

President's Message

August 26, 2019

Hello.

My name is Nancy Brady and I am the Provincial President of the OPC for the coming school year.

I've been an educator for 27 years, hailing from the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board.

On July 1, I moved to the provincial office for my 1-year secondment to the OPC.

I've been part of the OPC at the local level since 2008, when I served as a T&C rep and a local President. I then became a Provincial Councillor and have been a member of the Provincial Executive since 2016.

I want to welcome you to a new school year. While many people are still enjoying the last week or two of summer, I know you have already been in your schools, hiring staff, finalizing timetables, meeting with teachers and getting ready to welcome our students back.

We know that provincial negotiations are underway with all the teacher and support staff unions. While no new contracts have been reached at this time, the unions have confirmed that their members will be in school and ready to work on the first day of school.

While negotiations can cause some anxiety, they are a normal and regular part of the collective bargaining process. I encourage you to maintain a "business as usual" mindset unless and until that changes.

We are also starting the new year with a new Minister. Stephen Lecce took over the portfolio on June 20. Since that time, we have spoken to him by phone and met him in person. We took the opportunity to introduce ourselves and the issues most important to you. As we always do, we will continue to nurture that relationship and offer our assistance whenever possible to support what is in the best interests of our students.

Each Monday, you will receive an email message from me with topical information, media stories and highlights from Queen's Park. I encourage you to take a few minutes each week to read the message and stay up-to-date.

Until then, have a great week. Know that the work you do everyday benefits our staff, our students, our communities and our society. Happy new school year!