

President's Message

April 6, 2020

Our Work For You Continues

Following the Minister's announcement last week extending school closures through the month of April, our physical office will remain closed until Monday May 4. Our staff are continuing to work offsite to respond to Member needs and OPC operations. If you need assistance, please call 416-322-6600 or 1-800-701-2362 and [check our website for updates](#).

At-home/Distance Learning

Last week was a busy one following the Minister's announcement of the second phase of the [Learn at Home](#) program. You have likely been advised by your board about expectations for the coming weeks in terms of access to your building, getting technology into the hands of students, accessing online resources, connecting students with their teachers, assessment and evaluation and other issues arising during this time.

We know this is not business as usual or an ideal way of teaching or learning. You have probably heard many concerns and questions from staff and families about how this will work. Students and their families, particularly those in the higher grades, are understandably anxious about how this will impact the current year and their schooling going forward. None of us have been here before and we don't know all the challenges that will arise. But as school leaders, we need to model flexibility, patience and leadership during this time, to the best of our ability. If you have any concerns about your or your staff's personal safety, bring those to the attention of your board. Let's all try to do the best we can during this very challenging time. Our OPC team is here to assist if you need any advice or counsel.

Free Professional Online Learning

Our free [Just in Time Learning](#) is now available and includes workshops, webinars and group discussions daily at 8:00 am EST for you to come together with colleagues.

We are also offering a [Wellness for School Leaders Webinar Series](#) over the next five weeks. Each 60-minute webinar will feature leaders providing strategies for this unique time. Experts featured in this series include Andrew Miki, Robyne Hanley-Dafoe, Dr. Shimi Kang, Drew Dudly and Mark Henick. [Resources and recordings](#) for most of these offerings are available to Members.

Twitter Chat

Our next Twitter chat will take place this **Thursday April 9, from 8:00 – 9:00 pm EST**. The topic will be Leading During Challenging Times, with a special focus on the unique situation we are in during this pandemic with schools closed. To take part, sign into Twitter at 8:00 pm, enter

#OPCchat in the search Twitter box in the upper right corner, introduce yourself once the moderator joins and include #OPCchat with all your comments. We hope you can join us!

Media

- [Premier accuses teachers of holding province hostage](#)
- [Underfunded schools turning to international tuition for help](#)
- [Labour issues obscured by rhetoric, statistics and spin](#)
- [Support workers feeling forsaken by union](#)
- [How will this labour standoff actually end?](#)
- [Schools role in slowing spread of coronavirus](#)
- [Government climbs down on class sizes and changes e-learning requirements](#)
- [Invest in early childhood education or risk falling behind](#)

Queen's Park

There were questions in the House last week about [releasing the results of the government's public consultations](#), [boards putting staffing decisions on hold](#), [e-learning](#), [capital funding for school repairs](#), [funding for mental health and addiction services](#), [new proposals for online learning](#), [government position on strike issues](#), [cost of child care](#), [ongoing labour strikes](#), [funding for autism treatment](#) and [class sizes for e-learning](#).