

President's Message

February 28, 2022

Ukraine Crisis

We are deeply saddened by and concerned about Russia's military attacks on Ukraine. The OPC stands with the global community in echoing that these attacks are unprovoked, unacceptable and unwarranted.

We recognize that there are OPC Members, as well as students, staff and families within our school communities, who may be directly impacted by this conflict. As the crisis continues, the situation may be challenging and potentially triggering for many. Please remember there are resources available to assist you. We have [PST tip sheets](#) offering guidance in supporting challenging conversations during times of need and on health and wellness. As well, all Members have access to our free [Starling Minds](#) program for personal support and/or counselling services. You may also want to check with your board's Employee Assistance Plan. We encourage you to seek support when and if needed.

Tax Credits for Work From Home Expenses

The Canadian Revenue Agency (CRA) has again indicated that there is a modest tax credit available to employees for work performed from home in 2021 for at least 50% of the time during a consecutive four week period. While each Member is differently situated in relation to remote work and the related credit calculation, we are sharing [this background and formula](#) so that you have the information at hand.

Media

- [Post-secondary life could be tough test for pandemic grads](#)
- [How Ontario students learn and don't learn black history](#)
- [Mask mandate could be lifted across areas, including in schools](#)
- [Northern schools seeing more severe teacher shortage](#)
- [Teachers' union speaking out against continued virtual learning option](#)
- [Black scientists, community leaders want Black youth 'to see possibility' in STEM](#)

Articles requiring a paid subscription

- [How to talk to kids about Russia's invasion of Ukraine](#)
- [Teachers and students visit former Residential schools](#)

Queen's Park

There were questions in the House about [child care](#), [HEPA filters for schools](#), [women in science and technology](#) and [anti-Semitic incidents in schools](#).

France Gelinias (NDP) introduced [Bill 85, *Vaping is Not For Kids*](#). The bill would prohibit the promotion or sale of vaping products to anyone under 21 years of age.