

President's Message

October 12, 2021

I hope everyone enjoyed a wonderful Thanksgiving weekend with family and friends, and enjoyed the beautiful fall colours.

Get to Know Your Protective Services Team

Our Protective Services Team (PST) provides professional and legal support, advice and advocacy for matters related to your role as a principal or vice-principal. The team is comprised of four consultants and three lawyers, occasionally assisted by an articling student or recently called lawyer. When you call, you will reach an Intake Consultant, who will provide direction and support and may refer your matter to the PST for service. These services are funded through your Member fees. If you joined the OPC within 60 days of becoming an administrator and relinquished membership in the Ontario Teachers' Federation, you are entitled to "historical legal coverage;" that is, Protective Services for incidents that occurred when you were a teacher. The PST also writes articles and presents workshops on emergent issues to assist you in managing the risks that may arise in the course of your duties. We encourage you to [reach out to the PST](#) whenever you need advice, advocacy or representation.

Provincial Council Meeting

Our first Council meeting of the year and our [Annual General Meeting](#) will be taking place October 21-23. The meeting is an opportunity to receive information from the provincial office and share local concerns. If you have any issues you would like addressed by Council, please let your local Councillor know by Monday October 18.

Media

- [Province rolls out rapid testing for students in hot spots](#)
- [Education left out of Throne Speech](#)
- [Why vaccinating kids will be a unique challenge](#)
- [Canadians have woken up to the need for Indigenous education](#)
- [Shoppers Drug Mart to provide free menstrual products to school boards](#)
- [Peel board approves anti-Islamophobia strategy](#)

Queen's Park

There were questions in the House last week about [rapid testing for students](#), [anti vax protests around schools](#), [government assistance for child care](#), [funding for backlog of school repairs](#) and [wait list for supports for children with autism](#).

John Fraser (L) introduced [Bill 2, *Creating Safe Zones*](#), which would ensure safe zones around schools, child care centres, hospitals and health facilities and prohibit protests in these areas against COVID-19 vaccinations or other public health measures.

Fraser also introduced [Bill 12, *Mandatory COVID-19 Vaccinations*](#), which would require education sector employees to be vaccinated against COVID-19.