

President's Message

March 23, 2020

I hope you had the chance to get some R&R in during March Break, although in a very different way than you were likely intending. As we start our “working from home” assignment, remember to check in with your board regarding any direction or expectations it may have for you during this time. To keep you updated about current events, we have added a new section on our website called [Covid-19](#), where we have posted messages and shared updates from ministry, government and stakeholders, and added resources for home use.

Last week, discussions took place with the Minister about how this closure would affect school activities going forward. We provided a number of questions and concerns, and reiterated our desire to see EQAO testing suspended. We were pleased to hear the Minister announce that [all remaining standardized testing for 2020 has been cancelled](#), waiving the OSSLT requirement for students eligible for graduation this year. He also announced the first phase of [Learn at Home](#), an online portal with math and literacy resources for students, and released a [letter to parents](#) reiterating the government's actions and plans during this time.

Professional Learning Online – Give us your input

During these challenging and unprecedented times, while schools are temporarily closed, we want to gauge your interest in taking part in online PL while you work from home. Please complete this [short survey](#) by **Friday March 27th** to help us better understand your needs and plan accordingly. The survey will be accessible to each Member one time.

Free Online Course – The Ripple Effect

We have partnered with Dr. Greg Wells to offer you free access to his online course “The Ripple Effect.” This course is intended to support wellness development through a variety of small steps toward better sleep, smarter eating, increased activity and clearer thinking. [Register](#) for the online course free of charge.

We know this is a trying time. You are likely working and taking care of family and/or friends and yourself at this time. You've also been asked to engage in social distancing, which can be lonely and difficult. While none of us knows when this will end, we do encourage you to virtually reach out to others, safely take walks and get some fresh air and ensure you are focusing on your own mental and physical health. Please take care and stay safe.

Media

- [ETFO reaches tentative agreement with government/school boards](#)
- [What education in Ontario might look like after Covid-19](#)

- [Online courses available for students during school shutdown](#)
- [Parents adjusting to challenges of working from home with kids](#)
- [OSSTF suspending strike action during pandemic](#)
- [Parents don't have to be teachers but learning can continue](#)
- [Kids Help Phone calling for more volunteers as call numbers increase](#)

Queen's Park

The House met for a short sitting last week to pass legislation related to the operational aspects of the pandemic. There was no Question Period.