

President's Message

January 31, 2022

Celebrating Black History Month

In February, we acknowledge Black History Month in schools and communities across Canada. It is important for us to understand the long history and importance of the Black community to the development and enrichment of Canadian society. Black Canadians from many different cultural backgrounds have made important contributions to the development of education, medicine, culture and human rights throughout Canada's history. As well, we need to recognize how systemic oppression continues to create challenges and barriers. We encourage all of our Members to continue to learn and listen, but to also promote positive change for Black students, staff and families.

Expedited Evaluations from the Ontario College of Teachers

The issue of staff shortages and absenteeism due to the pandemic continues to challenge the sector's ability to maintain in-person learning. The Ontario College of Teachers has sent a [memo to boards](#) regarding a process to expedite the certification for new teachers who've received a conditional offer of employment from school boards. The accelerated processing applies to applicants who have submitted a complete application and documents and are waiting to be licensed. It will also apply to members who hold a Temporary Certificate, a Certificate of Qualification with Conditions or a Transitional Certificate of Qualification. Please note that all requests to expedite the certificate process in these circumstances must be made by the board's usual/designated College contact.

Information for Newly Appointed Administrators

For those recently promoted to vice-principal, it is important to ensure you are enrolled in the Long-term Disability Insurance Plan (LTDI) specific to administrators in your board. This does not happen automatically; you must complete an [OPC Group Benefits application package](#). If you are in one of the boards listed below*, and have not yet done so, you need to enrol in the OPC Benefits Plan within 60 calendar days of your appointment. Applying after 60 days will require medical evidence of good health to the insurer. For more information, please email opcbenefits@principals.ca.

New appointees must [apply to become Members of the OPC](#) within 60 calendar days of commencing employment as a VP to preserve entitlement to protective services coverage for employment-related matters that occurred while the Member held membership in the Ontario Teachers' Federation. For more information, email membership@principals.ca.

*Boards participating in the OPC Benefits Plan include Algoma, Bluewater, Durham, Grand Erie, Greater Essex, Halton, Hamilton-Wentworth, Lakehead, Lambton Kent, Near North, Niagara, Ottawa-Carlton, Peel, Rainy River, Renfrew, Simcoe, Superior-Greenstone, Toronto, Trillium Lakelands, Upper Canada, Upper Grand, Waterloo Region and York.

Media

- [When is an absence an absence? New reporting tool needs details](#)
- [111 schools report absence over 50%](#)
- [Boards taking different approaches to Gr 9 EQAO assessment](#)
- [Mohawk Institute creating archive of children at residential school](#)
- [School absentee letters lead to confusion for parents](#)

Articles requiring a paid subscription

- [Parents set up groups to do contact tracing for schools](#)

Queen's Park

The House is in recess until February 22.