives and subsidies to retain providers.
2. Improve Healthcare Access & Transportation – Telehealth, mobile units, subsidized travel.

3. Address Rural Long-Term Care Challenges – Expand training, centralized placement systems.
4. Establish a Rural Caregiving Task Force – Ensure rural caregiver voices in policymaking.

4. Action Plan

Priority	Key Actions	Lead/Partners	Timeline	Outputs/Indicators
Provincial Caregiving Task Force	Establish task force (caregivers, researchers, policymakers)	SCOA (lead)		Task Force established
Workplace Supports	Employee/employer focus group; develop “Working Caregiver Support Handbook”	SCOA	2025	Toolkit published; Distributed
LTC Staffing	Advocate for student loan forgiveness + training pathways in provincial budget	SCOA, SHA, unions		Policy submission; media uptake
Advocacy & Awareness	Launch annual Caregiver Week (April), with media + recognition events	SCOA, media partners	2025	Province-wide recognition of caregivers
Navigation Hub	Expand caregiver helpline + online portal as a provincial “one-stop shop”	SCOA, 211	2025	Portal launched; calls served
Rural Home Care	Develop pilot rural recruitment incentive model (e.g., tax credits, travel subsidies)	Task Force, SHA		Pilot framework completed
Rural Healthcare Access	Advocate for expanded telehealth; pilot mobile medical unit in 1 region	Task Force, SHA		Pilot program in place



Priority	Key Actions	Lead/Partners	Timeline	Outputs/Indicators
Rural LTC	Work with SHA to improve placement systems; partner orgs for LTC companionship programs	Task Force, SHA		Recommendations submitted; pilot program

5. Next Steps

Internal Planning

- Form task force (SCOA, caregiver reps, researchers, SHA, community organizations and policy makers).
- Develop budget and funding roadmap.

Stakeholder Engagement

- Convene provincial roundtables (urban and rural).
- Launch Provincial Caregiving Task Force.
- Partner with Unions on workplace supports.

Midpoint Reporting

- Document pilot outcomes.
- Adjust priorities based on lessons learned.

Future Goals (pending funding)

- Scale respite programs to more communities.
- Expand Provincial caregiver helpline/portal (navigation hub).
- Begin one respite/day program pilot.
- Continue to run provincial caregiver recognition campaigns.
- Embed workplace caregiver protections into Saskatchewan employment policy.
- Expand telehealth/mobile care units province wide.