

**CARP Home Care Poll Report
August 10, 2012**

KEY FINDINGS

One quarter of members are, or know someone, in home care or long term care, and, among these, three quarters say benchmarks set previously by members, for assessment and admission, are not being met.

Members see about a month as a reasonable length of time to wait for an LTC bed, and few would move to get faster admission. One third expect to require extended care of some kind, mostly more than ten years from now. Most do not believe their provinces have adequate extended care resources for their needs now, nor do they think they will in the future.

Large majorities agree home care is an essential health service, that it should be paid for by the government and that the government is not treating the issue with the urgency it deserves. Three quarters agree the fact 70% of Canadians will require extended care constitutes a 'crisis'.

The majority haven't planned for extended care, don't know how much it costs and don't think they have enough information about it. Those who have planned for extended care rely on their savings or families. When told the costs for LTC, the majority says they cannot afford it.

Three quarters think Canada should invest in comprehensive, integrated extended care, and half want CARP to work with governments to make this happen.

All members think enforceable standards and benchmarks for home care are important, few think they exist, and, among those who do, few think they are being followed.

The Conservative Party has lost the pre-eminent position it traditionally enjoys among CARP members and, while still leading, is just ahead of the NDP.

DETAILED FINDINGS

One quarter of members at least know someone in long term care or receiving home care (27%), if not themselves (2%), family (13%) or someone they know (11%), either in home care (15%) or long term care (10%).

Are you, is a member of your family or is anyone you know receiving government funded home care or government funded long term care?

YES	27%
HOME CARE	15%
LONG TERM CARE	10%
ME	2%
FAMILY	13%
SOMEONE I KNOW	11%
Me, home care	1%
Me, LTC	*
Family, home care	7%
Family, LTC	6%
Someone I know, home care	7%
Someone I know, LTC	4%
MORE THAN ONE	2%
NO	73%

Three quarters of members with experience say benchmarks for long term and home care admission set in previous polls were not met (74%), although only by some extent (somewhat too long - 23%, met expectations - 18%).

In previous CARP polls, members said they would be willing to wait about 4 days for their initial assessment for home care, then another 4 days for their first visit. Have you or anyone you know receiving home care experienced service which met these benchmarks?

YES	26%
NO	74%
Took somewhat too long/several weeks	23%
My expectations were met	18%
Took far too long/several months	11%
Still have not received	3%
OTHER	19%

On average, members think about 4 weeks is a reasonable time to wait for a bed in a nursing home.

What is a reasonable time to wait, from initial application to placement, for a bed in a nursing home?

A week or so	25%
Several weeks	20%
A month or so	30%
Several months	10%
Half a year	3%
A year	1%
Longer	8
AVG.	3.9 weeks
DON'T KNOW	11%

Two thirds of members would not move to get better LTC placement (67%), most waiting longer locally (34%) or believing the government should provide universal (and local) access (23%). One fifth would move for placement (18%).

Would you move from your town or city in order to get better access to long term care?

Yes, if placement timely	18%
NO	67%
Wait for local placement	34%
Govt. should provide access everywhere	23%
Make other local arrangements	11%
DON'T KNOW	15%

One third (34%) expect to need home care (14%), LTC (4%) or both (16%) in the future.

Do you, yourself, expect to require home care or long term care in the future?

YES	34%
Home care	14%
LTC	4%
Both	16%
NO	22%
DON'T KNOW	44%

Most members say their need for extended care is more than 10 years out (41%), while one third don't know (33%).

How far into the future do you expect the need for home care or long term care to occur?

Now	1%
Within a year	2%
Within 5 years	9%
Within 10 years	15%
More than 10 years	41%
DON'T KNOW	33%

The majority of members think their provinces can't provide for needed extended care now (60%) and won't be able to in the future (71%).

Do you believe there will be adequate resources and access in your province for you and others to receive the home care and long term care you will require in the future?/Do you believe there are adequate resources and access in your province to home care and long term care now?

	Now	Future
YES	15%	12%
Home care	4%	3%
LTC	1%	1%
BOTH	10%	8%
NO	60%	71%
Home care	4%	5%
LTC	5%	5%
BOTH	51%	61%
DON'T KNOW	26%	17%

The vast majority of members (88%) agree home care is an essential health care service which should be publicly funded.

Is home care an essential health care service which should be provided and funded by the government?

Yes	88%
No	6%
DON'T KNOW	7%

An even larger majority (91%) agrees all home care costs should be covered by the government.

Should all costs for home care be covered by the government?

YES	91%
Just basic service level for all	46%
Comprehensive, integrated part of clinical care	44%
NO	5%
DON'T KNOW	5%

Three quarters believe the government isn't treating the lack of home care with the urgency it deserves (76%).

Is the government treating the lack of home care with the urgency it deserves?

Yes	4%
No	76%
DON'T KNOW	20%

Three quarters agree, when prompted, that an extended care "crisis" is pending in Canada (73%).

Experts suggest 70% of Canadians over 65 will require home care, long term care or chronic care at some point in their lives. Does this constitute a "crisis" in extended care provision in Canada?

Yes	73%
No	12%
DON'T KNOW	16%

Two thirds say they don't have enough information about their own potential extended care needs (67%).

Do you have enough information to make informed decisions about your own home care and long term care needs?

Yes	33%
No	67%

Two thirds don't know how much extended care costs (67%).

Do you know how much home care and long term care costs would be for you?

Yes	33%
No	67%

Three quarters have not made plans for needed extended care (72%), and those who have (28%) will primarily rely on their savings (17%).

Have you made a plan for home care or long term care?

YES	28%
Savings	17%
LTC insurance	3%
Planned with family	3%
OTHER	5%
NO	72%

The minority of members say they can afford stated extended care co-pays (41%).

Co-pays for long term care can be from \$10,000 to \$30,000 per year in some provinces. Do you have the resources to pay these costs if you had to?

Yes	41%
No	59%

Three quarters of members opt for investing in a comprehensive, integrated extended care health system (73%) over relying on the status quo (8%).

Should Canada plan for government funded comprehensive extended care, including home care, long term care and chronic care, or should it continue to rely on informal caregivers, private plans and nursing homes?

Invest in comprehensive extended care	73%
Rely on existing network of suppliers	8%
Do something else	8%
DON'T KNOW	12%

One half want CARP to work with governments to create an integrated national extended care system (49%), while some want more money for home care funding (14%), full public coverage (14%) or tax credits and government support for caregivers (13%).

What do you think is the best course of action for CARP to take in advocating for more home care and long term care?

Work w/ govt to create plan for LTC/home care	49%
Push govt for new \$\$ for LTC/home care	14%
Push govt for full public coverage of LTC/home care	14%
Push for tax credits and govt \$\$ for LTC/home care	13%
Work with insurers for affordable private LTC coverage	5%
Accept status quo, help members with system	2%
OTHER	*
DON'T KNOW	4%

Virtually all members say it is important that there be standards and benchmarks for home care (98%), and two thirds use the strongest terms (extremely important - 65%)

How important is it that there are standards and benchmarks for home care service provision which must be met in order to continue operating?

IMPORTANT	98
Extremely important	65%
Very important	26%
Important	7%
NOT IMPORTANT	1%
Not very important	*
Not at all important	*
DON'T KNOW	2%

Just one fifth believe these standards and benchmarks exist (19%), but most don't know if they do (51%).

As far as you know, do proper standards and benchmarks for home care provision exist in your province?

Yes	19%
No	31%
DON'T KNOW	51%

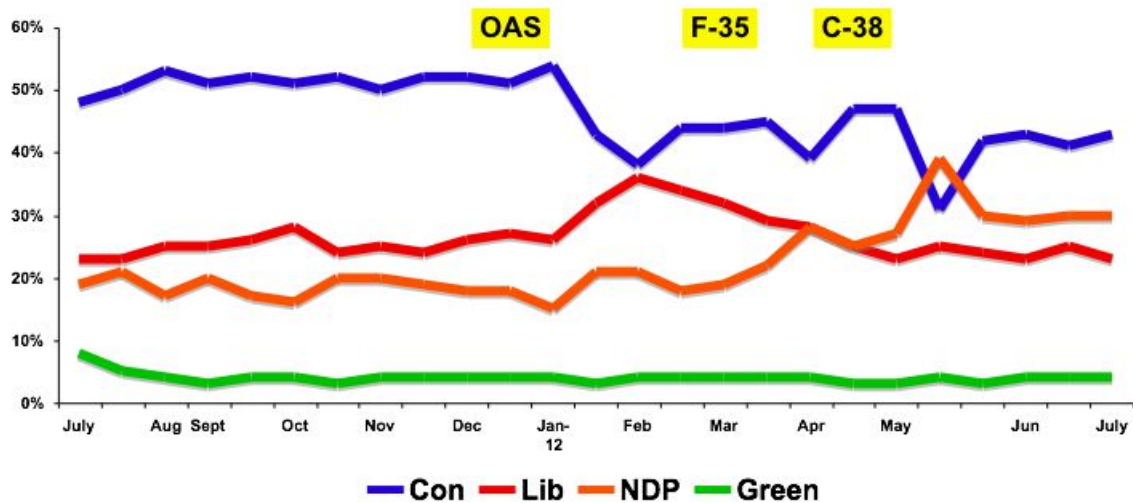
Among those who think benchmarks exist, few (7%) think they are met, but, once again, most do not know (67%).

Are these standards and benchmarks being met in your province?

Yes	7%
No	27%
DON'T KNOW	67%

ELECTORAL PREFERENCE

The Conservative Party leads (43%), but at a diminished level since the OAS, F-35 and Bill C-38 issues made news. After leading the Conservatives for one polling cycle immediately after the debate around the Omnibus Budget Bill C-38, the NDP (30%) have outstripped the Liberals (23%) and are firmly in second place.



More than 1470 CARP Poll™ panel members responded to this poll between July 27 and 31, 2012. The margin of error for a probability sample this size is plus or minus 2.6%, 19 times out of 20