

President's Message

June 24, 2019

Thank you!

The end of the 2018-19 school year also marks the end of my term here at OPC. It has been an honour and privilege to serve as the President of our association. I want to thank the Members of Provincial Council and the Executive for their help and support this past year. Special thank you to the office staff here in Toronto, for all of their behind the scenes work, making our world class organization run so smoothly. I enjoyed visiting districts and seeing outstanding leadership in action. It is true that “we do it for the kids” and I saw that from one end of the province to the other this year. Thank you for your ongoing support of students and their learning. Have a restful and happy summer!

New Minister of Education

On Friday afternoon I received a call from the newly appointed Minister of Education, Stephen Lecce. This was part of the Minister's outreach to educational stakeholders. He expressed his commitment to public education and to working closely with the educational partners, including the OPC. He indicated that he wanted to meet in person with us in the near future. I congratulated the Minister on his appointment and communicated OPC's commitment to work with him and Ministry staff in support of the students of Ontario.

Investing in Public Education

Last week, the Conference Board of Canada released a study entitled, [*The Economic Case for Investing in Education*](#). The study was conducted for and funded by OSSTF. It found that each dollar of public education spending in Ontario generates at least \$1.30 in positive economic impact for the province. Public education that culminates in high school graduation generates social benefits such as a healthier population, a higher standard of living and a reduction in crime. If we increase graduation rates we lessen demand for social assistance, public health and criminal justice services. The report recommends that the government should increase spending to achieve a 90 per cent high school graduation rate, equal to that of Nova Scotia, which is the highest in the country. Such an increase would, the report estimates, lead to savings of over \$16 million per year to the province.

We support the thesis of the report – that public education not only leads to significant benefits for individual students through achievement, but is also an excellent investment for our society, province and government.

Term Membership

Are you planning to supply in an administrative role (term assignment) after your retirement? If so, consider applying for a Term Membership, available to retired principals and vice-principals who are former OPC Members. Membership runs from the date of application to the end of that school year. Members on term assignments of up to 50 days pay half of the regular membership fees and those on assignments of more than 50 days pay the full membership fees. Eligibility for protective services coverage begins on the date that the [application](#) and membership fees are received by the OPC. However, if you apply and pay the fees within 30 days of starting your assignment, you may have retroactive coverage (to the first day of your assignment). For more information, please contact Membership Services at membership@principals.ca.

Media

[Rookie MPP Stephen Lecce takes on tough education file](#)

[People for Education: Cutting teachers is not the way to modernize education](#)

[Students get bad news about OSAP changes](#)

[300 staff at autism treatment facility given layoff notices](#)

[Students prepare for losses as boards slash budgets](#)

[More layoffs coming to autism services sector](#)

[Trustee barred from board meetings over offensive comments](#)

[Investing in public education pays off](#)

Queen's Park

The House is in recess until Monday October 28.