

# President's Message

## August 27, 2018

### Welcome back!

Please [click here](#) to watch a video message from President Larry O'Malley. You can also read the message [here](#).

### Government Announces Education Consultations

Last week, the Premier and Minister Thompson announced a province-wide consultation process that will begin in September to look at

- improving student performance in the STEM disciplines
- exposing students to opportunities in the trades and improving coding skills
- financial literacy
- an age-appropriate HPE curriculum
- improving standardized testing
- banning cell phones in classrooms.

The consultations will be conducted through an online survey, town hall sessions and private forums that parents and organizations can hold on their own. We will be seeking the opportunity to be involved in this process.

The government is also drafting a Parents' Bill of Right and establishing a Public Interest Committee to ensure the current curriculum is being taught.

We are drafting a letter to the Minister to provide feedback to the interim elementary curriculum, reiterating our previous concerns about why it's not good for students to revert to an out-of-date document as well as seeking clarification specific to the re-released document including what terminology is allowed to be used in the classroom, references to documents that are not up-to-date such as "Learning for All 2005" instead of "Learning for All 2013," and the lack of any reference to Growing Success or the Provincial Progress Report Card.

Our other concerns about last week's announcement are the anonymous website for parents to express their concerns about teachers, a further assessment review of large-scale testing (EQAO) when an extensive review was completed just seven months ago and the plan to consider banning cellphones in classrooms, which may interfere with learning techniques used by some teachers. We will reach out to the Minister to express these concerns, share our experiences as school leaders and look for solutions that are workable in schools and in the best interests of students.

The news release is available [here](#).

## **Media**

[Government announces education consultation on curriculum review](#)

[Teachers face disciplinary action if they teach “new” HPE curriculum](#)

[OSSTF vows to join fight against sex ed rollback](#) (OPC quoted in this article)

[ETFO wants solutions for problem of hot classrooms](#)

[How principals can create leaders out of everyone](#)

[5 ways to support students affected by trauma](#)

[Building community with attendance questions](#)

[How math instruction varies for teachers-to-be across Canada](#)

[Kids are glued to their screens – but so are many parents](#)

## **Queen’s Park**

The House is in recess until September 24.