

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.