

## President's Message

October 18, 2022

### Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

In my role as the OPC President, I recently had the opportunity to attend the #GenerationBlack public symposium organized by ETFO to highlight the importance and need for more Black educators at all levels of the public education system. Hearing from researchers, educators, parents and students was a powerful reminder of the importance and benefits to all students of diverse identities in our staff and school leaders. One of the ways we are supporting Black administrators, as well as other identities, is through our [affinity spaces for Members](#). Our groups have started up again this year. Find out when the groups are running or contact the group hosts. In this month's [EDI blog](#), Irfan Toor reflects on how different identities are marginalized through questions and scrutiny.

### Starling Minds Mental Fitness Challenge

This fall, Starling Minds will offer another 6-week Mental Fitness Challenge for OPC Members, focusing on depression and burnout. It will be offered via weekly Zoom webinars and include guided support and training. Topics will include Burnout 101; Managing stress, anxiety, and depression; Finding emotional regulation skills that work for you; Making effective plans and assertive goals to move forward; Managing your thoughts when you're down; and How to manage burnout and your work. The series will run on Thursdays from October 20th to November 24th at 7:00 PM EST. [Register here](#). [Email](#) Starling Minds for more information.

### De-streaming Ministry Memo

Last week, the ministry [released a memo](#) sharing elementary Science and Technology curriculum videos available on the Curriculum and Resources website. The ministry will also be hosting webinars on the revised Grades 1 to 8 Science and Technology curriculum and the new de-streamed Grade 9 Science course. The webinars will provide an overview of the structure and content of the new curriculum to support educators with planning effective instruction and assessment for all students. [Registration](#) is available and a recorded version will be made available. A reminder that all ministry memos are available [on our website](#) for your review.

### Media

- [Ontario's top doctor urges masks, says mandates could return](#)
- [Pandemic further delays autism support for kids on waiting lists](#)
- [Parent group challenges government to bring back COVID-19 measures in schools](#)
- [Mural reflects life in a new land for Muslim teen](#)
- [As child care expands, who will staff those spaces?](#)
- [Contract talks with support staff union to go to mediation](#)

- [Students can identify by different gender, name without parent knowledge](#)
- [Online learning may not be possible if there is a strike](#)

### **Queen's Park**

The House is in recess until October 25.