

## President's Message

August 28, 2023

### Welcome Back!

My name is Ralph Nigro and I am the OPC Provincial President for 2023-24. I want to welcome you all back to a new school year. I hope you are returning to your schools after having spent some down time with family and friends. Now it's time to re-open our school doors for our students, staff and school communities. A special welcome to all the new OPC Members who have joined our association since June! We are here to support you in your new role. Please reach out to our staff if you have any questions. You'll find information about all our services and supports [on our website](#). Please watch this [video](#) so I can introduce myself more personally.

### Bargaining Update

As you know, our Provincial Terms and Conditions agreement will expire on August 31. Representatives from the OPC, CPCO and ADFO will work together to represent principals and vice-principals from across the province during negotiations. The Crown and Trustee Associations have indicated a preference to complete their negotiations with the teacher and staff unions before bargaining with us. We will, however, continue the work of our provincial subcommittees including Benefits, Compensation and Recruitment & Retention. We are currently working on developing a list of the items that will be our priorities at the bargaining table. To collect this data from Members, a survey is being developed, which you can expect to receive in the next 4-6 weeks. We encourage you to respond, as your input and suggestions will form the basis of our planning going forward. If you have any comments about the process, please email [negotiations2023@principals.on.ca](mailto:negotiations2023@principals.on.ca). Further updates will be provided when they are available.

### Professional Learning Webinar Series

Our [monthly webinar series](#) kicks off with a series on the Human Rights Code with the Ontario Human Rights Commission (OHRC) facilitating presentations on Human Rights 101 and Human Rights Issues in Schools. This webinar series is free for Members and Associates. Sign up to join us!

- Session 1: Human Rights 101 on September 19 from 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. EDT
- Session 2: Human Rights Issues in Schools on October 10 from 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. EDT

### Quote to Ponder

*"A new school year is a beacon of the hope we have for the future."* – Love to Know

### Media

- [Reforming Indigenous education](#)

- [Secondary school teachers to hold vote on proposal that would avoid strike](#)
- [Greetings students in their mother tongues](#)
- [Teachers settle labour complaint over early reading screening tool](#)
- [The history of drag queen storytime in schools](#)
- [Teachers call for strike votes as bargaining stalls](#)
- [Ottawa considers cap on international students to ease housing pressures](#)

## **Queen's Park**

The House is in recess until September 25.