

## President's Message

June 5, 2023

### Continued Staff Shortages Advocacy

Last week, we sent another [letter to the Minister](#), this one also copied to the Premier, from the 3 provincial P/VP groups, regarding the ongoing issue of staff shortages in schools. We expressed our concern about recent announcements that have been made by the government to assist with recruitment, training, peer support and tuition relief for several professional sectors, but not for our sector. With the ongoing issues that all schools are experiencing in all employee groups, the sector is at a crisis point. We need the government to provide immediate attention to this very serious issue, offering the same supports and funding to address staffing shortages, recruitment and mental health. Our students, staff, families and communities deserve nothing less.

### Protective Services Team (PST) Update

As we approach the end of the school year, please remember to review and update your profile on [the OPC website](#) with your current school information, as well as updating your personal contact data. Your profile can be accessed by entering your OPC number and password and choosing the "My Profile" button on the top of the home page.

Should you have any questions or concerns or need support from our Protective Services Team with board requests for meetings, including Return to Work or investigation meetings, you are strongly encouraged to call us at 416-322-6600 or 1-800-701-2362 to speak with an Intake Consultant. John Bowyer, Laura Hodgins and Ann Pace have a wealth of school administrative experience and will provide immediate support to Members in need of assistance or information, and help you determine next steps, including a referral to Protective Services where appropriate.

### Quote to Ponder

*"Education is the premise of progress in every society, in every family."* – Kofi Annan

### Media

- [Government urged to intervene in board refusing to fly Pride flag](#)
- [First Nations schools stretched by limited resources and funding](#)
- [Retroactive pay on Bill 124 to cost government \\$1 billion](#)
- [Rehab hospital helps kids use computers to open up possibilities](#)
- [How principals can support students through a mental health crisis](#)
- [Principal brings U.S. students to Manitoba on journey of Indigenous discovery](#)
- [Premier questioned about Pride flag controversy](#)
- [Debate starts up again about defunding Catholic school boards](#)

- [Anti-pride protest leads to some student absences](#)

## **Queen's Park**

There were questions in the House last week about [violence in schools](#), [Pride flag at school board office](#), [anti-discrimination activities in schools](#), [curriculum changes](#) and the province's [Education Equity Action Plan](#).