

President's Message

March 20, 2023

Your Duty to Report

One of the many duties of OPC Members is to report abuse and/or neglect of children and youth. As a professional educator working and supporting others who work directly with students, **you have a legal and ethical duty** to report to a Children's Aid Society (CAS) when you have reasonable grounds to suspect that a child is or may be in need of protection.

Our Protective Services Team (PST) receives calls from Members who are, from time to time, uncertain about the circumstances under which to make such reports. The 2018 [Professional Advisory](#) of The Ontario College of Teachers states, "*When in doubt about whether to make a report, call your local children's aid society.*" [Our advisory on this issue](#) reminds you that **calls to a CAS or other child protection agency of a consultative nature should not be made**: a report is a report. The act of making a report under the CYFSA is, by nature, stressful. Members may seek support and guidance from their Superintendent, through their employee assistance programs or by calling our PST.

Summit on Public Education – Free Student Registration!

We are hosting the [Summit on Public Education in Canada](#) on April 3 and 4 to develop a vision for the future of K-12 education. Students are invited to join this important discussion at no cost. Their voices are an important aspect of our work as we seek to create anti-oppressive and anti-colonial learning environments. They will have the option to select segments throughout the two days. [Registration is now open](#). Please share this opportunity with K-12 students in your school community.

EDI Update

Thank you to those who responded to our call for new committee members. We appreciate the skills and knowledge offered and will keep all submissions for consideration for other potential vacancies. Welcome to Robert Durocher (Toronto), Lorraine Brown, (Thames Valley) and Jason Burt (Avon-Maitland) on the Advisory Committee; Anjali Bajaj (Toronto), Greg Maxton (Simcoe) and Sara Wellwood (Limestone) on the Recruitment, Retention and Advancement sub-committee; and Stephen Koshurba (Kawartha Pine-Ridge), Sripriya Rajan (York), Naya Markanastasakis (Ottawa-Carleton) and Lisa Collins (Near North) on the Policy and Governance sub-committee. [Find out more](#) about our sub-committees. Our affinity groups continue to meet: the Black Administrators group on March 20, the East-Asian group on March 29 and the Indo-Caribbean group on March 30. For details or to contact the hosts, [visit our website](#).

Quote to Ponder

"Children must be taught how to think, not what to think." – Margaret Mead

Media

- [Where is the due process for principals?](#) (Interview with Patsy Agard)
- [OPC defends staff placed on leave](#)
- [Mandatory tech credit coming for high school students](#) (OPC quoted)
- [Report by Toronto P/VPs highlights schools in crisis](#)
- [High school program will allow students to train for trades and earn a diploma](#)
- [“Absolute chaos” in the classroom](#)
- [As contract talks continue, underpaid EAs are struggling](#)
- [OSSTF: Privatization of education could be next](#)
- [Minister considers ban of TikTok in all schools](#)

Queen’s Park

There were questions in the House about [waiting list for autism treatment](#), [mental health treatment](#), [cap on wait times for children’s mental health services](#), [education funding](#), [under-spending of the education budget](#), [problems with Autism program](#), and [skills training](#).