

President's Message

June 17, 2019

Online Register

We are excited to provide this link to our [first online issue of the Register](#)! For the past several years, many of you have urged us to transition to an online version of our magazine. You asked us to be more environmentally responsible, cost effective and current in the use of e-publications. The online issue will be piloted this month and for the 2019-20 school year, after which we'll re-evaluate comments and feedback. Thank you for your input on this exciting change.

People for Education Report

Today People for Education released its [annual research report](#) on our public school system. The data was collected from 1,254 schools. Thank you to those who participated and provided relevant, real-time data, comments and input for the research. We know that this data is difficult if not impossible to get from any other source. While we agree with the majority of the report's findings and recommendations, we did raise a concern about the section highlighting fundraising and school generated funds. We know there are many instances where money is collected by schools (field trips, excursions, grad events, physical education/sports clothing) that does not stay with the school as revenue and is not "fundraising" for the benefit of the school. While many schools may appear to have substantial money coming in, that money is not theirs to keep or spend. As part of our strategic plan objectives, our participation in the data collection for this annual report is an important way to contribute to the support and advocacy of our public education system.

Concussion Safety

Last week the government launched a [video awareness campaign](#) about concussion safety, as part of the follow-up to [Rowan's Law](#). The goal of the campaign is to encourage coaches, parents and players to recognize the serious brain injuries that concussions represent and the time required to treat them, instead of encouraging or pressuring athletes to return to play too early. As of July 1, 2019, athletes, parents, coaches and officials will be required to review concussion awareness resources and concussion codes of conduct. Students who report a head injury are more than twice as likely to report very high emotional distress and less success in academics.

June News – Mental Wellness

Did you know that men are less likely than women to report mental health issues? A study found that [34%](#) of men felt that they would be embarrassed or ashamed to take time off work for mental health reasons such as depression or anxiety and [35%](#) of men

who *did* disclose a mental health issue waited more than two years to do so. To bring awareness to this challenge, Starling Minds is sponsoring a Mental Fitness Challenge this month. Share your experiences by [answering this week's questions](#) to help end the stigma. Find out more about the [Starling Minds](#) program and how you can access it as a Member of the OPC.

Media

[People for Ed: You can't modernize education by cutting staff](#)

[Government updates support and governance for apprenticeships and skilled trades](#)

[Study shows rise in teens visiting ER for self-harm](#)

[Does PISA miss the mark?](#)

[Government offers school boards funding to conduct line-by-line cost-saving audits](#)

[Toronto Catholic school board considers paid school parking for staff](#)

[The urgent need for media literacy](#)

[Schools reaching a turning point in use of seclusion rooms](#)

[How education cuts fuel inequality](#)

Queen's Park

The House is in recess until Monday October 28.