

#Shoulder2Shoulder with patients and families

Throughout the Better Together Campaign, CFHI has partnered with patients and families in the design, development and evaluation of its programs and activities. The Roundtable is no exception. While policy decisions ultimately rest with hospital administrators and governments, patients and families play a role in influencing these decisions and co-leading change.

Below we outline how we meet the Patients Included criteria:

Patients or caregivers with experience relevant to the conference's central theme actively participate in the design and planning of the event, including the selection of themes, topics and speakers.

Two patient advisors with experience relevant to the conference theme (welcoming families in healthcare institutions as partners in care) participate as active members of the policy roundtable steering committee. The steering committee was tasked with developing the agenda, including identifying topics, and speakers.

Steering committee members will play an active role in the presentations and have involved their networks of patient and family advisors by sharing meeting proceedings and circulating the call for patient scholarship applications through their networks.

Further, patient advisor members of the steering committee provided advice and guidance on the development of the patient scholarship application and were part of the review process to select patient scholarship recipients.

Patients or caregivers with experience of the issues addressed by the event participate in its delivery, and appear in its physical audience.

Patients and caregivers are essential partners at the Better Together policy roundtable. CFHI has invited each provincial/territorial government to identify a patient and family advisor to participate with them at this meeting. Together, we hope to bring together key policy actors (including government officials, patient partners, and other healthcare partners) to assess the feasibility of adopting family presence in their home jurisdictions.

In addition to the patient and family advisors identified by the thirteen provinces and territories, CFHI has actively sought out additional patients and families by offering [three patient scholarships](#). Patient and family advisors not affiliated with a provincial government will share their experience(s)

and contribute to conversations about the adoption of large scale policy change. As part of the recruitment process, successful scholarship recipients will have previous experience with the topic (either with traditional visiting hours or family presence policies, as outlined in the selection criteria), and identify how they will disseminate lessons learned from the roundtable.

Patient advisors have been recruited to co-present at the Roundtable, in partnership with staff. Finally, patient advisors who are members of the steering committee will also be in attendance, playing a leadership role both in presenting and acting as a resource person to support other patient and family advisors present at the conference.

Travel and accommodation expenses for patients or carers participating in the advertised programme are paid in full, in advance. Scholarships are provided by the conference organisers to allow patients or carers affected by the relevant issues to attend as delegates.

In addition to invited patient and family advisors identified by government representatives, CFHI is offering three [patient scholarships](#) as described above.

To facilitate participation by patient and family delegates (scholarship recipients and patient and family members identified by provincial/territorial governments) affected by the issue of family presence or restrictive visiting hours, CFHI will cover all costs associated with their participation at the Roundtable in advance and in accordance with our travel policy. These include:

- Travel (air and ground)
- Accommodation
- Meals provided during conference

There is no registration fee for any participants. Where possible, payment in advance for all other costs (parking, mileage, meals outside of conference, incidentals) will be arranged.

The disability requirements of participants are accommodated. All applicable sessions, breakouts, ancillary meetings, and other programme elements are open to patient delegates.

CFHI will make reasonable accommodation of all meeting delegates, including patients and families. Delegates have been contacted to determine if barriers exist to participation in the meeting. CFHI will respond to any identified barriers to participation in a constructive way while respecting privacy and confidentiality to address barriers to participation and arrange reasonable accommodation in a timely manner.

Access for virtual participants is facilitated, with free streaming video provided online wherever possible.

CFHI will provide free video streaming to the public where possible. CFHI will identify sessions where streaming is appropriate. There is already a hashtag in English and in French related to the campaign that will be used (#MoreThanAVisitor, #PlusQueDesVisiteurs)

CFHI is exploring opportunities to engage from afar where appropriate using social media to invite the conversation in.

Following the event, presentations will be made available on the events page free of charge.