

President's Message

April 14, 2020

OCT Professional Advisory

In December 2021, the Ontario College of Teachers issued a professional advisory addressing [anti-Black racism](#) both in and out of the classroom. The advisory examines anti-Black racism, including unconscious bias and long-ingrained systemic barriers and attitudes. Members are strongly encouraged to familiarize themselves and their staffs with this Professional Advisory. The following addition has been made to O. Regulation 437/97: Professional Misconduct, under the *Ontario College of Teachers' Act*, 1996, which now includes “making remarks or engaging in behaviours that expose any person or class of persons to hatred on the basis of a prohibited ground of discrimination under Part 1 of the *Human Rights Code*.”

Celebrating Retirements!

We are pleased to announce that we will begin recognizing Members' retirements, honouring their commitment to supporting students and their dedication to public education over many years, starting with confirmed retirements in the 2021–22 school year. With the retiree's consent, the names will be highlighted in our President's Message and in the fall issue of our *Register* magazine. Should you wish to be recognized publicly, [opt in here](#). You may also send an email to membership@principals.ca or opcbenefits@principals.ca at any time, to share your own retirement or the names of colleagues who have retired, or alternatively, encourage them to reach out to us to provide consent to celebrate their career. If your retirement date is not within this current school year, please do not opt-in at this time. Note that we will not publish any names unless we have written consent to do so.

Upcoming Provincial Election

As we approach the June provincial election, the parties will start releasing their platform, which outlines the policy areas and ideas they plan to pursue and implement if they become the government.

The [NDP paper](#) includes an end to EQAO testing, no online course graduation requirement, no privatization of online learning, implementing Indigenous and Holocaust curriculum, addressing racism and discrimination, rolling back governance changes at the OCT, establishing a stakeholder partnership table, hiring more mental health workers and CYWs, increasing funding for special education and ending violence against education workers.

[The Liberals](#) have announced an end to streaming in grades 9 and 10, expanding access to supports for the 2SLGBTQ+ community, providing free menstrual products in schools, increasing support for gender-based violence prevention on postsecondary campuses, lowering the cost of

child care, implementing a needs-based Ontario Autism Program, hiring more special education workers and reducing wait times for school services for students with autism.

The [Green Party has released a plan](#) that focusses on mental health, including expanding access to care under OHIP, reducing wait lists, creating a dedicated ministry, investing in Youth Wellness Hubs and expanding services for transitional age youth.

Media

- [Children and youth have highest COVID-19 positivity rate](#)
- [Students connect with astronaut aboard the International Space Station](#)
- [Manitoba to leave P/VPs in teacher federations and school boards in place](#)
- [Students want consent education and resources to combat violence in schools](#)
- [Neurodiverse kids learn while they play](#)
- [Ontario launches pilot to build schools faster](#)
- [Children's mental health worsens when cases surge](#)

Articles requiring a paid subscription

- [Canada moves to help international students become permanent residents \(paywall\)](#)

Queen's Park

The House did not sit last week.