

Your Guide for Planning and Celebrating Residents' Council Week

September 14th – 20th, 2026

What is Residents' Council Week?

Residents' Council Week presents a special opportunity to get your whole home excited about the importance and contributions of your Residents' Council, to have some fun learning about Residents' Rights, and to highlight resident engagement in all areas of your home's operations.

This document was developed to assist you with planning for this special week, pulling together suggested celebration and activity ideas. For more inspiration, tools and templates, visit the Residents' Council Week webpage: <https://shorturl.at/POstq>

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Residents' Council Week is about more than recognition – it's about reminding everyone that this is our home.

Jolene Glenn, Resident Leader

Week at a Glance – Suggested Theme Days

Member Monday

Every resident is a member of Residents' Council, but what does it truly mean to be a member? Consider this day as an opportunity to showcase the benefits of being an active member of a Residents' Council to encourage and increase meeting attendance.

Celebration ideas:

- ▶ **Host a Residents' Council Leadership Meet and Greet** where residents, team members, family and friends can get to know the Resident Leaders in your home. A social event is also a great time for residents to get to know their home Administrator and management team. If you live in a bigger home, consider having the Resident Leaders visit each floor/home area and have more intimate social events.
- ▶ **Hand out a custom brochure.** Consider creating your own customized Residents' Council brochure using the OARC template. Visit the Residents' Council Week webpage: <https://shorturl.at/ONuSX>
- ▶ **Promote RC Week in your home's newsletter and on your activity calendars.** Consider including pictures and short biographies about your Residents' Council leaders or highlight a list of Council accomplishments to highlight in your article.
- ▶ **Create a mobile information cart.** Consider repurposing a utility or activity cart as a mobile Residents' Council information cart. This can be a great way to raise awareness about your Council among residents who might not attend meetings regularly, and even team members who are unfamiliar with the Council's purpose and contributions.

Togetherness Tuesday

OARC's new Resident Engagement Toolkit promotes collaboration between residents and home leadership with a focus on home operations. Use this day as an opportunity to plan an initiative together. Residents and their home teams are encouraged to work together to review and complete the *Guiding Questions for Planning Engagement*, using our handy toolkit guiding questions found on page 52.

Download the toolkit here: <https://shorturl.at/tM4Si>

Not sure where to begin? Read our 6 Steps To Engagement Guide for practical tips and ideas to help you get started implementing the Toolkit in your home.

- ▷ *For Home Leadership:* <https://shorturl.at/YYoUh>
- ▷ *For Residents:* <https://shorturl.at/qld2e>

Other Ideas for Togetherness Tuesday:

- ▶ **Register for an OARC Educational Webinar**, or view a recorded OARC webinar on our website here: <https://shorturl.at/KBGPA>
- ▶ **Host a Home-Wide Education Event.** Showcase how residents are engaged in all departments/ areas of home operations. Working with your LTC home team, you can transform an activity space and have display boards illustrating how residents are involved in quality improvement, emergency preparedness, menu-planning etc.

Webinar Wednesday – Get to know OARC’s Brand New Website

Join OARC for a live celebratory webinar, where we’ll unveil our brand-new website! Learn how to navigate its new features, and access the resources and tools you need for success. We will also be announcing the recipient of the 2026 Sharron Cooke Annual Legacy Award (SCALA). Register for the webinar here: <https://shorturl.at/dIYRO>

- ▶ Learn more about the SCALA award here: <https://shorturl.at/Usguc>

Thriving Thursday – English and French Forums

Forum theme: How has your Residents’ Council contributed to positive changes in your community?

Connect with other residents at one of OARC’s peer-led Residents Forums. This year, we invite participants to share about their Residents’ Council and learn from examples shared by your peers! No registration required. Details at <https://shorturl.at/eQHWg>

- ▶ Join our French Forum at 10:30am ET
- ▶ Join our English Forum at 2:00pm ET

Note: These sessions are intended for residents only. *We thank all team members and supportive partners for helping to encourage and set up for resident participation.*

Festive Friday – LTC Community Engagement Day

Roll out the red carpet and wrap this festive week with a celebration of Residents' Council and whole home achievements. Show off your Brag Boards and consider inviting community partners and local political representatives to learn more about what makes your home special.

- ▶ **Contest Reminder:** Don't forget to submit your Brag Boards for our 2026 Residents' Council Week contest! Details: <https://shorturl.at/8DGwo>

What is LTC Community Engagement Day?

The LTC Community Engagement Day highlights the importance of community, connection, and care. Created by the Ontario Long Term Care Association, this day encourages homes to invite local representatives including members of provincial parliament, city councilors, or community organizations, to visit your home for a tour or a celebratory event. For more information, visit <https://shorturl.at/OWGKr>

The Legislative Assembly of Ontario's "Contact an MPP" website <https://shorturl.at/hcOrh> provides information on how to find and contact your local MPP.

Residents are encouraged to work with their home leadership to coordinate outreach efforts and build relationships with community partners.

Other ideas for Festive Friday:

- ▶ Consider hosting a "Red Carpet" Residents' Council Recognition event or awards ceremony to recognize the contributions of Resident Leaders and supportive partners (e.g., Residents' Council Assistant). Make up fun awards with ribbons, plastic trophies or certificates. OARC has created a Certificate of Appreciation template: <https://shorturl.at/5Kc4s>
- ▶ With Council approval, consider sponsoring an entertainer (in-person, outdoor or virtual). You may also host an education session on a topic of interest to residents.
- ▶ Launch a Residents' Council fundraiser in support of a specific goal/quality project.

Explore more ideas

General celebration ideas:

- ▶ Create a Poster/Display Board in the front lobby (or one on each floor) promoting Residents' Council. Make your display interactive by incorporating trivia or handouts.
- ▶ Use RC Week as an opportunity to update or give your Residents' Council Board or Resident Information Board a makeover, incorporating resident input. Don't forget to display your Council's OARC membership certificate!
- ▶ Print and display your favourite OARC tools, Fact Sheets, and publications. Showcase and celebrate the roles and contributions of your Residents' Council 'Pillars' by using these handouts:
 - ▷ Administrators: <https://tinyurl.com/53tvrjnf>
 - ▷ Residents' Council Assistant: <https://tinyurl.com/5n6h4jjw>
 - ▷ Residents: <https://tinyurl.com/ksk5r2j9>

Ideas to Integrate Residents' Bill of Rights education into RC Week:

- ▶ Create your own educational video to promote the new expanded Residents' Bill of Rights (Fixing Long-Term Care Act, 2021) featuring residents from your home.
- ▶ Host a Residents' Rights discussion group or make posters to display the rights around your home.
- ▶ Pre-order copies of the CLEO resource, Residents' Bill of Rights: Your rights if you live in a long-term care home: <https://tinyurl.com/4dwkkum7>
- ▶ If your home has implemented OARC's *Through Our Eyes* program, invite your facilitator team to schedule an education session or series of presentations to promote awareness of Residents' Rights throughout your home. Learn more: <https://shorturl.at/0os5B>

- ▶ Print and share Residents' Bill of Rights translated into the preferred languages of residents in your home: <https://tinyurl.com/23zum99r>
 - ▶ Coordinate a Residents' Rights Scavenger Hunt activity for everyone to enjoy: <https://shorturl.at/hhLLE>
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Wishing You a Happy Residents' Council Week

It is our privilege and joy to work with residents and home teams across the province to educate, empower, and support the effective operations of Residents' Councils. These ideas are intended as suggestions, and we encourage you to create a week of celebrations that reflects and honours your home's unique Residents' Council and the people whose contributions help it thrive.

We would love to follow along with your celebrations and share in your stories, experiences, and joy during this week. From September 14th through 20th, please tag us on social media with **#RCWeek** and **@Ontario Association of Residents Councils**, or email your photos and highlights to Stephanie Buosi, Communications Coordinator, at sbuosi@ontarc.com.