

President's Message

May 23, 2023

End Dates for Long-term Disability (LTD) Coverage

There are five LTD options available under our OPC Benefits plan. LTD1, 2 and 5 provide coverage up to the earlier of age 65, the date you retire or eligibility for a 70% unreduced pension (after 35 years of qualifying service). LTD 3 and 4 provide coverage up to your 85 factor (age plus working experience). The eligibility factor that comes first will determine when your option expires. Until we receive written notice that you have reached one of the factors and request cancellation of your coverage, premium deductions, which are non-refundable, will continue. Visit the [Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan website](#) to verify your eligibility. Your benefits profile is accessible via your profile on [our website](#) (login is required). Contact us at opcbenefits@principals.ca for more information.

Response to Bill 98

Last week, [we submitted a response to the ministry](#) with our feedback about Bill 98, [Better Schools and Student Outcomes Act](#). We expressed our concerns about several areas of the bill, as the proposed legislation appears to undermine the authority of school boards to make decisions based on local contexts and needs. While standardizing processes can increase efficiency, it can also limit a board's ability to provide responsive, community-specific learning environments for all students. The proposed legislation may further erode public trust in the public education system and in the expertise of board and school staff at a time when the education sector is facing recruitment and retention issues in almost all employee groups. We have asked that additional consultations be held with education sector workers, and that the process to pass this bill be slowed down to avoid enacting legislation that would undermine current efforts of school boards to make the best decisions for their communities and students.

Quote to Ponder

"Education's purpose is to replace an empty mind with an open one." – Malcolm Forbes

Media

- [Widespread reluctance to accept senior positions at school boards](#)
- [Union reports 80% of elementary teachers experience school violence](#)
- [Improve schools by creating an impressive principal pipeline](#)
- [CMHA recommends banning of all gambling ads](#)
- [It's never too early or late to learn financial literacy](#)
- [Ontario Autism Coalition wants to know how many students with special needs are sent home](#)
- [Quebec Muslim groups sue government over prayer ban in schools](#)
- [Vaping among high school students drops](#)

Queen's Park

There were questions in the House last week about [wait list for Autism treatment](#), [violent incidents in schools](#), [school disruptions due to violent incidents](#), and [plans for additional child care spaces](#).