

# First Year Report

## Background

Since 2010, the [Fall Prevention Community of Practice \(CoP\)](#) has been supporting and connecting practitioners, researchers and policy planners in the field of fall prevention. As the CoP grew, members expressed a need for technology to connect directly with each other and access CoP services quickly. After consulting with members, we launched [Loop](#) in September 2015. Loop is an online communication platform, offered in English and French. Members receive bi-weekly emails featuring new posts and reminding them to check in.

The main features of Loop are:

- **Profiles.** Each member creates a profile with information about their work in fall prevention and how they can be contacted.
- **Discussions.** Members share resources and write articles on topics they are passionate about. Often, they use Discussions to ask for diverse opinions on tools, implementation and other issues encountered in practice.
- **Events.** Members can find professional education opportunities and advertise their organization's events.
- **Library Service.** Free access to evidence-based information through a skilled Information Specialist.
- **Private Groups.** Networks, committees and project teams can have a private space on Loop for their own discussions, planning and documents.

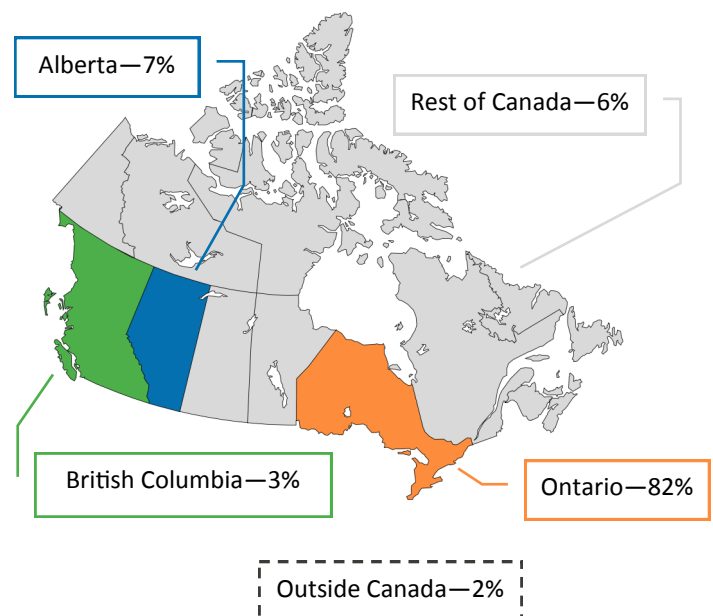
## About our members

In May 2016, we opened membership up to practitioners across Canada and beyond. Our members are still mainly in Ontario, but see how we've grown!

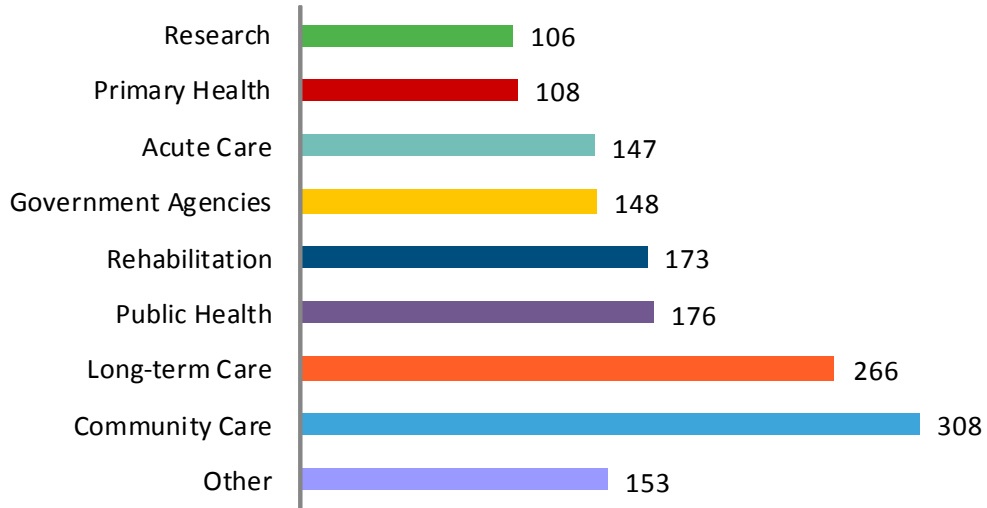
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new members this year!

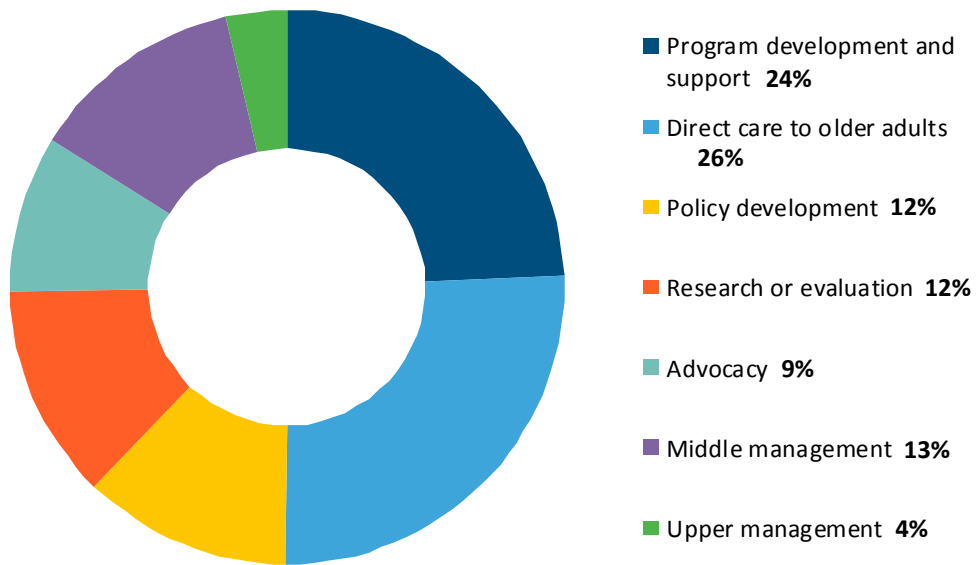
*"The CoP provided me with the connections and tools to support evidence-informed practice that has the potential to impact older adults across our region."*



## Where Members Work

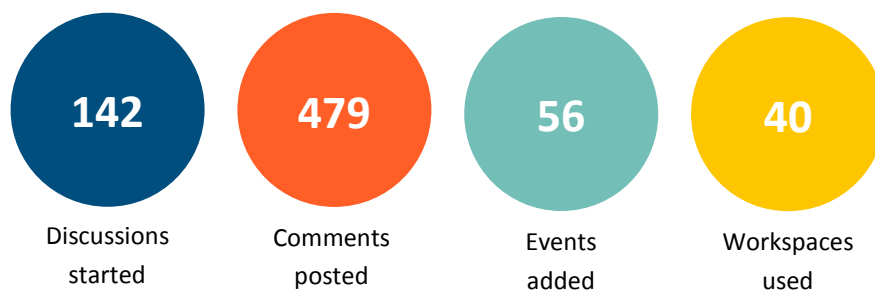


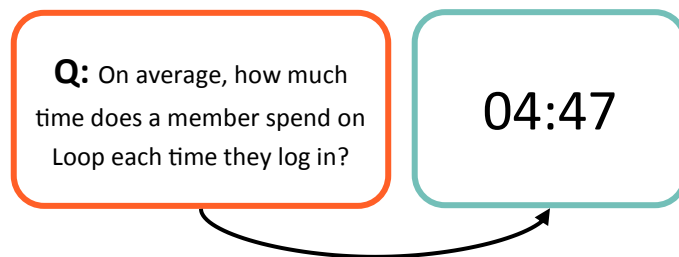
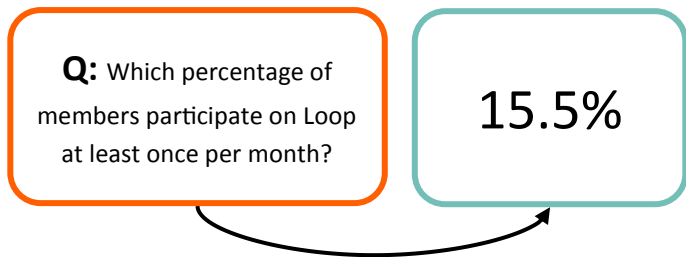
## How Members Spend their Time



## Interacting online

“It is nice to know that others are working on some of the same aspects of fall prevention and that there is a place to connect with like-minded individuals.”





## Library Service

Last year, the **Library Service** was operated in succession by two Information Specialists (IS). Assistance with literature searches, full-text article retrieval, internet research and critical appraisal was available to Loop members that did not otherwise have access to such services. The Library Service also supported the CoP Core Team and working groups with evidence, as needed.

Members were asked to submit their requests to the Library Service via Loop, but in the early part of the year we also received requests by phone, email and in-person. The Library Service produced 29 literature searches, 7 in-depth reading lists, and many shorter reading lists for posting on Loop. IS supported 2 members with critical appraisal of research evidence.

Select topics included:

- Bed and chair alarms
- Effective delivery of fall prevention programs
- Home safety and poverty
- Cognitive impairment and falls

## Value



**78%**  
of members surveyed feel the CoP brings good or exceptional value to **their own work**



**62%**  
of members surveyed feel the CoP brings good or exceptional value to **their organization's work**



**48%**  
of members surveyed feel the CoP brings good or exceptional value to **their partners and broader network**

**“I encouraged [a contact at the local CCAC] to consider the development of an implementation strategy for their protocol based on implementation science. Her curiosity was quite peaked and she joined the CoP to access a related journal article I had recommended. We now have an ongoing dialogue and I am looking forward to further developing this relationship to support her work.”**

**“We were able to connect with the Champlain LHIN and now we are working together with the South East LHIN to look at fall prevention across LHINs. We discovered we are interested in the same initiatives and don't want to duplicate. Our first video chat is coming up.”**

## Summary and recommendations

The CoP has attracted a diverse membership; a broad range of sectors are represented and we have members with varying roles and levels of experience within their organizations. The CoP should focus on growing membership from outside Ontario, particularly in Quebec and the Atlantic provinces. Adding new French content and providing sufficient support for our French colleagues will help to increase the proportion of members using Loop in French.

The Library Service is valued but underutilized. Loop members are vocal about their need to access evidence and incorporate it into practice and policy. The Library Service should be better advertised so Loop members remember it is available and know how to submit a request.

While most Loop members do not have any issues navigating the website, there have been suggestions to improve usability. Improving file storage in Private Groups is a top priority. Creating an interactive tutorial within Loop for new members was another interesting suggestion.

Members have rated Loop highly and shared many concrete examples about how Loop is having a positive impact on the field of fall prevention. Given the relatively short time Loop has been in place, this is very promising. The information about Loop's first year will serve as a baseline, as we continue to grow and improve\*.

## Acknowledgements

### Core Team

The Core Team is the engine behind the Fall Prevention Community of Practice. This passionate group advises on the strategic direction of the Community of Practice (CoP). The Core Team members come from different sectors, roles and geographic locations. Their expertise in fall prevention, large professional networks, and their own ongoing practice needs help to shape the CoP's growth and activities. The Core Team is active on Loop and promotes the platform at conferences and meetings.

### Sponsor



Ontario Neurotrauma Foundation

Fondation ontarienne de neurotraumatologie

The CoP and Loop are sponsored by the [Ontario Neurotrauma Foundation \(ONF\)](#). ONF is a non-profit organization funded by the Ontario government that works to prevent neurotrauma, and ensure Ontarians with spinal cord and brain injuries lead full, productive lives. ONF is the leader in moving research evidence into practice to improve quality of life and health outcomes. Through collaborations and partnerships ONF connects healthcare practitioners, researchers, policy planners and stakeholders including those living with neurotrauma to the information they need to make positive changes in health practices, outcomes and policies.

**“I believe that being a part of a Community of Practice gives some credibility and shows that one is participating on a larger scale and gleanng as much knowledge as possible from all sources”**

\*Data and quotations compiled from a 2016 membership survey and website analytics.