

December 2025



## IN THIS ISSUE

- Holiday Wishes
- OARC Webinar
- Workshop Invitation: New OARC Website
- Updates from Ministry of LTC
- Tools and Resources

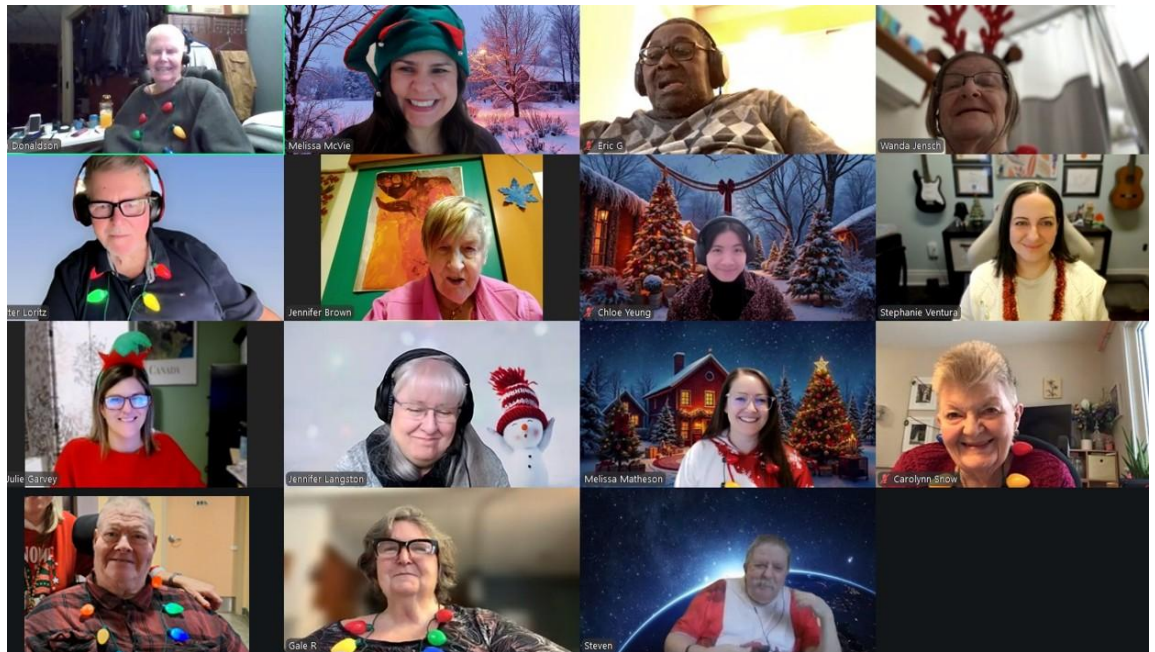
## Warm Holiday Wishes from OARC

This holiday season, we want to take a moment to thank YOU for your incredible support, participation, and collaboration throughout 2025. Together, with residents, we continue to drive positive changes in long-term care homes by inspiring new ways of thinking and doing, and reimagining what quality living and meaningful engagement can look like.

This season is a time for reflection and connection, and while it brings joy for many, we also recognize it can be challenging for some. Please know that OARC is thinking of you with care and gratitude.

Looking ahead, we're excited to begin 2026 with an expanded team and more robust, regional support model. We look forward to introducing our new colleagues early in the new year!

From all of us at OARC, we wish you peace and kindness, and a vibrant, and inspiring year ahead.



## OARC Holiday Office Update

Please note that the OARC office will be minimally staffed between December 24, 2025 to January 4, 2026. While response times may be a bit slower, we remain committed to supporting you. If you need immediate assistance, please contact our team directory at **1-800-532-0201** to leave a message.

## OARC Webinar Wednesdays Return January 21, 2026

**Welcome to Your OARC: Connecting, Growing, Empowering – January 21 at 2:00pm ET**

OARC invites residents and their supportive partners to join us for our first webinar of 2026. In this session, we'll share exciting updates on OARC's regional expansion and how these changes will strengthen support for Residents' Councils across Ontario. Learn what this means for your Council and meet your home's new Education and Home Support Regional Coach.

**Webinar Date:** Wednesday, January 21st, 2026

**Time:** 2:00 PM to 3:00 PM ET

**Register:** [https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_qxqHjWhpTEiHtciO3Gs9CA#/registration](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_qxqHjWhpTEiHtciO3Gs9CA#/registration)

---

## Help Shape OARC's New Website: Workshop Invitation for Sector Partners

In January 2026, OARC will kick off an exciting project to create a new website!

To guide our planning and ensure the site is accessible, intuitive, and engaging, we're bringing together a small group of long-term care sector partners—including association representatives, team members, home leadership, and families/care partners—for a one-hour online workshop on **Thursday, January 15 at 1:00 PM ET.**

Are you a Residents' Council Assistant or a LTC home Administrator/Executive Director that has visited OARC's website? We are looking for your valuable input!

Please express your interest by emailing Melissa at [mmcvie@onarc.com](mailto:mmcvie@onarc.com) by January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

---

## Updates from Our Ministry of Long-Term Care (MLTC)

Below are recent communications from our government partners that may be of interest to residents. Please ensure these are shared with anyone who does not have email access.

### December 16, 2025 – Winter Memo on Respiratory Illness Season for LTC Homes

- Winter Memo - [English](#) | [French](#)
- LTC Celebrating the Holidays Safely - [English](#) | [French](#)

Summary: The MLTC is reminding homes to stay vigilant during respiratory illness season, as flu cases are rising. Homes should focus on prevention, early testing, and timely use of antivirals, while continuing safe holiday celebrations without overly restricting visits.

### December 10, 2025 – Designation of Additional Reunification Priority Access Beds

- Assistant Deputy Minister Memo – [English](#) | [French](#)

Summary: The MLTC is increasing the number of special beds in long-term care homes to help spouses and partners live together. These “Reunification Priority Access Beds” aim to support couples in crisis and improve their well-being.

### **December 10, 2025 – Ontario Expanding Access to Culturally Appropriate Long-Term Care**

- [News Release](#)
- Assistant Deputy Minister Memo - [English](#) | [French](#)
- Question and Answer Resource - [English](#) | [French](#)

Summary: The MLTC is expanding a pilot program that gives priority to crisis applicants who share the cultural, religious, or linguistic background of certain long-term care homes. This change aims to improve access to culturally appropriate care and will now apply to more homes across Ontario.

---

## **Sector Partner Tools and Resources**

### **Ontario CLRI 2026 Diversity Calendar**

The 2026 Diversity and Inclusion Calendar is now available. This resource highlights the many cultures, faiths, traditions and days of significance that enrich long-term care communities.

Readers are encouraged to explore the [printable version](#) or visit the [digital calendar](#) to access links and learning resources for key dates throughout the year. The calendar invites everyone to discover days of significance they may be less familiar with and deepen their understanding of the communities served and supported.

A printable French version is also available.



Advancing Senior Care



**Extendicare**

Helping people  
live better



**S&R Group**  
of companies

**peopleCare**  
communities



Thank you to [AdvantAge Ontario](#), [Extendicare](#), [Java Group Programs](#), [peopleCare communities](#), [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](mailto:dtripp@ontarc.com) 1-800-532-0201 x 240.

Tel 905-731-3710 | Toll-free 1-800-532-0201 | Fax 905-731-1755

[www.ontarc.com](http://www.ontarc.com) | [info@ontarc.com](mailto:info@ontarc.com)

©2016 OARC | 4261 Highway 7 East, Suite #A14-360, Markham, ON L3R 9W6



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.