

Retirement Home Resident Network Meeting Synopsis

Meeting #3 2022 – March 29 2022

Welcome

RHRA reviewed the meeting agenda and introduced an RHRA Inspector as the guest speaker.

RHRA Inspections

Due to low attendance, RHRA suggested the RHRA inspection presentation be postponed and discussed at the April meeting. Resident Network (RN) members in attendance agreed.

Resident Network Member Recruitment

Members present provided feedback on ways to increase membership.

Feedback from members present (three):

- Post on Facebook so more residents can learn about the RHRA.
- Current members are sharing information about the RN with resident councils at other retirement homes.
- Some residents are comfortable using the computer to receive information, while majority of residents are comfortable receiving information through print sources.
- The RN appreciates the opportunity to speak at this forum and hopes that the network grows in size because the more voices they have, the better they will sound. The focus should be in building this group.

Questions from the Resident Network?

- Does the RHRA receive pushback from retirement home management to share information with residents?

Changes to COVID-19 Retirement Home Directives

RHRA presented a brief update on the COVID-19 public health measures required in retirement homes and the lifting of directives and policies in Ontario.

Feedback from members present (three):

- Seniors move into retirement homes because they live independently. During the pandemic they were treated like long-term care (LTC) residents, and there is a fear they will always be treated like LTC residents. Members are looking for a guarantee that this will not happen again and requested someone speak to the RN about this matter.
- One member feels that although the amendments to the Retirement Homes Act, 2010 (RHA) are needed for greater care to residents, they are put in a situation where retirement homes and LTC homes are being grouped together, which causes a major concern for retirement home residents' rights. It was emphasized that many residents are not sick and can speak for themselves.
- Residents noticed that retirement homes have had to follow LTC directives.
- Grouping LTC and retirement home residents is an assumption on peoples' parts that all residents are the same when they are not.
- Members noted that decisions about pandemic restrictions in retirement homes and LTC are not made by the Ministry, but by the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health (OCMOH).

The RN also discussed recent amendments to the Retirement Homes Act, 2010 (RHA).

Feedback from members present (three):

- It is problematic and a slippery slope when amendments to the Long-Term Care Act, 2007 and RHA are bundled together.
- There is concern that residents will be treated like LTC residents due to the extraordinary powers given to the RHRA Registrar for pandemic-related situations through the amendments to the RHA. Residents need a guarantee that this will not happen again in the future and assurance that people are thinking things through carefully.

Questions from the Resident Network:

- Does the government see the difference between LTC and retirement home residents?

- Regarding the amendments, they strengthen the authority of the RHRA to be a more effective regulator and administrator of the RHA, 2010 – why was this included?
- What are you currently doing to recruit members for the RN? Are you getting a response? Is it possible to send speakers to retirement homes?

Action Items for RHRA

- Send a poll with meeting options to the RN.
- Address why amendments to the *Retirement Homes Act, 2010* were bundled with changes to the *Long-Term Care Homes Act, 2007*.