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April 11, 2022

## New Legislation Comes into Force TODAY + Webinar Recording, Increased Nutrition Allowance and Updated Guidance Documents

Thank you to those who joined us for the live webinar with Ministry guests on Thursday, April 7<sup>th</sup>. This was a great opportunity for us to hear some key highlights from the [Fixing Long-Term Care Act, 2021](#) which comes into force today, April 11, 2022.

As the webinar session filled up quite quickly this past Thursday, we are pleased to circulate and share a [recording of the session](#), along with the accompanying slide deck ([English](#) | [French](#)).

It is evident from these initial discussions that Residents' Councils will have a more prominent role in contributing to quality improvement and their home operations through emergency planning, input into menus and mealtimes, etc. We are hopeful this increased engagement will translate into enhanced resident quality of life and care experiences for the residents that we serve. We welcome these changes that align with OARC's Vision that "every long-term care resident in Ontario shapes the place they call home".

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## Government Announces Increased Nutritional Allowance for LTC Homes

On Friday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, the following news release was circulated by our government, announcing a 15% funding increase for nutritional support to long-term care homes: [Ontario Giving Long-Term Care Residents More Nutritional Choices and Variety](#)

The news release also outlined some highlights from the new regulations in the [Fixing Long-Term Care Act, 2021](#), that are anticipated to have a positive impact on resident quality of life. These include:

- Menu planning flexibility that better reflects the needs of the residents such as speciality diets and menu substitutions that have consistent nutritional value
- Menus that are approved by a registered dietitian in addition to residents' preferences
- Menus that provide a variety of foods every day, including fresh produce and local foods in season

- More flexibility for each home to increase menu choices for residents and reduce food waste
- Meals and snacks at times that are chosen with support from the home's Residents' Council and its administrator

For quite some time now, food has been identified as a topic of great significance by OARC Resident Leaders and LTC residents province wide. Having a variety of tasty, nutritious, and visually appealing meal options is important to residents and promoting a dining environment that stimulates appetite and contributes to a positive mealtime experience is just as necessary. There is a lot of work ahead but much to look forward to.

The OARC team is pleased to hear about our government's commitment to increasing the food budget, and we are equally pleased to see a shift in language from "raw food budget" (former wording) to a new term, "nutrition allowance" – a shift that reflects a more person-centred approach to life in long-term care. Language matters and the choice of words used as we move forward is an important change.

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### Updated Guidance for LTC Home Teams

Our Ministry partners released several updated guidance documents to long-term care operators on April 8<sup>th</sup>. These are linked below:

- [Associate Deputy Minister Memo – LTC Pandemic Response Updates](#)
- [LTC Guidance Document](#)
- [Pandemic Response Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\)](#)
- [What Residents Can Expect in a LTC Home](#)

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### Moving Forward with New Legislation

We have received several questions from residents and LTC home teams requesting support and clarification on the new legislation. Please know that we have elevated these questions to our Ministry partners and look forward to sharing some responses soon. In the coming weeks and months, we will host several learning engagements to deepen our collective understanding of the elevated scope and powers of Residents' Councils. Additionally, we ask for your patience as our organization works to update our Residents' Council meeting tools and other resources to reflect the new legislation.

Thank you,  
Your OARC Team