

President's Message

April 23, 2019

OCT Issues New Professional Advisory

The Ontario College of Teachers has approved a [Professional Advisory on Supporting Students' Mental Health](#). It is intended to help Ontario Certified Teachers (OCTs) support students with mental health concerns and understand how to assist in their support. This advisory applies to all OCTs, including, but not limited to, teachers, consultants, principals, vice-principals, supervisory officers, directors of education and those working in non-school board positions.

Early recognition and intervention are critical for mental health issues for students of all ages. Many illnesses develop and peak in the intermediate/secondary grades. This makes it especially important that teachers be able to identify children at risk. College members are a recognized support in the service of students' mental health. By understanding the characteristics of mental health, OCTs can help identify students at risk, seek help, support them on the path to care and create a learning environment that supports recovery and wellness. The Advisory includes a self-reflective framework to support students' mental health. Your commitment to learning about and addressing mental health issues is the best way to support students.

Contemplating Retirement?

With the end of the school year in sight, our Protective Services Intake Consultants have been receiving a number of questions from Members who are considering retirement. Our Protective Services Team has developed a [tip sheet](#) to address some of the most common questions we get, including notifying your employer, your memberships in the Ontario College of Teachers and the OPC and your health care benefits after retirement. If you have questions that aren't covered by this tip sheet, please contact Protective Services at 1-800-701-2362.

Media

[How deeper understanding of a student's life helps with plans for success](#)

[A mother weighs in on violence in the classroom](#)

[Moving away from negative discipline to positive parenting](#)

[Do schoolyards make the grade?](#)

[Parents consider private schools due to public school changes](#)

[Ontario university funding will be tied to graduates' earnings](#)

[Trustees express concern about impact of public health cuts on kids](#)

[To keep students safe, hold elections on weekends](#)

Queen's Park

There were questions in the House about [cuts to education budget](#), [special services at home funding for children with disabilities](#), [funding for post-secondary education](#), [layoff notices for teachers](#), [transition from full-time to supply work for teachers](#) and [tech supports for schools](#).