

President's Message

September 12, 2022

PST Update and Reminders

As we start a new school year, please remember to review and update your profile on [the OPC website](#) with 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 screen.

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.

Request for Re-Employment Without Pension Penalty

During the past two years, the three provincial P/VP associations (OPC, CPCO and ADFO) requested that the OTF increase the 50-day re-employment rule to 95-days without penalty for OTPP retirees. As a result, many retirees returned to schools to support colleagues and students. While the impact of COVID-19 on the coming school year remains uncertain, we are already hearing from P/VPs that staffing challenges remain among OTPP members. Last week, we [sent a letter](#) to OTF, renewing our request for a further, temporary increase for the 2022-2023 school year.

Mental Health Resources

[School Mental Health Ontario](#) has released a [Mentally Healthy Back to School Support Package](#) to support the mental health of all students as they return to school. The kit includes updates to key resources such as [The First Ten Days](#), [Start Well](#), [Listen, Believe and Act](#), and [How to Support a Mentally Healthy Back to School for Your Child](#). There are also practical, evidence-informed resources including tip sheets, info sheets, lesson plans, social media shareables, videos, guides, reflection tools and a comprehensive PD Day slide deck ready to be implemented and customized to local needs and priorities. We hope these resources are helpful to you.

Media

- [Vision development an essential element of children's literacy](#)
- [Teens missing routine immunizations shots](#)
- [Legal clinic leveling the playing field for Black students](#)
- [Staff shortages, masking concerns loom over back-to-school excitement](#)

- [Unions raise concern about lifting of 5-day isolation rule](#)
- [Excitement and security as we gear up for new school year](#)
- [How de-implementation can curb educator burnout](#)
- [As students return to the classroom, mental health needs remain high](#)

Queen's Park

There were questions in the House about [mental health and addiction services, catch-up learning for students, hiring of more education workers, mental health and addiction services, catch up funding directly to schools, preparing students for jobs of future, disruption to school year](#) and [Minister's comments about labour negotiations](#).