

President's Message

December 2, 2019

Labour Disruption

In addition to the job action begun by OSSTF last Tuesday, we know that many of you may be further impacted as a result of the decision by OSSTF to stage a walk-out on Wednesday if a deal is not reached by then. This will impact all our high schools and some elementary schools. We encourage you to ensure you have read all directions provided by your board and follow them. Please reach out to your SO if you have any questions about what you should/shouldn't be doing this week. As always, these are not easy situations for principals and vice-principals, so make sure you are seeking assistance where and if necessary. Please take care of yourself and each other.

Public Opinion Poll on Education Issues

Last week, the Ontario Public School Boards' Association, representing public school trustees, released the results of a survey conducted by Nanos research on education-related issues. The results indicated that 60% of Ontarians say it is more important to spend on education than eliminate the deficit, two in three oppose using tax dollars to fund private education, nearly 2/3 think funding for education should be set based on number of students and inflation, a majority agree that spending on public education is an investment in the future, nine in 10 say it is important to invest in school maintenance and repairs, almost 90% think mental health support is important and a majority of Ontarians support expanding opportunities for learning skilled trades. The [full survey report](#) is provided for your information and review.

New Administrator Webinar Series

We are inviting newly appointed vice-principals/ principals to participate in free professional learning designed to meet the needs of today's school leaders. [A webinar series](#) is now available to provide more information about the OPC and to support you in your new role throughout the school year. The first one will be held on December 11, 2019.

Media

- [Government consultation shows parents overwhelmingly reject larger class sizes](#)
- [Down to the wire talks to be held to avoid one-day strike](#)
- [We are disappointingly far from reaching a deal](#)
- [Majority of Ontarians oppose larger class sizes to save money](#)
- [Minister promises to keep FDK in place](#)
- [Students learn to sink or swim](#)
- [Minister announced measures to target bullying](#)

- [How to integrate students with special needs into regular classrooms](#)
- [Student teachers question new mandatory math test](#)

Queen's Park

There were questions in the House last week about the [capital school repair backlog](#), [court decision on postsecondary student fees](#), [funding cuts to education](#), [over capacity classrooms](#), [funding for autism treatment](#), [support for teachers](#) and the [status of teacher negotiations](#).

France Gelinas (NDP) introduced [Bill 151](#), *Smoke-Free Ontario Amendment Act*, which would prohibit the promotion of vapour products.

Kaleed Rasheed (PC) introduced [Bill 154](#), *Stop Cyberbullying in Ontario Day Act*, which would proclaim the third Friday in June each year as Stop Cyberbullying Day.