

President's Message

November 22, 2021

We were pleased with the [announcement last week](#) that secondary schools will return to a regular semester timetable of four classes per day. This is something we have been advocating for with the Minister and ministry, as we know it will have a positive impact on achievement, morale and engagement for students and staff.

Long-term Disability (LTD) Coverage End Dates

Under the OPC Benefits plan, there are five LTD options. Your eligibility for the option you have chosen is subject to certain timelines.

- LTD1, 2 and 5 cover you until you are eligible for a 70% unreduced pension (generally after 35 years of qualifying service), age 65 or the date you retire.
- LTD3 and 4 cover you until you reach your 85 factor (age plus working experience), age 65 or the date your retire.

The end date for your option is subject to the eligibility factor that comes first.

It is your responsibility to notify us of your pension eligibility as we do not have access to that information. Premium deductions will continue until we receive written notice that you have reached your pension eligibility, retirement date or age 65 and wish to terminate your coverage. Premiums are non-refundable.

You can confirm your eligibility by visiting the [Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan website](#). Your LTD option is shown on your benefits profile, which can be accessed on [our website](#) by clicking on "My Profile" in the upper right corner of the homepage (login is required).

If you have or will soon reach any of the above eligibility dates, complete and return the [Application to Terminate Insurance Coverage - LTD](#) form and provide the required documents to support the request. For additional information, contact us at opcbenefits@principals.ca.

Advocating for Our Members

In May, on National Principal's Day (NPD), we developed a campaign to highlight principals and vice-principals, recognizing our Members publicly. We talked about your role and responsibilities, as a way to help the public understand who you are and what you do. That campaign took the form of a [full-page ad in the Toronto Star](#), and a social media campaign on our platforms.

We will now be extending the campaign to include a local component. Once or twice a month, we'll be featuring one of our Members through their local newspaper and on our social media

sites. The campaign started last week with an ad in the [Sudbury Star](#) featuring Pablo Gil-Alfau. Stay tuned as we continue this campaign in the months ahead!

Media

- [High schools to return to regular semester system](#)
- [Alberta signs \\$10 per day child care deal with federal government](#)
- [Education Minister negotiating with feds for more money, flexibility](#)
- [Parents losing trust as autism waiting list grows](#)
- [If Ontario gets it wrong on COVID-19 again, what do we tell our kids?](#)
- [Police urge teachers to stop reporting vaccine mandates as a crime](#)
- [Some university students back in class while others remain online](#)
- [Ontario ready to vaccinate kids as soon as doses arrive](#)

Queen's Park

There were questions in the House last week about [mandatory vaccines for schools](#), [\\$10 per day child care](#), [Indigenous curriculum](#), [\\$500 million cut to education budget](#), [funding for mental health and addiction services](#), [opioid epidemic](#), [cuts to education budget](#) and [a needs-based funding system for autism](#).