

President's Message

October 4, 2021

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Update

In the spring, we hired our first Director of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, Irfan Toor. Part of Irfan's role will be to support the EDI committee and help the OPC implement the recommendations from the 2020 Member Census. The EDI Advisory Committee, Executive and Council worked with the Turner Consulting Group to produce a report summarizing the data trends highlighted in our Census, and also outlining recommendation for our next steps. The initial data trends were reported in a recent issue of the [OPC Register](#) and the [Census Report](#) is available to Members on our website. Some of the key areas of focus will be related to diversifying the identities of our Members and increasing your knowledge and capacity through Professional Learning. Over the coming months, we will be able to provide updates as to our progress on achieving these recommendations.

Virtual School Coordinator Network Series

Take part in our [provincial network](#) of virtual school leaders, beginning on November 2 at 4:00 p.m. EST. These 90-minute sessions are designed for participants to build relationships, share strategies and grow their professional practice related to school administration for virtual schools. The agenda is determined by the participants and is focused on colleague-to-colleague sharing of ideas and effective practices.

Loss of a Colleague

We are sad to share with you that one of our recently retired colleagues, Richard Erdmann, passed away recently after a courageous battle with cancer. Richard spent over 30 years as an educator in the York Region DSB, including 20 as an elementary school principal. Last year, he returned to his board to help with the elementary virtual school during the pandemic. In addition to his school duties, Richard was actively involved in his local OPC association and spent 4 years as an OPC Provincial Councillor. In that role, he represented his colleagues with professionalism, and offered his time and expertise to assist with provincial initiatives, particularly related to his beloved field of technology. We send our condolences to Richard's family, friends, colleagues and school community.

Media

- [COVID-19 vaccines for kids could complicate flu and regular shots](#)
- [Pfizer vaccine for kids showing promising results](#)
- [How to teach children about residential schools](#)
- [Government announces Indigenous curriculum for grades 1-3](#)

- [A healing path forward for Truth and Reconciliation](#)
- [Schools boost mental health supports as in-class learning returns](#)
- [Government begins new legislative session with Throne Speech](#)
- [Indigenous experts applaud curriculum changes](#)

Queen's Park

The House resumes sitting today.