

## Canadians start 'caremongering' trend

22nd March, 2020



A new term has emerged with the advent of the coronavirus outbreak. The word "caremongering" started trending after acts of kindness in Canada. The word comes from the less positive word "scaremongering"

which is a recognised part of the English lexicon. It is not yet known whether the word "caremongering" will stay around long enough for dictionary editors to include it in future editions of their word lists. "Caremongering" arose after Canadians found new ways of helping vulnerable people during the COVID-19 virus. Social media is helping to spread the concept across Canada. Within 72 hours of the term trending, over 35 Facebook groups were set up with more than 30,000 members.

The founders of the first caremongering group spoke about the meaning of the name. Valentina Harper told the BBC: "Scaremongering is a big problem. We wanted to switch that around and get people to connect on a positive level, to connect with each other." She added: "Caremongering has spread the opposite of panic in people, brought out community and camaraderie, and allowed us to tackle the needs of those who are at risk." Ms Harper explained why caremongering was important in society. She said: "Anxiety, isolation and lack of hope affects you....This virtual community...is really showing people there is still hope for humanity. We haven't lost our hope."

Sources: [standard.co.uk](http://standard.co.uk) / [bbc.com](http://bbc.com) / [ctvnews.com](http://ctvnews.com)

### Writing

COVID-19 will make the world a more caring place. Discuss.

### Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

term / emerged / outbreak / kindness / lexicon / dictionary / future / vulnerable / founders / meaning / problem / connect / opposite / panic / at risk / virtual / hope

### True / False

- "Caremongering" is a word that is over 100 years old. T / F
- The word "caremongering" comes from the word "scaremongering". T / F
- The word "caremongering" is in the top three English dictionaries. T / F
- Caremongering started after Canadians helped vulnerable people. T / F
- A Facebook group founder said caremongering was a big problem. T / F
- The founder wants camaraderie to increase. T / F
- The founder said caremongering was important in our society. T / F
- The founder said caremongering means we haven't lost hope. T / F

### Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                       |               |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| 1. <b>term</b>        | a. change     |
| 2. <b>advent</b>      | b. versions   |
| 3. <b>lexicon</b>     | c. notion     |
| 4. <b>editions</b>    | d. start      |
| 5. <b>concept</b>     | e. definition |
| 6. <b>meaning</b>     | f. in danger  |
| 7. <b>switch</b>      | g. phrase     |
| 8. <b>camaraderie</b> | h. people     |
| 9. <b>at risk</b>     | i. vocabulary |
| 10. <b>humanity</b>   | j. friendship |

### Discussion – Student A

- How caring are you?
- What do you think of the word 'caremongering'?
- What acts of kindness have you seen recently?
- What acts of selfishness have you seen recently?
- Should the word 'caremongering' be in the dictionary?
- What kind things have you done recently?
- What kind things would you like to do today?
- Will the world be a more caring place after COVID-19?

## Phrase Match

- |                                  |                       |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. emerged with the advent       | a. positive level     |
| 2. acts of                       | b. "scaremongering"   |
| 3. the less positive word        | c. across Canada      |
| 4. new ways of helping           | d. risk               |
| 5. helping to spread the concept | e. for humanity       |
| 6. get people to connect on a    | f. vulnerable people  |
| 7. community and                 | g. of the coronavirus |
| 8. the needs of those who are at | h. and lack of hope   |
| 9. Anxiety, isolation            | i. kindness           |
| 10. there is still hope          | j. camaraderie        |

## Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- What examples of scaremongering have you seen?
- How can people connect with each other safely?
- How likely is it do you think people will riot?
- Who is most at risk from COVID-19?
- How anxious are you about COVID-19?
- How important are virtual communities?
- What questions would you like to ask the caremongers?

## Spelling

- the tdvnae of the coronavirus outbreak
- the less positive word garoinecegrnms
- part of the English liexnoc
- future deinsito of their word lists
- helping aubevnlire people
- spread the eocpcnt
- connect on a psivotie level
- brought out community and rcreeaaadim
- allowed us to actlek the needs
- aetixny, isolation and lack of hope
- This viaturl community
- there is still hope for yhunatim

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. g	2. d	3. i	4. b	5. c
6. e	7. a	8. j	9. f	10. h

## Role Play

### Role A – Anxiety

You think anxiety is the biggest thing to worry about regarding COVID-19. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least worrying of these (and why): political leadership, worry about family or food shortages.

### Role B – Political Leadership

You think political leadership is the biggest thing to worry about regarding COVID-19. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least worrying of these (and why): anxiety, worry about family or food shortages.

### Role C – Worry About Family

You think worry about family is the biggest thing to worry about regarding COVID-19. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least worrying of these (and why): political leadership, anxiety or food shortages.

### Role D – Food Shortages

You think a shortage of food is the biggest thing to worry about regarding COVID-19. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least worrying of these (and why): political leadership, worry about family or anxiety.

## Speaking – COVID-19

Rank these with your partner. Put the worst things about COVID-19 at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- |             |                        |
|-------------|------------------------|
| • Anxiety   | • Worry about family   |
| • Isolation | • Food shortages       |
| • Fear      | • Political leadership |
| • Fake news | • The future           |

### Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	F	d	T	e	F	f	T	g	T	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.