

# President's Message

December 7, 2020

## Changes to the Ontario College of Teachers Act

Bill 229, [\*Protect, Support and Recover from COVID-19 Act\*](#), includes language amending the *Ontario College of Teachers Act, 1996*. The proposed changes substantially affect the governance structure of the College, and impact information maintained on the College website and public register. Changes to professional misconduct definitions are also included. We feel it is imperative that principals and vice-principals are represented not only on statutory committees, but on College Council and important new bodies such as the Selection and Nominating Subcommittee. To outline our concerns, the OPC, CPCO and ADFO made a [written submission](#) to the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs at Queen's Park, responsible for consideration of this bill. We have also developed a [summary of the bill](#) for your reference and information.

## Twitter Chat

Our final twitter chat for 2020 will be held on **Thursday December 10 from 8-9pm EST**. The topic will be supporting well-being. Our special guests for the chat will be Theresa Kennedy, Dr. Deanna Swift and Judith Desjardins from School Mental Health Ontario. To take part, sign into Twitter at 8:00 pm, enter #OPCchat in the search Twitter box in the upper right corner, introduce yourself once the moderator joins and include #OPCchat with all your comments. We hope you can join us!

Special thanks to Jamey Byers from the Near North DSB who has been organizing, coordinating and leading our chats this year.

## Setting Our Annual Budget

Executive, Council, Senior Staff and department leads all have a role to play in setting our annual budget. We start planning for the following year's budget 12 months in advance. Our first draft is based on the previous year's actual results and the current year's budget, driven by the priorities and actions in our strategic plan. In December, the Executive reviews the draft, affirming that we've captured all of our current plans and identifying additional new projects or events (bargaining, ministry, advocacy) that should be taken into account. The next draft is presented to Provincial Council at our February meeting. Council engages in "horizon gazing," anticipating opportunities and threats that need to be reflected. After final adjustments, the proposed budget is presented to Council at the May meeting for approval and implementation in the next fiscal year. [Learn more about the process](#) and additional information related to our budget.

## Queen's Park

There were questions in the House about [accreditation of Canada Christian College as a university](#), [additional funds for schools during COVID-19](#) and [funding for Autism Spectrum Disorder](#).

## Media

- [Pandemic lessons on human nature from a math teacher](#)
- [Teacher burnout a worry amid new safety protocols](#)
- [Postsecondary institutions struggling to help students with mental health issues](#)
- [Burnt out students push universities for longer winter break](#)
- [School shutdowns have put students behind in reading](#)
- [Indigenous students find leadership opportunities](#)
- [Teen pushing for a 3-digit mental health hotline](#)
- [What's fueling the mental health crisis in young people?](#)
- [Youth organize virtual global climate conference](#)