

July 23, 2021

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## **ANNOUNCEMENT: Ministry of Long-Term Care Investment into OARC**

Dear Residents and Team Members,

In recognition of the impact that the Ontario Association of Residents' Councils (OARC) has in our long-term care (LTC) sector through leveraging the resident voice, supporting Residents' Councils and consulting with government working groups and committees, the Ministry of LTC announced yesterday that they will be increasing the funding to OARC by almost 50%. The full news release may be accessed [here](#).

Earlier this week, on Monday July 19<sup>th</sup>, the Honourable Minister of LTC, Rod Phillips attended an OARC Board meeting to personally thank OARC and share the announcement of increased funding. During the meeting he heard directly from resident leaders who brought several requests forward including:

- increasing the food budget for residents in LTC
- ensuring PSWs receive a living wage
- safeguarding the focus of the free PSW training such that many PSWs enter the LTC system

Minister Phillips articulated his commitment to understand more fully, the lived experience of residents and take corrective measures. OARC looks forward to continued discussions with the Minister and his team as we work together to “fix the system.”

### **Remarks from Dee Lender, Executive Director, OARC:**

“Minister Phillips, on behalf of Residents' Councils and the thousands of people who bring those Councils to life & effectiveness, THANK YOU for your announcement today. As previously noted, the LTC system – which includes OARC – has been under resourced and under valued for a very long time. As we work to provide much needed support in a complex environment, be assured that the added resources announced today, will help. We are excited to work at the systemic level with your team, at the level of broad public awareness and at the home level, supporting Residents' Councils and the people who help them to function!”

### Remarks from Mary Nestor, President, OARC Board of Directors:

“On behalf of the members of the OARC Board of Directors, I express my appreciation to Minister Phillips for the increase in OARC's operating funds. The Ontario Association of Residents' Councils has been at the forefront of supporting the development, operation and effectiveness of Residents' Councils across the province for decades, as well as reflecting resident's lived experience through amplifying their voices. As we embark on ever more challenging times, we have an unprecedented opportunity to address long-standing systemic issues. OARC is in a unique position to ensure that residents have a say in how future directions are shaped.

The funding announced today will contribute to increasing OARC's ability to continue and grow its critical work on behalf of and in support of Residents' Councils and the residents who live in long-term care homes across Ontario.”

### Remarks from Sharron Cooke, Past President, OARC:

“We are proud to move forward with the re-birthing of two critical groups for OARC's effectiveness; our new Board of Directors and our Resident Expert Advisors and Leaders Group – known as the REAL Group. We are in a stronger position to better represent and serve residents across Ontario. We are ready to grow now with more strength than we ever had before, and your announcement of increased funding to our Operating Budget will help us. Thank you very much. We have been blessed with the dedication, professionalism and the compassion of our OARC Team Members to have completed what we have done to this point, under very challenging conditions and in a sector that is under resourced.”

Born out of a resident-held vision back in 1981, OARC continues to be rooted in the mission to empower LTC residents to understand their rights, share their lived experiences, and inspire a better tomorrow. The government's commitment to increase our funding comes at a particularly special time, as OARC celebrates its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We are thankful to Minister Phillips and his announcement that will help OARC serve Ontario's LTC residents and Residents' Councils better!

Sincerely yours,



Dee Lender  
Executive Director, OARC