

WHY WE WORK

WORK AS CARE

“All labor that uplifts humanity has dignity and importance and should be undertaken with painstaking excellence.”

Martin Luther King, Jr.

EVERYONE WILL NEED TO BE CARED FOR AT SOME POINT. THE “PHYSICAL, COGNITIVE, AND EMOTIONAL EFFORT” OF **LOOKING AFTER OTHERS IS VALUABLE TO THE ECONOMY**, BUT CARE WORK IS OFTEN UNPAID OR UNDERPAID.

IN CANADA, WOMEN REPRESENT THE MAJORITY OF CAREGIVERS AND CARE WORKERS ARE OFTEN IMMIGRANTS, WOMEN OF COLOUR, AND TEMPORARY MIGRANT WORKERS.



Sindhuli, Nepal.
Photo by Ashes Sitoula

Housework is often perceived as simply a personal commitment to loved ones. It is, however, a huge part of the global economy, since it includes raising, feeding, and sometimes educating the next generation, while allowing the primary household earner to focus on their career, increasing the household’s capacity to contribute to the economy.



Queer Eye: We're in Japan!
Season 1, Episode 1:
Japanese Holiday.
Dir. Hisham Abed.
Photo from Netflix.

Hospice workers provide constant care for the elderly and terminally ill.

Yoko, a hospice nurse featured in *Queer Eye: We're In Japan!*, was called to this work by the death of her sister.

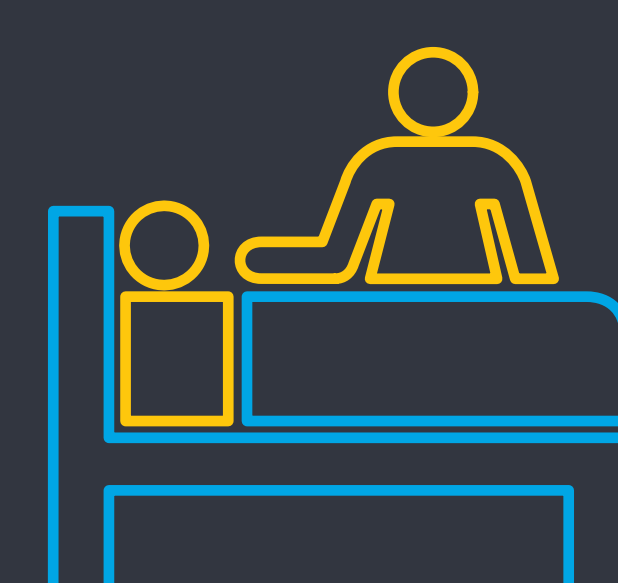
“I think she must have been so lonely being in the hospital at night, all by herself. So, I don't want my patients to go through that same thing.”

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How big is the care economy?

Based on the most recent report issued by International Labour Organization (ILO) in 2018...



...the global care workforce amounts to **381 million** workers



...**647 million** persons of working age are outside the labour force due to family responsibilities

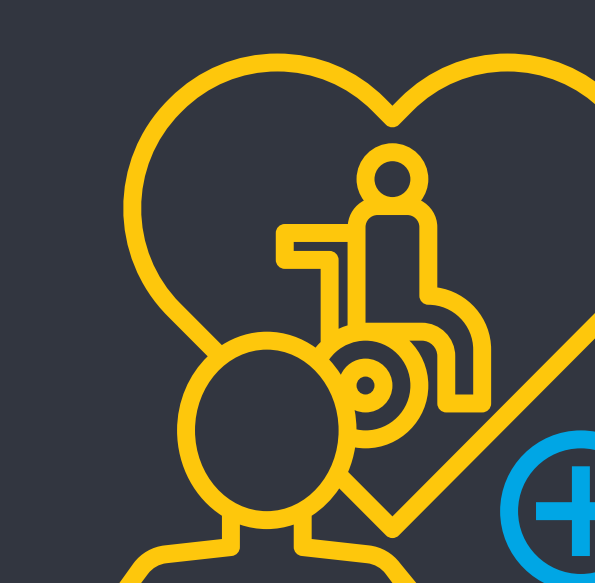


...unpaid care work would amount to **9.0% of global GDP**

According to Statistics Canada, in 2018...



...**1 in 4** people in Canada provided care in 2018; **54%** of the caregivers were female



...**three million** people in Canada, approximately 10% of the population, received care