

## President's Message

April 19, 2022

### Managing Escalated Interactions with Parents

On April 26 at 4:00 p.m. (EDT), we'll be offering an online, interactive 90-minute session that will explore strategies and resources for [managing escalated interactions with parents](#) in a progressive manner. These strategies will help administrators manage these situations effectively, ensure safety and dignity for all and focus on building and maintaining trusting relationships with parents/guardians/caregivers. This session is free for all Members and Associates. The session will be facilitated by Vicki Shannon, one of our Protective Services Team Consultants and Lawrence DeMaeyer, one of our Professional Learning Education Advisors.

### Seeking Input on Right to Read Report

In February, the Ontario Human Rights Commission released its [Right to Read inquiry report](#), which recommended evidence-based screening on foundational reading skills; screening K-Grade 2 students twice a year; providing stable funding for evidence-based screening; providing job-embedded professional learning on the specific screening tools; and communicating with students and parents about when and what intervention will be provided if the student is identified as at-risk for reading difficulties.

We have been invited to provide our input and answer some questions regarding the implications for implementing the recommendations.

- What are the considerations for mandating screening for students in K – Grade 2?
- Do we support screening twice a year? If not, what alternative(s) would you recommend?
- How might data be gathered to best support student reading progress across grades, and potentially schools/boards?
- How might data be used to inform implementation of reading interventions?
- How can we ensure that groups of students are not adversely affected by overidentification or under-identification?
- What are the considerations for identifying and supporting teacher learning needs?
- Is there anything else the ministry should consider about implementing screening tools for students?

If you would like to provide input to this process, please send it to me, responding to the specific questions above, by Friday May 13.

### Media

- [Ottawa public board reinstates mask mandate](#)
- [Minister says masks optional for students despite board decision](#)

- [Trustees from several boards push for mask mandates](#) (subscription)
- [Staff shortages and rising absences take a toll on classrooms](#)
- [Students talk about racism they face in classrooms](#)
- [Indigenous author's book pulled from board library](#)

## Queen's Park

There were questions in the House last week about [distribution of rapid tests in schools](#), [returning mask mandates in schools](#), [distribution of rapid tests between public and private schools](#), [youth unemployment](#), [pay equity](#), [salary increases for ECEs](#), [resources for children with special needs](#), [fines for contributing to racism in schools](#) (Bill 67), [funding for the Ontario Autism Program](#), [funding for EAs in schools](#) and [funding for eating disorders](#).

NDP MPP Marit Stiles introduced Bill 113, [Centering Youth in Pandemic Recovery Act](#), which calls for a Post-Pandemic Child and Youth Action Plan in consultation with youth leaders and experts in education, child development and mental health, and the establishment of the COVID-19 Recovery Youth Secretariat, reviewing legislation and regulations to determine the potential effects on the well-being of children, youth and youth adults.

Amanda Simard (L) introduced Bill 118, [Education Amendment Act \(Civic Education\)](#), which would require that a Civics course be taught in grade 9, 10, 11 or 12 and include an overview of Canada's constitution, the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and methods for identifying misinformation and disinformation.