

President's Message

October 15, 2019

Membership and Group Benefits Application Forms Due

A reminder for all newly appointed administrators to submit your [OPC membership application form](#) within 60 calendar days of appointment. If your appointment date was September 1, you must submit your application by October 31 to avoid a loss of historical protective services coverage for any employment-related event or circumstance that arose or occurred prior to becoming a Member. For more information please contact Membership Services at 416-322-6600, 1-800-701-2362 or membership@principals.ca.

Members in boards* participating in the OPC Benefits plan must also submit their [Group Benefits application](#) for Long-Term Disability Insurance (LTDI) by October 31. Premiums will be retroactive to the date of appointment. Medical evidence of insurability and Insurer's approval will be required if the application forms are received after October 31. Members who did not have LTDI coverage up to their date of appointment must submit medical evidence. For more information please contact OPC Benefits at 416-322-6600, 1-800-701-2362 or opcbenefits@principals.ca.

*Boards participating in the OPC Benefits Plan include Algoma, Bluewater, Durham, Grand Erie, Greater Essex, Halton, Hamilton- Wentworth, Lambton Kent, Near North, Niagara, Ottawa-Carlton, Peel, Rainy River, Renfrew, Simcoe, Toronto, Trillium Lakelands, Upper Canada, Upper Grand, Waterloo Region and York. (Boards where LTD coverage is mandatory are shown in bold font.)

Accommodating a Colleague Returning From an Illness

Our Protective Services Team fields questions and concerns from Members who have suffered from serious illness or injury, and want to return to work. These people may face barriers to their successful return, and their colleagues – consciously or unconsciously – may contribute to these barriers. We have prepared a [tip sheet](#) to help you understand your legal obligation to support your colleagues returning to work and ensure that they are accommodated with dignity. We encourage you to call us with any questions or concerns about the right to be accommodated in times of illness or injury and/or your obligations in accommodating a colleague's return to work. An intake consultant can be reached at 1-800-701-2362.

Survey - Understanding the Nature of Principals' Work

We are seeking practising principals to complete a survey about their work and well-being. This survey is being conducted by Dr. Katina Pollock (Western University) and Dr. Fei Wang (University of British Columbia). The [purpose of the survey](#) is to further investigate the status of school principals' health and well-being, explore strategies to

cope with work-related stress and burnout and provide recommendations/tools on how to enhance coping skills and develop physical and mental resilience at work. This is an opportunity to make our voice heard and provide evidence to inform policies that impact our work. You will have received an email last week from the Qualtrics program containing a personalized link to the online survey, which will be open until November 1. Please contact Dr. Katina Pollock at kpolloc7@uwo.ca if you have any questions or concerns.

Rescheduled Twitter Chat

Unfortunately, we had to postpone our Twitter chat last Thursday due to illness. It will take place instead this Thursday October 17 from 8:00 – 9:00 pm EST. The topic will be Building Equity into School Culture, with special guest Debbie Donsky. We hope you can join us!

Media

- [OSSTF announces it will start conducting strike votes across the province](#)
- [Deal with CUPE includes funding to bring back laid off support staff](#)
- [Public health campaign lets kids have say about vaccines](#)
- [Postsecondary campuses need more mental health resources](#)
- [Government asks teachers to consider provincial deficit before asking for a raise](#)
- [Parents, students rally to protest education cuts](#)
- [Government earmarks \\$40 million for high school mental health workers](#)
- [Finance Minister says government will stick to 1% wage increases for teachers](#)

Queen's Park

The House is in recess until October 28.