

# President's Message

September 16, 2019

## Resources for Labour Negotiations

As you know, collective agreements for all unionized school board employees in Ontario expired on August 31, 2019. Bargaining is under way and it is impossible to predict how these negotiations will evolve. If job action occurs, principals and vice-principals will be directly impacted by any work-to-rule, strike or lockout, and must be prepared to support their school communities through these possible scenarios. Our Protective Services Team has prepared [resources to assist you](#), and these will be updated throughout the year as matters evolve. These materials are on the Member side of our website so you will need to login to access them.

## Information for Newly Appointed Administrators

Congratulations on your recent promotion! It is important to ensure that you are enrolled in the Long-Term Disability (LTD) Insurance Plan specific to administrators in your board by completing the OPC [Group Benefits package](#) form. This does not happen automatically.

If you are in one of the boards listed below\*, and have not yet done so, you need to enroll within 60 calendar days of your appointment (the first day you are on the job). If you apply after 60 days or if you were not covered for LTD up to the date of appointment, you will need to provide medical evidence of good health to the insurer. For more information on the OPC Benefits plan, please send an email to [opcbenefits@principals.ca](mailto:opcbenefits@principals.ca).

\*Participating boards are 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.

New appointees must become Members of the OPC within 60 calendar days of commencing employment as a P/VP to preserve historical protective services coverage (Protective Services for matters that occurred while in the Ontario Teachers' Federation). If you have newly appointed administrators at your school who are not Members of the OPC, please have them complete a [membership application form](#) or send an email to [membership@principals.ca](mailto:membership@principals.ca).

## Wonder Wall

We're ready to start planning the next iteration of our Wonder Wall, the large space just inside our office that we use to display various projects. The last two have displayed student artwork from across the province and we have had very good feedback from our visitors who visit our office.

We would now like to display a collage of pictures of schools. If you'd like to take part, please take a picture of your school and send it to us with the following:

- 1-3 digital files
- Colour is preferable to black and white
- Dimensions can be up to 11 x 17 inches maximum either horizontal or vertical
- Ensure the digital file is of high quality resolution (150-300 dpi recommended) and in JPEG format
- Files sent via email should be under 10MB; if picture is over 10MB it can be uploaded and sent via Dropbox
- Include the name of the school, the panel(s) and the board name
- Email pictures to Chris Johnstone, [cjohnstone@principals.ca](mailto:cjohnstone@principals.ca).

With your help, we hope to display a large cross section of the various beautiful school buildings that exist across the province.

### **Media\***

- [Boards required to develop policies for student's service animals](#)
- [Government denies access to releasing class size consultation results](#)
- [Ontario graduation rate nudges up](#)
- [Province announces funding for suicide prevention and mental health initiatives](#)
- [Survey shows spike in violent incidents in schools](#)

\*Please note that all media stories may not be accessible without a paid subscription. However, we want to share important stories with you so you are aware of these issues.

### **Queen's Park**

The House is in recess until October 28.