

President's Message

August 30, 2021

Welcome Back!

Welcome back to a new school year! My name is Lisa Collins and I will be your OPC Provincial President for the coming school year. This year will be a very special opening as we welcome back our students and staff after an extended period of remote learning. There will be new procedures, protocols and practices in place, and some students will continue to learn online. We know that the excitement of the new school year, and how we manage these next few weeks, will be so important for the social and emotional readiness and engagement of our school community. [Please watch this video](#) for an opening message and my personal introduction. I wish you a wonderful start-up and new school year!

De-streamed Grade 9 Math Webinar

As Ontario's De-streamed Grade 9 Math course comes into effect, we invite you to participate in our upcoming 75-minute De-streamed Webinar on **Tuesday September 21 at 4:30 pm**. ASL interpretation will be provided for this session. Learn more and register [here](#).

ICP Coming to Toronto!

Mark your calendars for the ICP World Convention July 25-28, 2022. Registration is open! We'll be hosting the event, in partnership with our colleagues from CPCO and ADFO. In light of the ongoing pandemic, we are working diligently with the convention centre and public health officials to pay close attention to the health and safety of all delegates, and are planning a convention that will be engaging, informative and safe. The convention will provide opportunities for school and system leaders to network, collaborate and share practice to enhance outcomes for students. [Visit our website](#) for more information about program details, speaker line-up, call for proposals and registration. We look forward to seeing you there!

SMHO Resources for Schools

School Mental Health Ontario has developed [a resource package](#) to support the mental health of students. It complements training for school mental health professionals to help deliver evidence-based prevention and early intervention services for students experiencing emerging or escalating mental health issues. There is also a [portal for school leaders](#) with resources to support you in leading a mentally healthy back to school return.

Media

- [Province to pilot take-home tests for students exposed to COVID-19](#)
- [Indigenous historian greets school name change with relief](#)
- [STEM education a necessity in knowledge-driven world](#)

- [Ministry rejects Peel trustees request to remove supervisor](#)
- [Labour ministry rejects all teachers' COVID-19 related work refusals](#)
- [Ottawa-Carleton to put extracurriculars and sports on hold](#)
- [New screening guidelines exclude runny noses and headaches](#)

Queen's Park

The House is in recess until September 13.