



Canadian Caregiver Coalition  
La coalition canadienne des aidantes et aidants naturels  
[www.ccc-ccan.ca](http://www.ccc-ccan.ca)

## **Federal Liberals make a long-awaited promise to family caregivers**

May 18, 2010, Ottawa – The Canadian Caregiver Coalition (CCC), on behalf of the five (5) million family caregivers in this country, applaud the recent announcement by Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff that a government led by him “...will do more to help families care for loved ones at home.” Speaking May 17 in Toronto, Mr. Ignatieff said: “We can’t have a productive and competitive society when families are out of the labour market, caring for loved ones at home.... We know that a country can be compassionate and competitive at the same time. In fact, you can’t be competitive, unless you are compassionate.”

The Canadian Caregivers Coalition is pleased to see an increasing recognition that that family caregiving is one of the priority challenges that should be addressed by the federal government.

While there is a mixture of ad hoc measures in place for family caregivers, it is clear that creating a more compassionate approach to supporting those who are struggling to balance their caregiving responsibilities within our complex society is essential. The CCC believes that a national Caregiving Strategy should be announced as it would provide a framework to guide our collective and individual response as to how society supports family caregivers. The Caregiving Strategy should include:

- Safeguarding the health and wellbeing of family caregivers and increasing the flexibility and availability of respite care
- Minimizing excessive financial burden placed on family caregivers
- Enabling access to user friendly information and education
- Creating flexible workplace environments that respect caregiving obligations
- Investing in research on family caregiving as a foundation for evidence-informed decision making

There is a role for all levels of government and sectors of society to support family caregivers, however national leadership is required to increase awareness and serve as a catalyst for change across all jurisdictions.

The Coalition calls upon Canada’s other federal parties and provincial governments to join Mr. Ignatieff in tangibly recognizing that family caregivers matter and that there is much federal and provincial governments can do to help.

- 30 -

### **About the Canadian Caregiver Coalition**

The Canadian Caregiver Coalition is a diverse group of national and provincial organizations from across Canada that works collaboratively to represent and promote the needs and interests of family caregivers with all levels of government, and the community. The vision of the Canadian Caregivers Coalition is a Canada that recognizes and respects the integral role of family caregivers in society, and supports this role with the understanding that it is not a substitute for public responsibility in health and social care.

For more information, contact:  
Nadine Henningsen  
President, Canadian Caregiver Coalition  
905-361-3277 [www.ccc-ccan.ca](http://www.ccc-ccan.ca)