

May 9, 2022

Every Resident has the right to... Exercise the Rights of a Citizen Preparing to Vote in the Upcoming Election – June 2, 2022

People living in long-term care have the right to exercise the rights of a citizen. This is now right #15 in your [Residents' Bill of Rights](#), which are part of the new [Fixing Long-Term Care Act, 2021](#) – the law that every Ontario long-term care (LTC) home must follow.

The “rights of a citizen” refer to your democratic rights, including the right to vote. With an Ontario Provincial election less than one month away, we encourage residents and their LTC leadership teams to work together to keep residents and their families well-informed and eliminate potential barriers in advance of the upcoming election.

Based on the feedback OARC received from residents, in the last (Federal) election, there was very high variability of experience when it came to the voting format and timing offered in LTC homes. Some residents were able to vote using a mail-in ballot, others voted during advanced polling dates set up in their homes, and many had a mobile polling station set up in their residence for several hours on Election Day.

Unfortunately, OARC also heard that many residents and their families were not informed in advance about how voting would work in their homes. Some residents did not feel prepared and were disappointed or they missed out altogether.

To support your planning and preparation for the upcoming election, Elections Ontario is hosting several accessibility-focused information sessions for organizations that work with seniors' residences, including long-term care homes:

- Wednesday, May 11 at 5:30 pm - [Zoom Registration Link](#)
- Thursday, May 12 at 1:00 pm - [Zoom Registration Link](#)

These sessions will cover:

- Days and ways to vote (advance polls, mail-in ballots, mobile polls)
- Tools and services to reduce barriers for people with accessibility needs
- What electors should know about the voting process
- What's new at Elections Ontario
- Jobs and resources

Elections Ontario has also shared the following resources*:

- [Ontario Voting Guide](#)
- [Information in 38 Languages](#)
- [Accessible Voting](#)

***Please note that the voting options will vary from home to home. The size and location of your home, as outbreak status and related health and safety measures might determine the voting options available to you.**

We encourage you to be as proactive and collaborative as possible:

- Find ways to communicate, in advance, what the voting process will look like and how it will work in your respective home.
- Remember that the process that will be followed this year might differ from previous elections. Communicate elections protocols clearly and as soon as possible – and share this information with both Residents' and Family Councils.

If you have questions about voting that are specific to your LTC Home or you would like to explore the accessible voting options that might be available to you this year, we encourage you to ask your Administrator or another trusted team member at your home.

For additional support, you may contact Elections Ontario:

Email: info@elections.on.ca | Phone: [1-888-668-8683](tel:1-888-668-8683) | TTY: 1-888-292-2312

The Elections Ontario website contains additional information, including: [Ways to Vote](#), [Voter Information Service](#) to determine your electoral district, and [Frequently Asked Questions](#) that may be helpful to you.

Let us know! How is your home working with residents to prepare for the upcoming election? What voting options will be available to you?

Email – mmcvie@ontarc.com Or tag us on our social media channels:

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