

President's Message

December 16, 2019

Request to Minister to Suspend Activities

As labour negotiations continue with the unions, we know that there are additional responsibilities that you are taking on. [We have sent the Minister a letter](#) asking him to suspend the activities associated with EQAO and to proactively agree on some strategies to replace report cards unless or until union staff are again performing their regular duties. We hope that by streamlining these additional duties, you will be better able to concentrate on the duties you need to support students.

Labour Action Resources

As labour action continues, we also want to remind you of some of the resources available on our website, including

[An Overview of Labour Relations within the School System](#)

[Labour Disputes: Strikes, Lockouts and Work-to-Rule](#)

[Tension Between Freedom of Expression and the Duty of Loyalty](#)

We continue to rely on your information about the issues you are facing as a result of job action. Please share your concerns, as well as productive strategies that you find are working in your board, with your District Chair or Provincial Councillors, as they are collecting the information for local and provincial advocacy purposes. If you require advice or support, please call the Protective Services Team at 416-322-6600 or 1-800-701-2362.

GoodLife Fitness Membership

You can now register or renew your GoodLife membership through the Edvantage website. If you already participate in the Edvantage program through TSAA or OCT, enrol through your existing Edvantage partnership.

- You will need your [OPC number](#) and last name as it appears on your OPC record
- Visit [Edvantage](#) and go to the [GoodLife discount page](#)
- Login with your OPC number (your Edvantage number) and your last name
- Click the link to begin your registration
- On the GoodLife registration page, login with your existing GoodLife credentials or select "new member"
- Enter "Edvantage – OPC" in the Company/Organization field
- Enter your OPC number as your Edvantage number and your last name
- Follow the rest of the registration process.

You will also receive an email from our Membership Services with further details including how to retrieve your OPC number.

OPC Strategic Plan

Do you want to know more about our Strategic Plan? What it is? How it was developed? How it impacts you? [Listen to our podcast](#) with Executive Director Allyson Otten as she explains the history and background of the plan.

Happy Holidays!

We are nearing the time for some well-deserved rest and relaxation, time with family and friends, time to recharge and unwind. However you celebrate, we wish you and your family a wonderful holiday season and a Happy New Year. Merry Christmas! Happy Hanukkah! Happy Kwanzaa!

Media

- [Teacher unions launch court challenge against wage cap legislation](#)
- [Talks resume between government and OSSTF](#)
- [E-learning conversation hasn't addressed students with special needs](#)
- [Board of health recommends tax on vaping products to discourage use](#)
- [Teacher absences cost boards \\$649 million](#)
- [Minister claims OSSTF proposals would cost \\$7 billion over 4 years](#)
- [Government appeals postsecondary student fee ruling](#)

Queen's Park

There were questions in the House last week about [cuts to education](#), [teacher walkout](#), [appeal of post-secondary student fees](#), [access to autism services](#), [OSSTF strike](#) and [youth suicide](#).

Michael Coteau (L) introduced [Bill 160](#), Use of Seclusion and Physical Restraints. The bill would require the Minister to establish policies and guidelines on the use of seclusion and physical restraints in schools.

The House is now in recess until February 18.