

President's Message

November 8, 2021

Remembrance Day

As we prepare to celebrate Remembrance Day this week, we want to ensure our students and staff honour and recognize all those who served their country in times of war and peace. Throughout our history, Indigenous communities have faced and continue to face the harms of colonialism. We wanted to share an article, [14 Facts You May Not Know About Contributions of Indigenous Veterans](#), from the Indigenous Relations Academy. It highlights how Indigenous communities supported and participated in the war efforts, despite some of the systemic barriers that existed. Please consider using this article to help dismantle some of the misperceptions, and instead honour the sacrifices made by veterans, including Indigenous veterans.

Duty of Fair Representation

School boards and the government recognize the OPC as the representative voice for principals and vice-principals in the 31 English-speaking public district boards. This authority is accompanied by a corresponding duty to represent administrators fairly and impartially. In deciding whether or not to raise a dispute against a board, there cannot be bad faith, discrimination, arbitrary conduct or serious negligence on the OPC's part. Our representation of a Member must be fair, genuine and undertaken with integrity and competence. Occasionally, the PST will evaluate a matter and decide to refuse, discontinue or place limits on the Protective Services provided to a Member. An individual Member may appeal a PST service decision, as outlined in the [Protective Services Appeal Policy](#). For more information on the duty of fair representation, please see our [Tip Sheet](#), available on the Member side of our website.

Monthly Coffee Connections

Join us with your morning/evening coffee, tea, juice or beverage of choice to discuss some of the issues you are working on with your P/VP colleagues from across Ontario. The intention of these sessions is to provide a space where you can relax, unwind and enjoy friendly conversation with colleagues about issues and topics that are relevant to you. [Find out more here.](#)

Media

- [Government won't add COVID-19 vaccine to list of student mandated immunizations](#)
- [Ontario set to release death records of 1,800 Indigenous children](#)
- [Doctors call for school-based vaccine programs to resume](#)
- [Kids who learned remotely felt they mattered less](#)

- [How do we achieve racial justice in schools?](#)
- [Principal partners with student for book on pandemic](#)
- [MPP says more needs to be done to combat racism in schools](#)
- [Climate education inconsistent across Canada](#)

Queen's Park

There were questions in the House last week about [PCR testing in schools](#), [cuts to Ontario Educational Leadership Centre](#), [mandatory vaccines for educators](#), [\\$10 per day child care](#) and [return to traditional semester system](#).