

President's Message

December 5, 2022

Violent Incidents in Schools

In recent years, our Protective Services Team has seen an increase in violent incidents in schools, with the recent alarming trend of incidents involving the use of a weapon to cause or threaten bodily harm. At the same time, P/VPs continue to navigate the complexities of human rights. Applying mitigating and other factors in student discipline has become subject to much debate and scrutiny. The PST advises Members to carefully review and follow all board policies and procedures related to student discipline. These policies are based on legislation and, if followed accurately, should attract support from board officials when challenged. Refer to our Tip Sheet on [Student Behaviour and Discipline](#), call the PST or consult with your supervisory officer and relevant board officers for advice and support.

Summit on Public Education in Canada – April 3 and 4, 2023

We are organizing a two-day [Summit on Public Education in Canada](#) to develop a vision for the future of K-12 education in Canada. The event will take place in Toronto, and its purpose will be to identify key challenges and possible solutions for education, with a broad vision for future ready students, leadership, anti-oppression and anti-colonialism, to which all Canadians can aspire. A paper summarizing the conversations and recommendations will be published following the event. Planning is underway and more information will be added to our website soon. We hope you can join us!

Bill 124

Last week, an Ontario court struck down Bill 124, the provincial wage restraint legislation passed in 2019. The Act limited the wages of public sector employees to 1% per year for 3 years. As you know, when we negotiated our provincial agreement with the government in 2021, we were bound by this legislation, so could not negotiate more than a 1% increase in salaries. The government has announced that it will appeal the ruling, so this issue will remain before the courts. We will continue to monitor the situation to determine if/when we can negotiate an appropriate remedy on your behalf.

Media

- [CUPE staff vote in favour of contract](#)
- [School boards to hold ratification vote on CUPE deal](#)
- [Bill 124, wage restraint legislation, struck down by Ontario court](#)
- [Premier won't use Notwithstanding Clause to fight Bill 124](#)
- [Child care workers push for higher pay](#)
- [Mandatory financial literacy classes may help students with real world](#)
- [Band member developed board game to support TRC studies](#)

- [Auditor says post-secondary sector operating without clear strategy](#)

Queen's Park

There were questions in the House last week about [conditions in the child welfare system](#), [mental health supports](#), [gender-based violence](#), [unconstitutionality of Bill 124](#), [skilled trades training](#) and the government's [child care strategy](#).