President’s Message
May 11, 2020

Ministry Updates
Last week, the ministry released a memo updating continuity of learning during the school closure period. It addresses the desire for more synchronous learning, access to technology, professional development, summer learning and communicating with parents. The government has also approved an emergency order that would enable school board employees to be redeployed, voluntarily, to help out in hospitals long-term care homes, retirement homes and women’s shelters while the pandemic continues. Finally, we are expecting an announcement this week about the date for school re-openings.

Twitter Chat
Our next Twitter chat will take place this Thursday May 14, from 8:00 – 9:00 pm EST. The topic will be Maintaining Wellness and Well-being During Challenging Times. To take part, sign into Twitter at 8:00 pm, enter #OPCchat in the search Twitter box in the upper right corner, introduce yourself once the moderator joins and include #OPCchat with all your comments. We hope you can join us!

Just in Time Professional Learning
We are continuing to bring you Just in Time Professional Learning. Moving forward, our Friday sessions will be dedicated to reading an article and then discussing the content as a group. These sessions will be facilitated by Nadine Trépanier-Bisson, Director of Professional Learning. We understand how busy you are and will provide time at the beginning of the session to read the article. We also have just released additional book clubs if you are interested in taking part.

People for Education Report
Last week, People for Education released a report about technology in schools. It looks at the need for future-ready skills, access to technology, online learning, devices in schools, internet connectivity, supporting STEM education and recommendations for making schools future-ready. The report is based on responses from principals, so you may be interested in the results.

Media

- Government still working on plan for rest of school year
- What the new normal might look like in Quebec schools
- Quebec Premier impatient with delayed re-opening of schools
- Colleges and universities prepare to take classes online for fall
- Students will need additional emotional support when classes resume
• Parents noticing a change in their children’s behaviour as a result of pandemic
• P4E study shows inequity of online learning
• Students need more live, virtual time with their class
• As schools re-open, what role do children play in spread of virus?

Queen’s Park
The House has been adjourned until May 12.