

## President's Message

June 19, 2023

### Pride Month

As we celebrate and acknowledge Pride Month, we know that many of you have faced challenges this year from some members of your school community related to activities, events and the flying of the pride flag. To demonstrate our support for the 2SLGBTQQIA+ community, both students and staff, [we released a statement](#) last week related to Pride Month. We want to reiterate our commitment to the dignity, respect, support and human rights of all students and staff in our schools, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

### Juneteenth

Today, African Americans celebrate [Juneteenth](#), marking emancipation from slavery and the struggle for Black people to be recognized as equally human. While not an official holiday in Canada, it is an important time to reflect on race, racial relations and education in our country as well, since we also have a history of colonialism, Black enslavement, EDI learning and racial equity. [This article](#) outlines many of those issues and is worth your time for a read.

### Financial Information on Our Website

As our current fiscal year concludes on June 30<sup>th</sup> and we get ready for year-end processes and audit, we want to remind you that financial information is available to Members in the [Finances section](#) of our website. You will find the past three years' [audited financial statements](#), the [2023-24 approved budget](#), the [fiscal process and timeline](#), [revenue sources](#) and [resources and reserves](#) policy outline.

### Quote to Ponder

*"The content of a book holds the power of education and it is with this power that we can shape our future and change lives."* – Malala Yousafzai

### Media

- [Some schools experimenting with cell phone bans](#)
- [Revolving door of teachers hurts First Nations schools](#)
- [Tensions continue in schools over policies around gender identity](#)
- [School with gender neutral washrooms receiving support and concern](#)
- [Government needs to spend millions for \\$10 child care plan to work](#)
- [Court ruling is human rights victory for international students](#)
- [Jump in apprentices as skilled trade shortage continues](#)
- [Anti-trans protests demonstrate need for safe zones around schools](#)

## **Queen's Park**

The House is in recess until September 25.