

People with arthritis have the right to:

- **Be treated with dignity, respect and consideration.** This includes being heard by healthcare providers who respect privacy and confidentiality.
- **A timely and accurate diagnosis.** Arthritis leads to significant joint damage when left undiagnosed and untreated.
- **Timely access to all types of high-quality care.** This includes access to all qualified healthcare providers and professionals.
- **Readily available current information, education and support programs about arthritis and evidence-based arthritis care.** People living with arthritis have the **responsibility** to learn about arthritis and arthritis care.
- **Be informed and participate with their healthcare providers in all treatment decisions.** This includes discussing treatment risks and benefits and timely access to medical records. People with arthritis have a **responsibility** to live a healthy lifestyle, speak openly with their healthcare providers, ask questions about treatment and follow the agreed upon course of treatment.
- **Equal public reimbursement and timely access in all provinces and territories to available medication and non-medication treatments.** Surgery and rehabilitation therapy that improve activities of daily living and quality of life should not be considered elective.
- **Live their lives fully without discrimination.** Enjoying life to its fullest potential includes taking part in family, social activities, school and employment. This may require removal of barriers and access to disability programs.
- **See that research is underway to find a cure and improve quality of life.** Arthritis research must: be funded to an amount equal to other chronic illnesses and include people with arthritis to help set priorities, participate as research partners or in clinical trials and benefit from its discoveries.
- **Be included in the development of health policies and programs that affect them.** The voices of people living with arthritis must be considered to develop the most relevant and meaningful policies and programs.