

President's Message

May 15, 2023

EDI Update

It was great to see so many attendees at the VP Symposium last week. Participants engaged in conversations about anti-oppressive leadership, wellness and building their professional network. The keynote speaker, Curtis Carmichael, a young Black educator and social entrepreneur, reinforced the importance of the work we are doing to build the capacity of administrators to engage in anti-oppressive leadership. Many attendees and workshop leaders were part of our EDI-based committees, sub-committees, affinity spaces and focus groups. This supports our work by creating opportunities for leaders with diverse identities to see themselves represented in, and as being part of, the OPC.

EDI Affinity Groups

In the next few weeks, there are opportunities to participate in the following affinity groups: Indo-Caribbean Administrators – May 18, Black Administrators – May 24 and East-Asian Administrators – May 31. The Muslim Administrators group recently held an in-person session to celebrate the end of Ramadan. [Check the website](#) for updates on other groups and to get links for scheduled sessions.

International School Leadership within OPC

There has been an update to the operation for International School Leadership (ISL), initially created as a subsidiary of the OPC. An Advisory Group was formed by our Provincial Council to review ISL's business activities and determine the organizational direction. Following a recommendation by the Advisory Group, a motion to bring international work into the OPC as a distinct department was approved by Council. The Advisory Group identified [five goals that responded to why it was important for the OPC to be involved](#) in international work. Our staff continues to work with the Advisory Group and other partners on different aspects of international work, including identifying ways in which Members can be more involved.

Quote to Ponder

"Never be afraid to try something new. Remember, amateurs built the ark, but professionals built the Titanic." – Unknown author

Media

- [Toronto police close investigation into school, conclude no racism](#)
- [Minister orders boards to allow police officers in schools](#)
- [How to become a self-aware school leader](#)
- [Having a child with mental illness taught me love can be unlovely](#)
- [Ban on phones leads to improved grades and social skills](#)

- [Later school start time leads to improved student mental health](#)
- [Ministry rejects plan for 4-day school week](#)
- [Schedule changes in Yukon schools give students more time on the land](#)
[Staff shortages creating extra stress and work for schools](#)

Queen's Park

There were questions in the House about [mental health literacy for students](#) and [demand for skilled tradespeople](#).