

President's Message

April 6, 2021

Vaccination Priority for Education Sector

In addition to the advocacy that we have been doing with the ministry over the past months, this morning we sent [a letter to the Premier and the Chief Medical Officer of Health](#), calling for the government to immediately prioritize the vaccination of principals, vice-principals, teachers, education workers and school staff. The well-being of students and all staff is critical. The ability to support the learning and achievement of our students is at risk because vaccinations have not been prioritized in our sector. The April break provides an ideal window within which to make vaccines available. For the government to safely keep schools open and support our students and staff, it must prioritize these vaccinations immediately.

Free Professional Learning

Our next webinar in the [Wellness for School Leaders Series](#) will feature Michelle Sigmann on April 7, *Getting Ready to be Intentional on our April Break*. Our next webinar in the [Equity Series](#) will feature Hubert Brard on April 27, who will focus on the topic of Gender Identity and Expression. We also encourage you to join us for one of our spring [Book Clubs](#), starting in April.

Keeping You Informed – Your fees at work

In addition to your membership fees, we also have other revenue sources that allow us to deliver services and benefits to you. [Learn more](#) about where we collect our revenue and how we use those funds.

Make Wellness Your Priority

As principals and vice-principals, we are used to unpredictable days at the best of times. The challenges of the pandemic have magnified the pressures on our time. We must acknowledge the unavoidable impact that the demands of our roles have had on our personal well-being. If you haven't already, I urge you all to focus on your personal needs over the upcoming break and through to the end of the year. The spring weather doesn't always co-operate with opportunities to regularly get fresh air and even light exercise, and sometimes the business of our homes makes it difficult to set aside quiet time for ourselves. Accessing [Starling Minds](#), meditation applications, podcasts etc. also provide solutions to supporting our peace of mind. I hope that the upcoming break will give you the strength to carry through the remaining months of the school year.

Media

- [Should Ontario's spring break go ahead?](#) (Ann Pace quoted)
- [Schools to remain open, Education Minister Stephen Lecce says](#)
- [How teachers are fighting damaging stereotypes in class amid spike in anti-Asian attacks](#)
- [Music teachers need government help to weather the pandemic](#)

- [Sign language courses are coming to Ontario high schools but will there be enough teachers?](#)
- [Government considering making virtual learning a permanent part of school](#)
- [Public Health Agency of Canada expects to update K-12 school guidelines](#)
- [Boards start to close schools amid rising case numbers](#)

Queen's Park

There were questions in the House about [school closures due to COVID-19](#), [increased cases of COVID-19 in Peel region schools](#), [ministry funding cuts to school board budgets in next school year](#), [mental health and addiction services](#), [controversial COVID-19 restrictions in schools](#), [funding for children's mental health services](#) and [funding cuts to education](#).