

President's Message

December 14, 2020

Happy Holidays!

As 2020 comes to an end, we look back and see a year of turmoil. We also see a year of triumph and recognize the incredible mental fortitude you have exhibited to carry all who depended on you to get through it. With a vaccination program beginning to unfold, 2021 promises to be a year of increased hope. I encourage you to try to remain optimistic, strong and focused. Believe that a better world will emerge from this crisis and recognize that you will continue to be a leader in our better world. I hope each of you give yourself time to heal and rest over the winter break. If this is a time of celebration for you, may those celebrations bring you comfort and fill your heart with joy. I look forward to continuing to serve and support you as 2021 begins.

New Starling Minds Mental Fitness Program

We are pleased to announce Starling Minds has launched an enhanced, intuitive [Mental Fitness program](#). Registration, access and usage is completely confidential. You can now [register for the new program](#) if you have not yet registered for Starling Minds. The access code is OPCMEMBER. If you have already registered for Starling Minds, you can access the program using your current login and password. This new program is mobile phone friendly and designed to create an individualized education and therapy journey based on how you answer questions and interact with the program. It recommends mental health pathways and therapies specifically for you. If you have any issues signing up, email members@starlingminds.com for support.

Seeking a Professional Learning Education Advisor

We are seeking a highly qualified, recently retired, former OPC Member as a part-time PL Education Advisor. Reporting to the Director of Professional Learning and working with the PL Team, the successful applicant will share expertise to ensure that PL opportunities foster equity, diversity and inclusion and reflect current realities, support the development and delivery of learning sessions, act as a mentor for candidates in the Master's Dimension Program, participate in project and team meetings and attend PL sessions as the OPC representative. [Applications are open](#) until December 22.

Queen's Park

There were questions in the House about [college accreditation](#) and the [state of COVID-19 cases in schools](#). The House is now in recess until February 16, 2021.

Media

- [Students find resilience in trying times](#)
- [Faculty of Ed students to receive temporary certificates to start teaching earlier](#)

- [Auditor finds textbooks, curriculum outdated](#)
- [Could an extended school break help slow the pandemic?](#)
- [How families are passing down Indigenous languages](#)
- [OSSTF calls on government to invest to keep schools open](#)
- [Windsor schools to go online/virtual for final week of December](#)
- [Should educators be essential workers to receive early vaccine?](#)
- [Students' grades dropping with shift to remote learning](#)