

President's Message

September 11, 2023

Protective Services Resources for Members

Our Protective Services Team (PST) provides professional and legal advice, support and advocacy for a variety of employment-related matters. In addition to direct contact with PST staff, we encourage OPC Members to access and take advantage of our numerous resources available online through [our website](#). For new Members, we encourage you to review the many valuable Tip Sheets available there, accessible by logging in using your membership number. One Tip Sheet in particular that we would like to highlight for all Members as a new school year begins is [Communications](#). This resource summarizes key information with respect to Privacy; Defamation, Libel and Slander; Electronic; Social Media; and Media Relations. Call our PST for advice and support on all matters related to communications, including, but not limited to, those listed above.

Public Statements

In late August, Education Minister Stephen Lecce made a statement indicating that he believes parents must be fully involved in decisions if their child chooses to use a different pronoun at school. The comments followed new policies and legislation in Saskatchewan and New Brunswick that will require parental consent if students choose to change their name and/or pronouns at school. While we believe that the ideal situation would include parents and guardians in the conversations and decision making, we support current school board policy that centers the students in the process and honours their right to self-identify, even when parental consent is not given, to support an equitable and inclusive learning environment. Our public statement on this issue, released August 29, can be found [here](#).

We also [released a statement](#) on September 5, calling on the government and school boards to make the well-being of principals and vice-principals a priority as we begin a new school year.

Principal Profile

As part of our 25th Anniversary celebration year, we want to continue highlighting our Members through our Principal Profile campaign. We are looking for P/VPs who are interested in taking part. Your name, school, board and a picture would be used in a social media post, along with a question that highlights your role and responsibilities, as a way to help the public understand who you are and what you do. The campaign will start in the Fall. If you are interested in taking part, please email psweeney@principals.ca.

Quote to Ponder

"The fundamental pillars of school leadership are relationships; nothing substitutes for building and nurturing them." – Joanne Rooney

Media

- [Premier says parents need to be informed about pronouns](#)
- [LGBTQ+ youth weigh in on pronoun controversy](#)
- [Staffing shortages turn educators away from leadership](#)
- [What's causing the teacher shortage across the country?](#)
- [Early reading screening requires more resources](#)
- [School boards grappling with use of AI in classrooms](#)
- [Parents for Education Report – how wealth affects access to extracurriculars](#)

Queen's Park

The House is in recess until September 25.