

President's Message

December 12, 2022

Winter Break

This will be our last President's Message until January 9, as some of you will be off as of this Friday, and others will not be returning to school until that day. I want to wish all of you a very happy holiday — whatever you celebrate and however you celebrate it. I hope that you are able to spend some quality time with those most special to you, but also to find some time just for yourself. Thank you for your continued dedication to our students and our schools. Your efforts are appreciated, noticed and acknowledged.

Professional Learning Needs Survey

Our professional learning team is seeking your input to inform the development and delivery of relevant and responsive learning offerings for principals and vice-principals, reflective of current realities that meet your needs. Your feedback is important to us. We would appreciate it if you could take five minutes to [respond to our survey](#) before **January 16**. If you prefer, you can also provide feedback in a virtual 60-minute synchronous discussion on January 19 at 2:00 p.m. EST, for which you can [register](#) here.

How We Set Our Annual Budget

The OPC's department leads, senior team, Executive and Provincial Council all contribute to setting our annual budget. We start planning one year in advance. The first draft of the budget is based on the previous year's actual results and the current year's budget, driven by the priorities and actions in our strategic plan. It is presented to the Executive in January. They confirm whether we've captured all of our current plans and consider the possibility of new projects or events (bargaining, Ministry, advocacy) that should be taken into account. The next draft is presented to Provincial Council at our February meeting. Council then conducts "horizon gazing," anticipating opportunities and threats that need to be reflected. After final adjustments, the proposed budget is presented to Council at the May meeting for approval and implementation in the next fiscal year. Learn more about the process and information related to our budget.

Media

- [Marit Stiles will be the NDP's next leader](#)
- [Labour focus now shifts to teacher unions](#)
- [Hamilton trustees pass temporary indoor mask policy](#)
- [To solve youth violence, we need to move beyond policing and prison](#)
- [Ontario bill to better protect post-secondary students becomes law](#)
- [Toronto board rules out return of police in schools](#)
- [Government reaches tentative deal with Council of Educational Workers](#)

Queen's Park

There were questions in the House last week about [gender-based violence](#), [wait lists for children and youth mental health services](#), [government plans to help young learners catch up](#), and [school safety](#).

Bhutila Karpoche (NDP) introduced Bill 53, the [Right to Timely Mental Health and Addiction Care for Children and Youth Act](#). The bill would ensure that youth under 25 years of age, who need mental health or addiction services, receive access to the required service within 30 days.

The House is now in recess until February 21.