

IN THIS ISSUE

- Food Service Survey for Residents
- OARC Is Growing!
- OARC Resident Leaders in Action
- Residents' Council Week Highlights
- SCALA Award Recipient
- September 30 Reflections
- October 15 Webinar: Respiratory Preparedness
- Conference and Events Corner
- Updates from our Ministry
- OARC Forums

Food Service Survey for Residents – Complete by Oct. 30

At OARC, we know that food is one of the most talked-about topics at Residents' Council meetings across Ontario. That's why we've partnered with the [Ontario Seniors Nutrition and Advocacy Committee \(OSNAC\)](#) to launch a province-wide **Food Services Survey for Residents**.

This survey invites residents to share their personal experiences with food services in long-term care—what's working well, and where improvements are needed. With well **over 100 responses received so far**, we're encouraged by the engagement and eager to hear from even more residents in the coming weeks. Direct resident feedback is invaluable and will help inform future advocacy and improvements in food services across the sector.

[Click here to learn more and access the Food Service Survey for Residents.](#)



The survey can be completed anonymously [online](#) or on paper/[hard copy](#). We welcome **individual responses from residents**. Survey open until October 30.

Tips for completing the survey at your long-term care home:

- [Share this information poster in your home to encourage participation](#)
- **Promote the survey/bring printed copies to your next Council meeting**
- **Provide opportunities and support for residents to complete surveys online using a tablet/iPad, if available.**

OARC is Growing!

Last week, we shared the exciting news that OARC is expanding our team to better support Residents' Councils across the province!

We're currently recruiting team members for multiple roles:

- ➔ Education and Home Support Regional Coach (4 full-time positions)
- ➔ Communications Coordinator (1 part-time position)

If you know someone who might be a fit for the opportunities above, please [share this bulletin with links to our job postings](#).

REAL Members in Action

Stronger Together: Fracture Prevention LTC Video Series

Have you had a chance to watch the [PREVENT Trial video series: Stronger Together – Fracture Prevention in Long-Term Care?](#) You might recognize a few familiar faces from OARC.



This powerful series highlights the importance of fracture prevention in LTC homes, featuring insights from residents and families. Created with support from the Geras Resident and Family Members Advisory Committee for Long-Term Care (including OARC Resident Leaders, Devora Greenspon and Jim Gilhuly) the videos give voice to residents and family members to share their experiences on falls and fractures in



long-term care. The videos also discuss how long-term care homes can take evidence-based steps to reduce hip fractures and enhance resident care and quality of life.

[Watch the videos and learn more here.](#)

Register for our upcoming Webinar Wednesday

Fall Respiratory Season Preparedness Fireside Chat for Residents

October 15, 2025, 2pm EDT

Residents are invited to join OARC for a special fireside chat with **guests from the Ministry of Long-Term Care and the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health (OCMOH)**. Together, we'll discuss plans for 2025-2026 Fall Respiratory Seasonal Preparedness in Ontario long-term care homes. Resident participants are encouraged to submit questions related to the webinar scope in advance through registration and will have an opportunity to have their questions answered live. Register below:

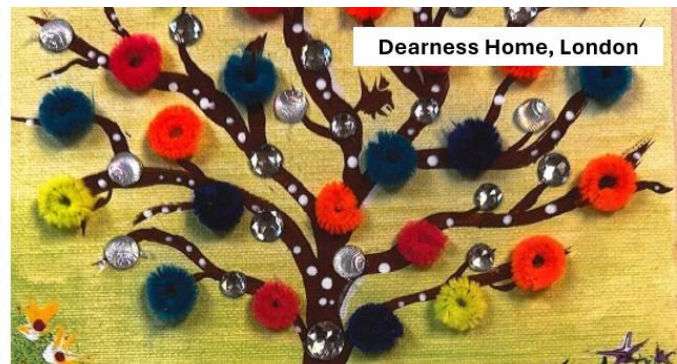
https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_x8W2DzpsRVKwClwsAVbp8w

Residents' Council Week 2025 Highlights

Ontario's sixth annual **Residents' Council Week** (September 15-21) did not disappoint! The OARC team is incredibly grateful to the long-term care homes across Ontario that brought this special week of recognition to life with such creativity and passion. Through imaginative displays and engaging activities, residents proudly celebrated the impact of their Councils—showcasing leadership, collaboration, and joy in every corner of their homes.



This year's RC Week contest encouraged residents to express their Bill of Rights using artistic mediums of their choosing, and the 50+ submissions we received were nothing short of powerful. Congratulations to our three draw winners who will receive a \$50 Gift Card.



Residents are the experts when it comes to bringing their Bill of Rights to life – every day, in meaningful and personal ways. Stay tuned as we prepare to showcase more of our creative contest entries (videos, poems and more) on our website and in upcoming communications!

Congratulations to our 2025 SCALA Award Recipient: Algonquin Nursing Home

The [Sharron Cooke Annual Legacy Award](#) (SCALA) honours a long-term care home team—residents, home leadership, and team members—who are working together to drive positive culture change through initiatives rooted in the values Sharron championed: collaboration, trust, compassion, and authentic communication.

This year, OARC received double the number of applications, with submissions from across Ontario, including the Greater Toronto Area, Essex, Windsor, Kingston, Ottawa, and Mattawa. All entries were anonymized and reviewed by our adjudication committee, which included Resident Leaders from OARC’s provincial advisory group.

We’re thrilled to announce **Algonquin Nursing Home in Mattawa** as our 2025 award recipient! Their resident-led **Community Outings Initiative** stood out for its powerful testimonials and transformative impact—reconnecting residents with their broader community in meaningful and innovative ways. Their submission exemplifies long-term care culture change in action, where resident voices are not only heard, but truly valued and embraced—driving positive change and enriching quality of life within the home.



“It feels good to be heard. We said what mattered to us, and it actually happened.”
– Algonquin Nursing Home Resident

We extend our heartfelt thanks to every home that took the time to apply for the SCALA Award. Your thoughtful submissions reflect the dedication, creativity, and commitment to resident-led culture change happening across Ontario. We are inspired by your efforts and honoured to celebrate the meaningful work being done in your homes.

OARC REAL Member Sharing – September 30th Reflections

While September includes many significant dates, September 30th invites deep reflection among many residents and team members. Across Canada, people wear orange to recognize the [National Day for Truth and Reconciliation](#), also known as Orange Shirt Day. This day honours the survivors of the residential school system and remembers the children who never returned home, acknowledging the lasting impact on Indigenous communities.

The tradition of wearing orange began with [Phyllis Webstad](#), who shared her experience of having her orange shirt taken away at a residential school in British Columbia. This gesture carries the message: **Every Child Matters**.

Resident Leader and OARC REAL Group member Steven Wenzowski shared that his long-term care home honoured the day with a lobby display, a powerful drumming circle and learning opportunities, and by flying the “Every Child Matters” flag inside and outside his home. Steven expressed pride in how his home’s recognition of this important day continues to deepen and grow each year.



Many residents have asked OARC how they can begin learning about the Indigenous Peoples of Canada—their history, traditions, and cultures—and how they can support the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada’s Calls to Action. What matters most is that each person takes the first step—and continues to take steps—on their journey of learning and understanding, while honouring and supporting others wherever they are along the way.

The September edition of the Ontario CLRI’s Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Newsletter offers a helpful collection of resources to suit different learning preferences and to support your commitment to learning and taking action. [Access the newsletter here.](#)

Share your feedback on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) with the CLRI

Our friends at the Ontario Centres for Learning, Research and Innovation in Long-Term Care (CLRI) are seeking your feedback to help update and inform a practical and useful toolkit for advancing EDI in long-term care (LTC).

Residents, LTC leaders, team members and family care partners are invited to complete a short 15-20 minute survey to inform the next iteration of their toolkit resource.

[Access the survey here](#). Alternatively, residents are welcome to complete a printable, hardcopy survey which can be downloaded [here](#).

When refreshing their resource, the CLRI team would like to include resident quotes and key messages. *What does inclusion mean to you?* Email us: mmcvie@ontarc.com

Conference and Events Corner



**We hope to see you at
*This is Long Term Care!***

The full program for *This is Long Term Care 2025* is live - and there's a lot to look forward to.

Happening October 26–28 in Toronto, this event brings together people working in and alongside long-term care homes to share ideas, spark connections, and explore what's next for the sector. Hosted by the Ontario Long Term Care Association, it's a chance to dig into real solutions that are already making a difference for residents and families.

Check out the conference program and register today at thisisltc.com.

Drop by the Community Connect Corner, Booth 119, to say hi to a member of the OARC team!

Webinar Opportunity presented by Family Councils Ontario and CARP Ottawa

It Takes a Whole Team: Success Stories from the Butterfly Approach

Wednesday, October 15th at 12:00pm EDT

A sustainable culture of excellent in long-term care requires emotionally intelligent and dedicated leaders to nurture a whole-team approach. Learn how the Butterfly Approach is supporting homes to bring out the best in everyone living and working in long-term care and continuing to create success stories in Ontario. Learn more about guest speakers and [register here](#).

Updates from Our Ministry of Long-Term Care

September 26, 2025 - 2025-26 Improving Dementia Care Program

Last month, the Ministry of Long-Term Care announced a new partnership with Ontario Health to launch the **Improving Dementia Care Program (IDCP)**. This initiative will provide funding to up to 15 long-term care homes to implement emotion-based models of care and training supports. The goal is to enhance resident quality of life, strengthen staff knowledge and retention, and improve overall dementia-related outcomes. More information about the IDCP is available through [Ontario Health's online portal](#).

Residents' Councils interested in learning more about how their home supports residents living with dementia may consider inviting a member of their home's leadership or Behavioural Supports Ontario (BSO) team to a future meeting to explore available resources and discuss ways to better understand and support their peers.

September 26, 2025 - Emergency Management Requirements under FLTCA, 2021 - Webinar

Under Ontario's Fixing Long-Term Care Act, 2021, and Ontario Regulation 246/22, long-term care homes are required to have comprehensive emergency preparedness plans and engage residents in their development. This includes sharing plans with Residents' Councils, inviting feedback, posting them in accessible locations and formats, and involving residents in drills and debriefs. [Access the Ministry of Long-Term Care's Emergency Preparedness and Response for Long-Term Care Homes webinar slides here](#).



Thank you to [AdvantAge Ontario](#), [Extendicare](#), [Java Group Programs](#), [Schlegel Villages Inc.](#), [Sienna Senior Living](#) and [S&R Group](#) for supporting OARC's Confidence in Culture Change Program. To find out more about how you can support OARC, please contact Dee Tripp, Executive Director dtripp@ontarc.com 1-800-532-0201 x 240.

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OARC is funded by the Ministry of Long-Term Care, with additional support received through Membership and OARC's Confidence in Culture Change Supporter Program. The views expressed in this publication are the views of OARC and do not necessarily reflect those of the province.