

## ***The Impact of Arthritis: Ontario***

### ***The Human Story***

Approximately 3 million voters in Ontario live with arthritis. Arthritis affects one in five Ontario residents. Ontario's aging population combined with other factors mean that, by 2040, one in four Ontario residents will join the ranks of those living with arthritis.

The time to address models of care in arthritis is now after year of being at the back of line of health care planning and delivery.

### **Osteoarthritis (OA) in Ontario**

Approximately 2 million people are living with osteoarthritis (OA). Within a generation (30 years) it is anticipated that 1 in 4 will be living with OA and one person in Ontario will be diagnosed every 3 minutes.

### **Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) in Ontario**

Unlike OA, rheumatoid arthritis (RA) can occur at any age. Approximately one out of every 100 adult Ontario residents are living with RA. In 2040, more than 250,000 people– or 1 in 77 people in Ontario – will be living with RA; one person in British Columbia will be diagnosed with RA every 53 minutes.

### ***Economic Impact***

Arthritis is the most common cause of work disability in Ontario, resulting in both poor quality of life and workplace limitations. While employees living with arthritis are able to contribute mentally, their joints are in severe pain and they are likely to leave the workforce earlier than planned, including going on disability (18% within five years after diagnosis and 27% within 10 years after diagnosis).

Other studies have clearly shown that the cost of being present, but less productive, is higher than the cost of being absent, with a workforce survey showing the cost was four times higher than the cost of missed days from work.