

August 13, 2021

Residents' Council Week (September 13-19) is 1 month away

Dear Residents and LTC Team Members,

It's hard to believe that Ontario's **second** annual [Residents' Council Week](#) is only one month away and we invite you to celebrate Residents' Councils across Ontario.

Join Us

- Monday, September 13 – Week of recognition kicks off!
- Tuesday, September 14 – Resident Forum, 2-2:45pm FRENCH*
- Wednesday, September 15 – LTC Food Foundations Webinar 2pm-3pm
Register here: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/481754734861446156>
- Thursday, September 16 – Resident Forum, 2-2:45pm ENGLISH*
- Friday, September 17 – Residents' Bill of Rights Video Challenge – Selection of Winners

Celebrate

Participate: To help set your LTC home up for an enjoyable Residents' Council week, OARC has composed a list of program ideas to help guide your planning and inspire you [here](#). We've also got downloadable activity sheets including trivia, a word search and new Residents' Council crossword available [here](#).

Advertise: It's never too early to start drumming up interest. Check out our promotional poster templates [here](#) or come up with your own to post around your home.

Contest: Have you heard about our Residents' Bill of Rights video challenge? Consider integrating residents' rights awareness and education into your Residents' Council week itinerary and enter your home's video for a chance to win one of our great prizes! Learn more about our challenge [here](#).

*To join our Resident Forums (both French and English) please use the link below:

<https://zoom.us/j/9884879139?pwd=RjdaNmwxTzVLMmk2Wlp1QkVaQ1MxUT09>

Meeting ID: 988 487 9139 | Passcode: Resident

Phone in Option: 1-888-475-4499 | Meeting ID: 988 487 9139 | Passcode: 93606329

Residents' Councils Are Vital

Residents' Council week is a time to recognize, reflect and celebrate residents and resident leaders. It's a time to refresh ourselves with the power and scope of Residents' Councils in the Long-Term Care Homes Act (2007), raise awareness of Council contributions in every LTC home, and remember that Council meetings are much more than a program appearing on a monthly activity calendar. Residents' Council is about peer connection, collaboration, meaningful engagement in home operations, and quality-driven discussions. **The OARC team commends you in your efforts over the last 18 months, and we look forward to the opportunity to celebrate alongside you during your special week of recognition, kicking off September 13th, 2021!**

Thank You!

The OARC team would like to take this opportunity to recognize and thank Residents' Councils and their supportive partners for their commitment to finding creative solutions to navigate pandemic-related process changes and restrictions in their LTC homes. After taking a necessary hiatus during the first wave of the virus, many Councils were determined to reconvene meetings, and with the help of team members and management, they have adapted by holding virtual or smaller group/floor meetings to ensure continuity and connection. Some have even reported participation increases at meetings because of these new formats and approaches.

OARC Celebrates 40 Years of Resident Leadership

This is a special year for us at OARC as we celebrate 40 years of representing and raising resident voices! If we have learned anything over the last 4 decades, and even more so over these last 18 months, it is that residents are resilient, and LTC team members are dedicated superstars. Let's continue to work together to challenge the status quo, model person-centred care and home culture, and elevate the LTC resident experience.

Share Your Celebrations With Us

We look forward to seeing how your Residents' Council festivities turn out! Be sure to share your experiences with us for a chance to be featured in OARC's Seasons magazine, social media channels or other communications. Tag @OARCnews with hashtag #RCWeek or email Melissa McVie at mmcvie@ontarc.com.

Sincerely yours,



Dee Lender
Executive Director, OARC