

# Saying Goodbye: What You Can Do to Support Residents at End-Of Life and Honour Them After Death

#### Land Acknowledgement

Together, let us now pause as we acknowledge the Indigenous Peoples of all the lands that we are on today, from wherever we are virtually participating in today's meeting. Let us take a moment to acknowledge the importance of the land we each call home.

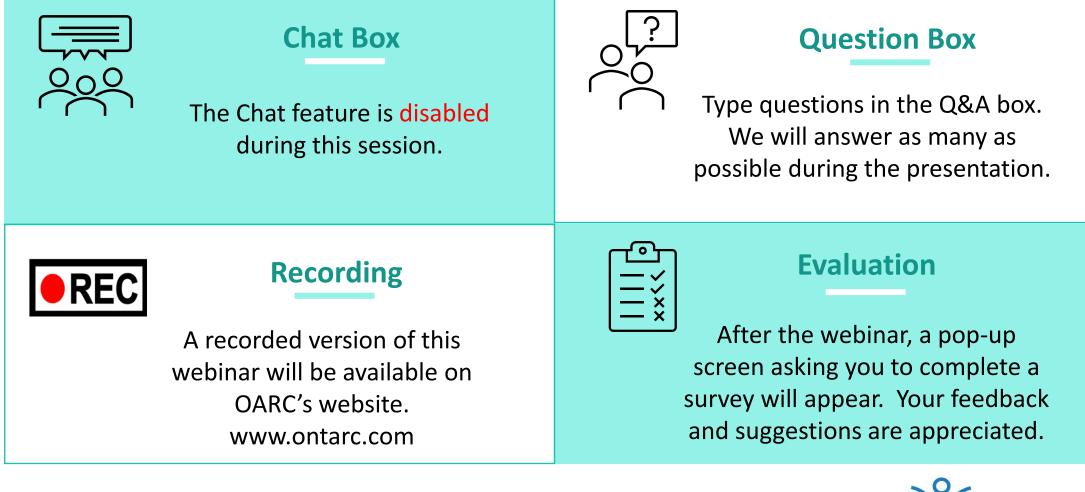
We do this to affirm our commitment and responsibility to improving relationships between nations, and to improving our own understanding of local Indigenous Peoples and their cultures.

We acknowledge the ancestral and unceded territory of all the Inuit, Métis, and First Nations people who call this nation home.

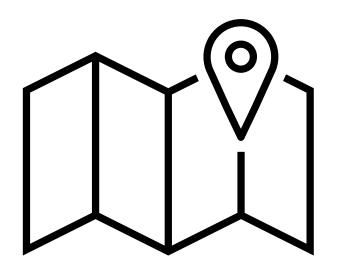
Let us now join in a moment of reflection to acknowledge the harms and mistakes of the past and to consider how each of us, in our own way, can move forward in a spirit of reconciliation and collaboration.



#### Webinar Housekeeping







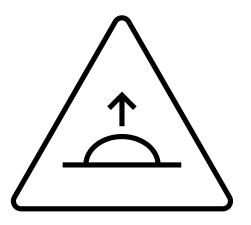
# How We Got Here

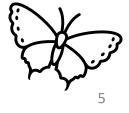
- Residents want the opportunity to offer support and say goodbye to their friends and peers
- Residents want to be part of discussions and decision-making
- Residents want to be treated with dignity and honoured before, during and after death



# Bumps in the Road

- Talking about death and dying might be upsetting to residents
- Team members may be hesitant, or lack necessary supports
- Resident wishes may not be known
- Roles may not be well-defined
- Privacy Concerns





**Residents' Bill of Rights,** *Fixing Long-Term Care Act, 2021* 

Every resident has the right to form
friendships and relationships and to
participate in the life of the long term care home.



# Long-term Care Home Programs

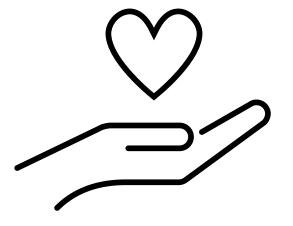
- Palliative Care Committee
  - An Interdisciplinary Committee that includes Residents
  - Responsibilities Include:
    - Identifying when residents become palliative
    - Developing and establishing communication methods
    - Partnering with community members to connect residents to services
- Palliative or Comfort Cart
- Spiritual Care





#### **Residents Supporting Residents**

- Residents can be called upon to sit with and spend time with a resident who is nearing their end of life
- Residents can lead or participate in discussions about end of life wishes
- During Residents' Council meetings, community members who are unwell can be acknowledged and those who have passed away can be recognized
- Helping others improves the helper's well-being





# Saying Goodbye

- Honour Guard or Farewell Procession
- Timely Communication
  - Symbol on room door
  - Candle and photo at seating place in the dining room
  - Sharing with residents that someone has died
  - Holding space for emotions and conversation
- Residents Comforting Families, Friends, and chosen family members





### **Celebrations of Life and Memorial Services**

- Take place periodically at a frequency that works for the home
- Allow residents and team members to participate without leaving the home
- Provide an opportunity for sharing and remembering the deceased
- Can be led by a Spiritual Care Provider, but it doesn't have to be



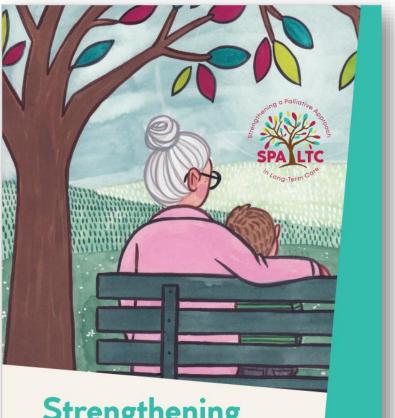


If your home is not ready to offer this type of service, consider live-streaming individual resident function function function function function for residents and team members.



# **Guides and Resources**

- OARC has prepared a resource document that will be shared with the recording of this webinar featuring resources from:
  - CLRI (Centres for Learning, Research and Innovation in LTC)
    - Free "All-In" Palliative Care Training, applications due October 6<sup>th</sup>
  - SPA-LTC (Strengthening a Palliative Approach in LTC)
  - And others



#### Strengthening Bereavement Care

in Long-Term Care Settings





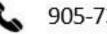
#### **Questions and Conversation**



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**Connect with** us – we look forward to hearing from you!

