

President's Message

May 9, 2022

Provincial Council Meeting and Executive Elections

Last week we held our last Provincial Council meeting of the year. Thank you to all our Councillors who took part in-person or virtually. Highlights of the meeting will be sent to all Members later this week.

As part of the meeting, Council elected the 2022-23 Provincial Executive. Congratulations to

- Patsy Agard – President (Ottawa-Carleton)
- Ralph Nigro – President-Elect (Toronto)
- Lorne Gretsinger – Vice-President (Niagara)
- Alison Osborne – Vice-President (Kawartha Pine-Ridge)
- Leslie Mantle – Member-at-Large (Rainbow)
- Jason Pratt – Member-at-Large (Thames Valley)
- Lisa Collins – Past President (Near North)

I'd like to thank Ann Pace (York Region), Chad Mowbray (Ontario North East) and Ben Lawton (Lambton-Kent) who served on this year's Executive. That responsibility, in addition to their duties as a full-time school leader, requires a tremendous amount of time and commitment to serve all our Members.

EDI Affinity Groups Update

Over the last month, the number of our EDI affinity groups has continued to grow in response to Members' needs and requests. Participants and group facilitators have shared the value in helping to increase feelings of belonging and reducing a sense of isolation, especially within under-represented groups. Facilitators have noted that the need has been years in the making and there has been an immediately positive impact. The virtual format has allowed Members to build a network of colleagues across the province, especially in areas where there are lower levels of diversity in identity. Groups are ongoing and Members are invited to continue to join subsequent meetings. Information is available on the [Affinity Spaces for Members](#) page on our website. And in the latest [EDI Director's Blog](#), Irfan reflects on the value of affinity spaces and also some of the concerns or resistance that some people might have towards these groups.

Retirement Poll - When Are You Planning to Retire?

If you haven't already done so, please take a few minutes to complete [this short poll](#) that will identify what year you plan to retire, if your original retirement date has changed and if so, why. The poll will assist us with our advocacy work on your behalf. It will be open until Monday May 16 at midnight (EDT). Each Member may respond once. Thank you for taking the time to provide this very important information to us.

Media

- [What the parties are pitching on the campaign trail](#)
- [Leaders called on to prioritize child and youth mental health](#)
- [TDSB to end auditions and entrance exams for specialized programs](#)
- [Draft document proposes educators taking on tube feeding and injection of medications](#)
- [Is progressive discipline working in schools?](#)
- [Hospital visits increase for eating disorders among young girls and teens](#)
- [Gr 13 may be making a comeback](#)
- [Liberals pledge to add COVID-19 vaccine to school immunizations](#)

Subscription required to access articles

- [De-streaming of high school courses was rushed and piecemeal](#)

Queen's Park

The House has adjourned until after the election on June 2.