

# President's Message

September 9, 2019

## Letter in Support of Public Education

Last week we sent a [letter to the Minister of Education](#), in partnership with PCODE and OPSOA, expressing our concern about the group TeachON that has called on the government to provide public funding to independent schools. We believe that no public tax dollars should be used to fund private or independent schools. We have asked the Minister to endorse the value and excellence of the public system and to firmly commit to funding only those schools that are accessible and open to all students.

## Twitter Chat

We'll be re-starting our Twitter chats this week for Members and aspiring leaders. This is an opportunity to build capacity and share our learning with education leaders. Join us for our first chat Building Leadership Networks on **Thurs Sept 12 from 8:00 – 9:00 pm EST**. Special thanks to OPC Members Chris Moore, Chris Martin and Jamey Byers for organizing and hosting the chats.

To take part, sign in to Twitter (or join if you do not currently have an account) at 8 pm on Thursday, enter **#OPCchat** in the Search Twitter box in the upper right corner. The questions and instructions will be set up. Introduce yourself once the moderator opens the chat. Remember to always include **#OPCchat** with your comments. We hope you can join us!

## Your Professional Learning – What's Next?

As we plan for future professional learning opportunities including webinars, twitter chats and learning sessions, we would like to hear from you to ensure we are offering meaningful learning on relevant topics. Please take a few minutes to share some topics of interest to better inform our next steps through this [short survey](#).

## LTD Insurance

The OPC participated in a working group with school boards to minimize the costs of long-term disability (LTD) insurance for Members. Great-West Life (GWL) was chosen to be the provider for group LTD insurance. On July 1 we joined the Education Worker Ontario (EWO) LTD plan. Since we have been with GWL since September 2018, all the terms of our existing policy will be honoured by GWL.

We are pleased to confirm that effective July 1, OPC Members received a 5% reduction in LTD premium rates. Our renewal period has now been extended to August 2021, meaning [rates](#) are guaranteed until that time. You will also have access to your online benefits profile, Best Doctors (2<sup>nd</sup> opinion medical service) and Critical Illness benefit (one-time payment of \$2,500 for a

covered condition). If you have any questions, please contact OPC Benefits at [opcbenefits@principals.ca](mailto:opcbenefits@principals.ca)

## **Media\***

- [Students overwhelmingly reject government's e-learning plan](#)
- [OLRB rules class size and sick leave will be provincial issues during teacher bargaining](#)
- [Cellphone restrictions coming to schools in November](#)
- [Boards begin to change their policies on dress codes](#)
- [Education workers hold strike vote as students head back to school](#)
- [Ontario should pass rules to protect kids from vaping](#)
- [More boards offer free menstrual products to students](#)
- [Why don't all schools teach Indigenous literature?](#)

\*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.