

CARP Halton Chapter 2025 Advocacy Survey Results

Halton Seniors Advocacy

- 763 responses from 6000 members- 12.7%
- Burlington- 34%
- Oakville- 26%
- Milton- 8%
- Halton Hills- 9%
- Hamilton- 24%

Halton Seniors Advocacy

- Members asked to prioritize most important advocacy issues and concerns
- Affordable housing, Vaccines, Drug Plans, Aging at home, Frauds and Scams, OAS/CPP, Health Care Wait Times, Long-Term Care availability RRIF's
- Health Care Wait times, Aging at home and Long Term Care availability overwhelmingly identified as most critical concerns.

Halton Seniors Advocacy- Top 3 Issues

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Total
• Health Care wait times, investment in physicians, specialists and technology	71.6%	22.9%	94.5%
• Aging at home- incentives, regulations, targeting Improved homecare and caregiver supports	68.9%	26.4%	95.3%
• Long Term Care availability, standards and incentives	68.3%	26.9%	95.2%

For each of the following advocacy issues CARP could/should prioritize, please indicate your level of agreement by selecting one of the options: Strongly Agree, Agree, Neutral, Disagree, or Strongly Disagree.

	STRONGLY AGREE	AGREE	NEUTRAL	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Vaccines	66.01% 501	24.24% 184	6.98% 53	1.05% 8	1.71% 13	759	1.48
Aging at Home	69.00% 523	26.39% 200	3.03% 23	0.92% 7	0.66% 5	758	1.38
OAS/CPP	62.43% 472	26.06% 197	8.99% 68	1.19% 9	1.32% 10	756	1.53
Wait Times	71.66% 541	22.91% 173	4.37% 33	0.26% 2	0.79% 6	755	1.36
Long-term care	68.29% 519	26.84% 204	3.68% 28	0.39% 3	0.79% 6	760	1.39

Halton Seniors Advocacy- Additional Comments

- 243 added additional comments- 32%
- At home aging received most comments (23) followed by reducing income tax (20)
- Other issues mentioned- Drivers tests, Dental care, transportation, MAID, Dealing with Technology, RRIFs, Isolation.

Halton Seniors Advocacy- Aging at Home

- “Make it easier for people to qualify for wheeltrans services”
- “Support the family caregiver to assist with the care of their family member”
- “50% of property taxes and hydro bills should be deductible for tax computation to encourage aging in place.”
- “Increase home care availability for single retirees on their own.”
- “Allow seniors to be able to afford living in their own home. Reduce property taxes for seniors”
- “More care for the elderly to stay in their own home rather than long-term care facilities”

Halton Seniors Advocacy- Taxes

“Reduce Income Tax on seniors below a set limit- Rich CEO’s do not need tax breaks”

“No tax for low-income seniors. Especially those living in subsidized housing.”

”Tax-free CPP, OAS”

“Lowering of municipal taxes for seniors living in their own homes.”

“Single seniors tax credit adjustments. Why do singles get less of a tax break. This discriminates based on marital status”

“Reduce taxes for all seniors, regardless of work status”

Halton Seniors Advocacy- Aging Ontario

- Ontario is facing the steepest demographic shift in its history
- 75+ fastest growing age group- 30% over next 10 years
 - 2021- 1.1 million
 - 2026- 1.45 million
 - 2030- 1.7 million
 - 2035- 2 million
- Largest cohort of ER visits, surgeries, chronic disease management, home-care needs, long-term care admissions
- Current system cannot absorb this without major coordinated action

Halton Seniors Advocacy- Key Health Concerns

- 65+- 73% have at least 1 chronic condition, 43% 2 or more
- Falls- 1 senior in 4 fall every year- for those hospitalized, 1 in 3 never return home- Long Term Care
- Dementia is the fastest growing and most expensive care need in Ontario
 - 2025- 300,000
 - 2030- 500,000
 - 2050- 1,000,000

Halton Seniors Advocacy- Long Term Care

- Long Term Care- Ontario currently has 138,000 beds
- Current waitlist- 48,000
- Projected need by 2040- 260,000
- Ontario has promised 30,000 new beds by 2028
- Building delays, staff shortages, demographic demand- Ontario is facing massive shortages

Halton Seniors Advocacy- Need for Innovative Approaches

- Annual Canadian Health Care expenditures, 2025- \$400 billion
- \$16 billion increase (4.2%) over 2024- absorbed by inflation, population growth, aging patients
- 6.5% increase in 2024- inflation 4.9%, population growth 3%, aging .6%- Real \$ actually shrunk by 2%
- Highest Spending categories- Hospitals (26%) Physicians (13.8%) , Drugs (13.3%)
- 50% of hospital spending is wages- labour shortages in 2024 resulted in 13% increase
- 6.5 million Canadians do not have a primary health care provider- increased wait times

“The solution is not more spending, its innovating how we resource and deliver health care”

Anderson Chuck, President, Canadian Institute for Health Information

Halton Seniors Advocacy- CARP National

- ***CARPs 8 Priority Actions for Ontario***

- Prioritize wellness and prevention as a core strategy
- Build an aging at home first system
- Expand Workforce capacity- PSW's Nurses, Geriatricians, Recreation Workers, Home-care teams
- Geriatric Medicine incentives
- High school career choices- health/social services vs technology
- Behavioural Support Ontario (BSO)- core curriculum enhancement
- LTC wages at/close to hospitals
- Strengthen LTC planning

Halton Seniors Advocacy- Next Steps

- CARP National organized Seniors Day of Action November 29 at Queens Park to outline the healthcare crisis
- All Ontario MPPS invited, 45 attended
- Halton Chapter met 3 of 5 regional MPPS who attended
- Communication of results to members at January meetings, newsletters
- Follow up meetings planned and scheduled to review results with all 5 MPPS, Halton Region
- Sharing of results with local media