

Meaningful engagement for Co-Design

The more strategic we are in creating the conditions for facilitating Caregiver Advisor engagement, the more likely the team will benefit from caregiver lived expertise. Keep the following **Do's** in mind when engaging Caregiver Advisors as steps for standard co-design practices:

- **Partner** with Caregiver Advisors from the conception of creating new initiatives, projects, policy changes, and research ideas.
- **Ask** what initiatives are important to Caregiver Advisors and where they would like to see advancements made.
- **Provide** Caregiver Advisors with background information to help with their understanding of the scope and subject matter.
- **Attend** meetings related to new idea, initiative, or project.
- **Respect** the time and availability of all stakeholders involved by providing timely notice of new meeting schedules.
- **Provide** stakeholders with the project manager or committee head's contact information.
- **Assign** meaningful tasks and roles that draw upon their skills, areas of expertise, and interests.
- **Keep** all stakeholders informed on an ongoing basis as the initiative or project unfolds.
- **Touchbase** with Caregiver Advisors occasionally outside team meetings to gauge their sense of belonging and ability to contribute.
- **Collect** feedback regularly from all meeting participants.
- **Offer** training to help boost their skills and ability to contribute to the team.
- **Give them credit** for and recognition for their valuable contributions (e.g. in publications).
- **Co-Present** – Initiative findings at any Board, Conference, or Industry Event with staff and caregiver advisors as co-presenters to ensure the caregiver perspective is included.
- **Provide feedback** to share final project results and/or initiative outcomes of the advisor's efforts, especially for long-term commitments.

For more information, familiarize yourself with available tools/resources:

1. <https://ontariocaregiver.ca/partnersincare/>
2. <https://www.cfhi-fcass.ca/what-we-do/enhance-capacity-and-capability/essential-together>
3. <https://www.cfhi-fcass.ca/docs/default-source/itr/tools-and-resources/pe-patient-tip-sheet-from-providers-e.pdf>
4. <https://ipfcc.org/resources/index.html>

