

## President's Message

September 25, 2023

### Staff Shortages Poll

Thank you to those who have already taken the time to respond to our poll on staff shortages. We're using the poll to collect up-to-date data on staffing issues, as we have heard that they continue to cause challenges in schools. If you have not done so, please [respond to the poll](#) by midnight Sunday October 1 if you are currently working in a school. We are asking you to provide your best estimates regarding staff shortages, based on an average week in September. Thank you for your prompt attention to this very important issue.

### Notice of Annual General Meeting

The [Annual General Meeting](#) of the Ontario Principals' Council will be held on **Thursday, October 19, 2023**, beginning at **9:30 a.m. EDT**. It is open to all OPC Members. You are invited to participate virtually via Zoom using this link: <https://zoom.us/j/178944248>. Please note that only Provincial Councillors are permitted to make or second motions and to vote. The meeting agenda includes approval of the 2023-2024 Provincial Councillors as Directors of the OPC, receipt of the 2022-2023 Audited Financial Statements, appointment of the Auditors and any other business in accordance with the Constitution.

### Membership and Group Benefits Applications Due

All **newly appointed administrators** must submit their OPC [membership application](#) within 60 calendar days of their appointment. If your appointment date was September 1, you must submit your application by **October 31**. Failure to do so will result in a loss of historical protective services coverage for any employment-related event or circumstance that arose or occurred prior to becoming an OPC Member. For more information, contact [membership@principals.ca](mailto:membership@principals.ca).

Members in boards\* participating in the OPC Benefits plan must also submit their [Group Benefits application](#) for Long-term Disability Insurance (LTDI) by **October 31**. Premiums will be retroactive to the date of appointment. Medical evidence of good health and Insurer's approval will be required if the application forms are received after October 31. Members who did not have LTDI coverage up to their date of appointment may be required to provide medical evidence. For more information, contact [opcbenefits@principals.ca](mailto:opcbenefits@principals.ca).

\*Boards participating in the OPC Benefits Plan include Algoma, Bluewater, **Durham**, Grand Erie, **Greater Essex**, Halton, Hamilton-Wentworth, **Lakehead**, Lambton Kent, Near North, Niagara, **Ottawa-Carlton**, Peel, Rainy River, **Rainbow**, Renfrew, Simcoe, **Superior-Greenstone**, Toronto, **Trillium Lakelands**, Upper Canada, **Upper Grand**, Waterloo Region and York. (Boards where LTD coverage is mandatory are shown in bold font.)

## Quote to Ponder

*“Children are apt to live up to what you believe of them.”* – Lady Bird Johnson

## Media

- [Debate over pronouns pits parents against children rights](#)
- [Protesters and counter-protesters hit the streets across Canada](#)
- [Union wants Premier to speak about anti-LGBTQ vandalism](#)
- [How to get more students in new First Nations school](#)
- [Youth made more visits to hospital during Covid-19 for self-harm](#)
- [1 in 4 adolescents have been cyberbullied](#)
- [The school-work skills gap](#)

## Queen’s Park

The House resumes sitting today.