

# President's Message

## November 25, 2019

### Labour Update

We know that with the start of work-to-rule tomorrow, this will be a challenging week for you. Make sure you read and follow all direction from your board. Understand what you can and cannot do during this time as a member of the “management” team. Reach out to your colleagues for support or assistance. And remember that this is not a personal campaign against you – the unions are trying to make the school day more difficult as a way to increase the pressure at their bargaining tables. Teachers are valued members of our team. When this is over, we all have to work together again for the sake of our students. If you have any questions about the labour disruption, call your SO or reach out to our Protective Services Team. We will also be staying in touch with your Provincial Councillor to monitor any particularly difficult situations so that we can advocate on your behalf at this time. Thank you for your continued commitment and dedication to our students.

### Taking or Returning from a Leave? Let us Know

If you started a leave of absence this school year, contact [Membership Services](#) to ensure your membership is not interrupted. Interruptions may disentitle you to historical protective services coverage and eligibility for OPC Group Benefits (LTD, Life, AD&D). In most cases, [applying for Associate status](#) will maintain your membership in good standing. Some leaves such as parental/pregnancy or long-term disability may qualify for a waiver of membership fees. Documentation from your board or insurer will be required.

If you have returned to work from a leave of absence, notify [Membership Services](#) to update your membership status, if you have not already done so. If you cancelled your LTD coverage during the leave, you will need to reapply for coverage. Medical evidence of good health and insurer's approval may be required. Email [OPC Benefits](#) for more information or to request the application package.

### People for Education Survey

People for Education is collecting responses for its Annual Ontario School Survey, which helps to ensure that policy-makers and the public have an accurate picture of the successes and challenges occurring in our schools. This year's survey is now [available online](#). The number of challenges, policy and funding changes you are facing make this survey especially important. If you have any questions, please email [asia@peopleforeducation.ca](mailto:asia@peopleforeducation.ca).

### Media

- [Teachers' work-to-rule campaign will have 'zero impact' on students, union says](#)
- [John Robson: What Ontario's education system teaches us: It needs changing](#)
- [Ontario parents wonder what has happened to the funding to help their autistic children](#)
- [Ontario high school teachers to start administrative work-to-rule campaign Tuesday](#)
- [OSSTF launches work to rule as Ontario halves mandatory e-learning plan](#)
- [Ontario parents wonder what has happened to the funding to help their autistic children](#)
- [Minister of Education calls for Mediation](#)

## **Queen's Park**

There were questions in the House last week about [education funding](#), [anti-bullying initiatives](#), [Services for children with disabilities](#), [school bus safety](#), [class sizes](#) and [teacher bargaining](#).