

Caregiving Benefits

Written by Carolyn Pancham

Employment Caregiver Leaves

Have you suffered an injury or illness and require a family member to provide care or support during your recovery process? The [Family Caregiver Leave](#) is an unpaid, job-protected leave of up to eight weeks per calendar year per family member. You will require a medical certificate from your doctor stating that you have a serious medical condition to be eligible for the leave. The [Family Caregiver Benefit](#) provides financial assistance of 55% of your earnings (maximum of \$595 a week) during that time for qualified individuals.

Is your prognosis dire? The [Family Medical Leave](#) is another unpaid, job-protected leave of up to 28 weeks in a 52-week period. If a qualified health practitioner certifies that you have a serious medical condition with a significant risk of death occurring within 26 weeks, then your loved ones may have an option for palliative care. [Compassionate Care Benefits](#) provides financial assistance for the caregiver of a person that requires end-of-life care.

Call Service Ontario at 1-800-531-5551 or TTY 1-866-567-8893 to inquire about the different types of leaves under the *Employment Standards Act*. Service Canada could be reached at 1-800-622-6232 or TTY 1-800-926-9105 for caregiver benefit eligibility.

Caregiver Tax Credit

The [Canada Caregiver Credit](#) helps caregivers that supports a spouse, common-law partner or dependant who has either a physical or mental impairment. Contact the Canada Revenue Agency at 1-800-959-8281 for further details of claiming the amount on your tax return.



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Caregiving Support

If you are being discharged from the hospital and are unable to take care of yourself after a medical episode, consider the [Ontario Local Health Integration Networks \(LHINs\)](#). It is a community health-care organization that provides needs-based service. Ask your health care provider for a referral or call them directly at 310-2222. Once a care coordinator provides recommendations, you may be eligible for home care services.

Stay tuned for next months' article on the Disability Tax Credit!

**This article is intended to provide general information only. Please seek advice from a qualified professional for your situation.*