
February 12, 2025

Preparing for the Upcoming Provincial Election February 27th and Registration Reminder for OARC Webinar Wednesdays

Dear Residents and Residents' Council Supporters,

This bulletin contains information for residents related to the upcoming provincial election, as well as some reminders about OARC's upcoming webinars. We invite you to share this communication with your home's Residents' Council and consider printing for those without access to email. Thank you!

Did you know that residents living in long-term care homes have the right to exercise the rights of a citizen?

In your [Residents' Bill of Rights](#), which are part of the law that every long-term care home must follow (called the [Fixing Long-Term Care Act, 2021](#)) the "rights of a citizen" refer to your democratic rights, including the right to vote.

With a provincial election just a few short weeks away, OARC encourages residents and their long-term care home teams to discuss the upcoming election, including how residents will be supported to exercise their right to vote.

Depending on the size and location of your long-term care home, different voting options might be made available to you. For example, some residents might have the opportunity to vote using a mail-in ballot, others might vote during advanced polling dates, and many homes will host a 'mobile' polling station for residents to vote on-site in their long-term care homes on election day, February 27th, 2025.

It's important to note that homes experiencing outbreaks might also have some additional infection prevention and control (IPAC) measures and strategies in place to support a healthy and safe voting experience for residents and Elections staff.

Having proactive discussions about your home's plan for the upcoming election will help to keep residents informed, while working together to eliminate any confusion or barriers.

For example, residents might have questions about whether they are on the ‘voter’s list’ if they have recently moved into the home; they might be on the lookout for their voter’s registration card in the mail, or they might have questions about their local candidates. Some residents might require some assistance to cast their ballot and be wondering how they can access the help they need.

As your home works together with your local Elections Ontario Office, we encourage you to be as proactive and collaborative as possible:

- Find ways to communicate, in advance, what the voting process will look like and how it will work in your respective home.
- Remember that the process that will be followed this year might differ from previous elections. Communicate elections protocols clearly and as soon as possible – and share this information with both Residents’ and Family Councils.

OARC has learned that each Electoral District has a Public Engagement Liaison who could potentially give a virtual or in-person presentation to a long-term care home at the local level. Homes can express their interest by emailing outreach@elections.on.ca – and you will be supported to get in touch with your local liaison.

Elections Ontario has also provided the following resources to support your preparations and understanding:

A Guide to Accessible Voting – [English](#) | [French](#)

Voting in Ontario – [English](#) | [French](#)

If you’d like physical versions of these materials, you can also order them directly at no cost at elections.on.ca/resources.

Residents with questions about voting that are specific to your long-term care home are encouraged to speak to their home’s Administrator or another trusted team member for more information.

**Join OARC for an inspiring webinar next week: February 19th at 2pm EST
[Resident Mentors - Peer Welcoming Initiatives in Long-Term Care Homes](#)**

When residents step into leadership roles, they foster a warm and inclusive home culture. Join the Ontario Association of Residents’ Councils (OARC) and special guests from Meadow Park Chatham long-term care home, as we explore how residents can become peer mentors, leading welcoming programs and initiatives in their long-term care homes. In Ontario, long-term care home residents have rights under the Residents’ Bill of Rights in the Fixing Long-Term Care Act, 2021. These

rights empower residents to participate in decision-making, advocate for their well-being, and contribute to their long-term care home and community.

Let's create a community where everyone feels at home!

Register Here:

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Ok2HMddGSX6WTcqD6VpjSA#/registration

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**Plan ahead: Register to join us for our Webinar Wednesday in March!
Keeping Residents Informed and Engaged: Nutrition Month Webinar with
OSNAC Guests - March 19th at 2pm EST**

Just in time for Nutrition Month, the OARC team is partnering with representatives from the [Ontario Seniors Nutrition and Advocacy Committee \(OSNAC\)](#) for an informative discussion about food services in long-term care (LTC). With the help of special guests Dale Mayerson and Heather Toll, Registered Dietitians working in LTC, residents can expect to learn about advocacy and education efforts led by OSNAC to improve nutrition quality and the resident dining experience. Residents can look forward to learning about where their food comes from, the role of standardized recipes in meal preparation, and ideas to help Residents' Councils and Food Committees influence positive changes in their homes.

Register Here:

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_sHxI9UhzTsOkUWbXtyNEag#/registration