

President's Message

June 29, 2020

Thank You

It's hard to believe that my year as President is coming to a close. What a year it has been - a unique year, with unique challenges. Certainly not the year I imagined, but still one that will have a long-lasting impact on me as an education leader.

When I was first elected, a colleague advised me to identify one thing I wanted to achieve. Since we were going to be in negotiations by August 2020, this was the area I chose. I wanted to ensure our Members had a clear understanding of what issues could be discussed and that our Provincial Council was aware of what our membership wanted us to focus on. I decided to gather this information through my district visits, and was able to participate in 14 before labour disruption and then the pandemic hit. I can assure you that your voices will be heard, and you will play a part in determining the focus of our upcoming negotiations. Our incoming president, Ann Pace, will ensure this happens.

I want to thank the amazing team at the OPC office for the support they have given me this year, and to highlight what an amazing group of individuals they are. Some are educators, some are not, but all are fully committed to our Members and our students. We are very lucky to have such a dedicated team.

Now, to thank all of you – my P/VP colleagues across the province. Having been a principal for almost 20 years and a member of Council for 7, I have been incredibly blessed to represent and advocate for you, a caring and dedicated group of individuals. Despite the challenges we faced this year, I was humbled by how you went above and beyond to meet the needs of your students, staff and community. Your commitment to ensuring every student has the opportunity and support to succeed has been never more obvious. It has been an honour to have been your president during this time. I have taken my lead from you, and have made every effort to be a strong voice and advocate for you and our students. We have increased our public image and our currency with the ministry, our partners in education and the general public. I know that we will continue to build on this in the years to come. In addition, you have challenged me and the OPC to continue on our equity journey, through the establishment of our Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee. There is much work to be done, but we are committed to walk this journey with you.

As we look to September, there are many unknowns and much still to do. My hope is that all of you find time this summer to rejuvenate and be with those you love. We will be key to the successful return to school. It is imperative that you take care of yourselves, before you can take care of others.

All the best,
Nancy

Media

- [The OPC speaks about challenges administrators are facing in the fall](#) (29:45)
- [Should we still have police in schools?](#)

- [Black parents having “the talk” with kids to prepare them for racism](#)
- [Rising rates of COVID in children spark concerns about school re-opening](#)
- [New back to basics math curriculum released](#)
- [Help for anxious young people to cope with COVID19](#)
- [Lack of school structure putting children’s mental health at risk](#)

Queen’s Park

The House sat for two days last week. There were questions about [mental health and addiction services](#), [ministry back to school plans](#), [GSN funding](#) and the [new math curriculum](#).