

Proposed Project for Roger S. Smith Research Award 2019

Faculty supervisor: Janet Fast

Title: Profiling Young Carers in Canada

The focus of this student-led project is to create a profile of young carers in Canada through an iterative and integrated knowledge creation and mobilization process. There is a growing awareness of youth and young adults who take on the responsibility of caring for family members with chronic physical or mental health conditions, disabilities, or aging-related needs. They are often invisible and their developmental needs take a back seat to those of family members whose care needs are more urgent or immediate. Caring responsibilities can be significant and time consuming. Their impacts may be significant and long lasting on young carers' own health, social relationships, education, and employment.

Project goals. The invisibility of this group of family carers has resulted in a significant knowledge gap and lack of awareness of their unique needs. The proposed project seeks to generate and mobilize new knowledge about young carers in Canada: who are they? what care are they providing? who are they caring for? and what is the impact of caring on their everyday lives?

The student's role. The student will work with members of the Research on Aging Policies and Practice (RAPP) research team and our community partners (including Caregivers Alberta and the Young Carers Project) to:

- analyze Statistics Canada survey data to describe the characteristics, care work and care-related social, health and educational/financial outcomes of young carers in Canada;
- analyze qualitative data from the *Enhancing Caregiver Wellbeing* study to illustrate through personal stories the impact of providing care to a family member on young carers' lives; and
- synthesize quantitative and qualitative findings to create a two-page infographic profiling young carers in Canada.

The project will provide an opportunity for the student to gain a range of skills and experience, including: quantitative and qualitative data analysis, and interpretation and reporting of findings; knowledge translation and mobilization; and collaboration with academic and non-academic team members.

Qualifications. The preferred candidate will be curious and creative, have an interest in research and in working with older adults, and have the ability to work both independently and collaboratively.