

# President's Message

## Update on School Re-Openings

Last week the Minister indicated that the government has received no further advice from the Medical Officer of Health about when schools should re-open. Until then, we continue to work in the Learn-at-Home environment. You should continue to stay in touch with your senior administration on a regular basis for any updates or any new protocols that it may put in place.

## Legislation Introduced Around Suspensions/Expulsions

On April 14, the Ontario Legislature sat to pass legislation related to the COVID19 pandemic. One piece of legislation that passed was the [Support and Protection Act](#) amending the *Education Act*. It includes the following:

The *Education Act* is also being amended to provide a fair and consistent, provincewide approach to addressing school suspensions and expulsions. During the closure period and with the physical distancing requirements, it is not feasible for boards to complete investigations and hold expulsion hearings. To guarantee procedural fairness for students, especially where the principal's investigation may lead to a recommendation for an expulsion hearing, the amendment extends the timeline for principals and boards to carry out investigations and expulsion hearings for these students up to 20 school days after the school closure order ends, and when schools re-open. The amendment will help protect the safety and security of students and staff upon the reopening of schools.

## Wellness for School Leaders Webinars

We are providing Members with opportunities for growth focused on wellness and mental health. In these free 60-minute webinars, experts will provide strategies to lead during this challenging time. Upcoming speakers include Mark Henick and Drew Dudley. Our next webinar is Thursday April 30 at 2:00 pm EST. Check out the [Wellness for School Leaders](#) page for more information, registration and to access the recordings available for a limited time.

And for your daily smile, check out this rendition of ["I Will Survive"](#) by Andy Orr, the principal of Harrisfield Public School in Ingersoll!

## Media

- [OSSTF/Government reach tentative deal](#)
- [How different provinces have handles school closures](#)
- [Managing at-home learning expectations](#)
- [Supporting special needs students - virtually](#)
- [Gr 12 students say COVID19 shutdowns adding to their worries](#)
- [Online schooling not a smooth transition for parents](#)
- [What will school look like after COVID19?](#)

**Queen's Park**

The House has been adjourned until May 12.