President’s Message  
January 27, 2020

Labour Situation  
As the labour strikes by teacher and support staff unions continue, we know that you are  
working hard to maintain a productive learning environment in your school, to the extent you  
can. We have written another letter to the Minister, urging him to get the parties back to the  
table, outlining our support for some of the issues that are part of the discussions and urging a  
moratorium on requests for you to collect certain data at this time. Last Friday, we also released  
a statement about report cards, affirming the difficult decision boards had to make and  
explaining why it would not be possible for principals and vice-principals alone to complete those  
responsibilities. While the situation remains challenging and in flux, we encourage you to do  
what you can, report any particularly difficult situations and keep your focus, as always, on the  
students.

Keeping You Informed  
As part of our strategic plan to enhance Member engagement, we are reworking the President’s  
Message to include a dedicated section each week focused on professional learning, benefits  
and membership, protective services and how our finances work. Watch for these “Keeping You  
Informed“ sections, which will provide you with timely and topical information about your  
organization and key resources designed to support you in the role.

Keeping You Informed – Benefits and Membership  
Is this Your Retirement Year?  
If you are retiring at the end of this school year, email membership@principals.ca with your  
retirement date so that we can record your employment status change. Your school board does  
not share retirement information with us. Also, review your OPC Benefits Profile (login is  
required). If you have LTD coverage, you are not eligible to maintain it after retirement. To  
request termination, complete and submit page one of the Application to Terminate Insurance  
Coverage form to OPC Benefits. Premiums are non-refundable. For boards where LTD is a  
condition of employment, proof of retirement will be required prior to termination.

If you have optional insurance (life, accidental death and dismemberment), indicate on page two  
of the Application to Terminate Insurance Coverage form whether you wish to terminate or  
maintain the coverage. You can do this up to age 70, if you become an OPC Associate within 30  
days of your retirement. If your premiums were paid through payroll deduction, after retirement  
you must complete the Pre-authorized Debit Agreement and submit a void cheque for premium  
withdrawal from your bank account.

We also have a tip sheet about retirement for more items for you to consider.
Media

- **Unions say they may have to escalate job action if government doesn’t budget**
- **“These years are critical” – students in impact of teacher strikes**
- **Parents take centre stage as unions, government continue on collision course**
- **FDK a priority in current labour talks**
- **The PR battle in the current education fight**
- **Eco anxiety among children**
- **Students need more interaction with teachers, not less**
- **Government extends autism funding until new program in place**

**Queen’s Park**

The House is in recess until February 18.