

President's Message

June 1, 2020

Ministry Updates

Last week the ministry released memos on [assessment, evaluation and reporting](#); [personal property retrieval](#); [continuity of learning for students with special education needs](#); and [summer school and summer learning opportunities](#). Please make sure you are checking with your board senior administration team for any local guidelines around these memos.

Efforts to End Racism

It was a tough week last week, watching the horror of a Black man dying violently and unnecessarily at the hands of a police officer. The events since, with protests and more violence, remind us that the fight against racism must continue. We must acknowledge the impact of historical and current practices of anti-Black racism and the continued effects they have on Black people today. We also have the responsibility to monitor our own actions and words, and understand their impact on all in order to recognize and interrupt overt and unconscious bias. We must also use this as another opportunity to reflect on these events and the impact they have in our schools through our own professional learning. As educators and school leaders, we need to increase our own understanding of systemic oppression and act to dismantle policies and practices that exist in our schools.

If adults are feeling anxious about the events, we know that students are as well. Unfortunately, the pandemic makes it even more difficult for us to reach out and support students who are struggling and confused with what is happening in their world. We all need to be aware that current events may trigger anger, sadness, confusion and fear in our students, our staff and ourselves. We encourage you to reach out to the families in your school community, help your staff do the same and share any resources your board may have to assist. At the OPC, we have work to do, not only in terms of our structure, but also in the way we assist you in your role. We are committed to listening, learning and engaging to ensure equity, inclusion and diversity are priorities for our organization.

Provincial Council Highlights

Due to school closures, we were unable to hold our May Provincial Council in-person meeting. Instead, we held two Council webcasts in April and are sharing [highlights of those webcasts](#) with you.

Calls for Expressions of Interest - T&C Support Consultants

On August 31, 2020, our provincial and local terms and conditions agreements will expire. We are once again enhancing our delivery model for Terms and Conditions support by adding four T&C Support Consultants (TCSC) as part-time, independent contractors. This role will involve

providing direct advice and support to district T&C representatives as they implement provincially negotiated provisions locally, negotiate additional local provisions and assist with the initiation of dispute resolution and impasse processes. Each TCSC will work closely with assigned districts under the direction and supervision of our Protective Services Team. [Expressions of interest](#) will be accepted until the end of the business day Friday, June 26, 2020.

Media

- [Lessons learned in Quebec on going back to school](#)
- [Ministry asking for advice on school re-openings](#)
- [We must reach for something larger when schools re-open](#)
- [Call for free child care as economy re-opens](#)
- [Final report cards could be mailed or emailed](#)
- [Youth mental health deteriorating under pandemic](#)
- [Toronto teachers told to boost weekly contact with students](#)

Queen's Park

The House sat for two days last week. Most of the questions related to long-term care and the pandemic. There was a question about [expectations for synchronous learning](#).