

## President's Message

April 19, 2021

While we had hoped that the April break would have been a time for all of you to relax and disconnect from your work responsibilities, we know that wasn't quite the case. We do hope that you were at least able to catch your breath before you had to prepare for the pivot to remote learning. The response to the pandemic continues to create challenges that you all are meeting with remarkable strength and professionalism. We will continue to do all we can to advocate to ease your burdens as much as we can through the pandemic and beyond.

### Bargaining Update

The OPC, CPCO and ADFO have been engaged in provincial bargaining on behalf of principals and vice-principals in the province since the fall of 2020. We have prepared a [Bargaining Update](#) to provide Members with an overview of that process. Watch for further updates in the coming weeks.

### New Podcast - Streaming and Equity

Is the streaming of students an equity issue? With de-streaming starting in the fall of 2021, how can we help teachers engage a wider range of learners? How can we make learning more relevant and successful for students? [Listen to our podcast](#) about de-streaming and equity with Jason To. Jason is the Coordinator of Secondary Mathematics and Academic Pathways in the Toronto District School Board, a teacher, Coordinator of Mathematics and Numeracy and a Math Coach.

### Strategic Planning Consultation Group - Call for Interest

School Mental Health Ontario is looking to develop a multi-year strategy around equity in school mental health. It is putting together a strategic planning consultation group to help vision this action-oriented strategy and engage the school leader perspective. Review the [information about this opportunity and the call for interest form](#) if you are interested in applying by **April 23**.

### Is Retirement in Your Near Future?

Retiring in the next five years and have questions about retirement benefits and finances? The Ontario Teacher's Insurance Plan (OTIP) will be offering three virtual "Walk into Retirement with a Plan" workshops specifically for OPC Members. You'll learn about retirement benefits, your pension, other sources of retirement revenue and RRSP withdrawal strategy techniques. The sessions will be held on May 8, 10 and 20. [Learn more and register here.](#)

## Media

- [Priority Vaccination for Education Sector \(Ann Pace interviewed\)](#)
- [Pandemic leaves kids struggling more than ever](#)
- [Some students have “checked out” and it will be hard to get them back](#)
- [Fully online school would gamble on children for profit](#)
- [Concern about government’s plan to make online learning permanent](#)
- [Why Apple is stepping in to protect online privacy](#)
- [OSSTF launches pre-elections ads against government](#)
- [P4E report shows extracurriculars and fundraising hit hard by pandemic](#)

## Queen’s Park

There were questions in the House about [safety measures in schools](#), [reversal of school openings](#), [safety measures for schools](#), [funding cut for next school year](#), [detrimental effects of school shutdowns](#) and [safety in child care centres](#).