

Date: March 12, 2026

Caregiver Benefit cuts reversed

On Tuesday, the Government of Nova Scotia announced that many of the cuts included in the recent provincial budget are no longer proceeding after public response.

With confirmation from the government, we are pleased to share that the Caregiver Benefit amount and eligibility criteria will remain unchanged with no cut to the program.

This is very welcome news for caregivers across Nova Scotia. Family and friend caregivers spend an average of 5.7 hours a day taking care of their loved ones, saving Nova Scotia healthcare system an estimated \$1.64 billion annually in unpaid care.

With the continuation of the Benefit, caregivers currently receiving support will maintain it, and other eligible caregivers will still be able to apply.

The Benefit provides \$400 per month to eligible caregivers, offering flexible, direct financial support that can be used where the need is greatest — whether it's transportation, medical supplies, respite care or other caregiving expenses. While it does not replace lost income or cover all costs associated with caregiving, it provides meaningful relief and acknowledges the vital role caregivers play.

Nova Scotia was the first province in Canada to introduce Caregiver Benefit, inspiring similar programs across Atlantic Provinces. We are proud of this legacy and remain committed to keep this support for caregivers.

This is a significant win for caregivers in our province. Caregivers Nova Scotia applauds this decision from Premier Tim Houston and Minister Barbara Adams. We value and appreciate the continued support for this program, including proposals to strengthen and expand it. We are dedicated to ensuring caregivers are recognized, supported and included as vital partners in care.

Jenny Theriault

Executive Director