

President's Message

March 18, 2019

Government Announcements

Last week the [government made several announcements](#) about ASD funding, cell phone use in classrooms, class sizes, EQAO and updated curriculum documents. Details of the plan are expected to be released over the coming months. We provided our feedback on the [ASD funding](#) and use of [cellphones](#) in schools. We – like other stakeholders – have also been invited to make additional submissions (due May 31, 2019) and meet with ministry staff to discuss [Hiring Practices](#) (Reg. 274) and [Class Size](#). We will be working with Council and Executive to frame our further submissions. If you have views you'd like to share in respect of these next consultations, which include some focused questions, please share them with your Provincial Councillor or directly with me at president@principals.ca.

Starling Minds Podcast

[Have you registered for Starling Minds yet?](#) Starling Minds is our online Member resource to help support you in strengthening your mental resilience and wellness, providing education and training to help manage stress and prevent or minimize anxiety and depression. It is confidential and free for all OPC Members and your families. If you want to learn more about Starling, listen to [our podcast interview](#) with Dr. Andrew Miki, Founder of Starling Minds.

Twitter Chat

Our next chat will take place this **Thursday March 21 from 8:00 – 9:00 pm EST** to discuss developing high powered/performing teams in your schools. To take part, sign in to Twitter (or join if you do not currently have an account) at 8 pm on Thursday, enter #OPCchat in the Search Twitter box in the upper right corner, the questions and instructions will be set up. You can then introduce yourself once the moderator opens the chat. Remember to always include #OPCchat with your comments. We hope you can join us!

Workshop for Writing for the Register

Have you always wanted to write an article for our professional magazine, The Register, but weren't sure how, or what it entails? Join us for a special online discussion and workshop to learn about the editorial process, how to submit an article or research paper, what to write about and the OPC style guide. The workshop will take place on **Friday March 29 from 10:00 – 11:00 am EST**. [Learn more and register here.](#)

Survey for ECEs, EAs and CYWs

You may have received a letter from the Ontario School Boards' Association recently about a [survey for education workers](#) supporting the learning of French as a Second Language in programs such as Core French, French Immersion, Extended French or Intensive French. This is part of the three-year French as a Second Language Ontario Labour Market Partnership Project, of which we have been an active participant. The survey will be open until Friday March 22. We encourage you to share it with your ECEs, EAs and Child and Youth Workers.

Media

[Principals urge government to delay autism program changes](#)

[Schools unprepared for influx of kids with ASD](#)

[Principals fear schools not ready to cope with autism changes](#)

[Government announces increases to class sizes](#)

[Parent concerns reported to teachers "snitch line"](#)

[Government asking boards to identify resources needed for ASD students](#)

[Cellphone ban coming to classrooms](#)

[Ontario to look into school exclusions for children with autism](#)

[Online courses are hurting the students who most need the help](#)

Queen's Park

There were questions in the House about [job cuts in the education sector](#), [uncertainty about changes to the ASD funding](#), [direction to service providers to stop taking new ASD clients](#) and the [letter from the 3 P/VP associations about impact of ASD policy change](#).