

## President's Message

March 7, 2022

### EDI Committee Openings

Thank you to those who responded to our request for members of the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Advisory committee openings. It is great to have so many experienced and passionate Members wanting to get involved in supporting our commitment to equity and anti-oppression. We are pleased to welcome Farah Slimati (Peel DSB), Jemaine Wallace (Toronto DSB) and Raquel Cowan (Greater Essex County DSB) to the committee. We would also like to acknowledge the hard work and commitments of Nancy Brady (Ottawa-Carleton DSB), Yonette Day (Peel DSB) and Matthew Webbe (Simcoe County DSB) who have all left the committee as they have moved into new roles. There will be more opportunities, such as additional sub-committees, in the near future. Visit the [EDI section of our website](#) to learn more about the work of the committee and the Affinity Spaces for Members.

We are looking forward to welcoming the OPC District EDI Reps to our March Council meeting. These new additions to your local OPC executives will help support equity and anti-oppressive work at the local level and further our provincial policies and practices.

### Mental Health Resources

School Mental Health Ontario (SMHO) [has developed materials](#) offering mental health practices for schools. Each site features classroom practices organized into six categories: critical and creative thinking, healthy relationship skills, identification and management of emotions, positive motivation and perseverance, self-awareness and sense of identity and stress management and coping.

### Update on Your Starling Minds Account

We want to remind you that the older version (from 2020) of Starling Minds will no longer be available after March 31st. Anyone with an older account should have received an email directly from Starling Minds letting them know about this and inviting them to sign up for the latest program. After March 31, any Member who attempts to sign in to the old program will be automatically redirected to the latest version and can register using their existing email address. There is no additional action required. [Read more](#) about the update.

### Media

- [Ontario to revamp approach to literacy after OHRC report](#)
- [Disruptions in pandemic schooling could lead to long-lasting harm](#)
- [169 potential graves found at former residential school in Alberta](#)

- [MPP calls for equity audit in all schools](#)

#### Articles requiring a paid subscription

- [Many students being denied the right to read](#)
- [Parents, students react to looming end of mask mandates](#)
- [Why hasn't Ontario signed a childcare deal yet?](#)

#### Queen's Park

There were questions in the House last week about a [child care](#) deal with the federal government, [vaccination of 5-11 year olds](#), [capital funding for new schools](#), [equity audits in schools](#), and [funding for the Ontario Autism Program](#).