

President's Message

February 1, 2021

Today we begin the celebration of Black History Month, honouring the legacy of Black Canadians. We especially acknowledge the many Black educators who mentor, model, guide, teach and inspire our students.

Today's Ministry Announcement

This morning, [Minister Lecce announced](#)

- [Additional funding](#) from the \$381 million Federal Safe Return to Class Fund for improved air quality and ventilation in schools, additional PPE, support for online learning, student transportation, enhanced summer learning and promotion of student mental health
- [Province-wide access to targeted asymptomatic testing](#) for students and staff, with school boards partnering with local Public Health Units
- Temporary certification of eligible teacher candidates who are set to graduate in 2021 to act as Occasional Teachers, to address the lack of adequate OT staff in schools.

This announcement is one of many releases and memos coming from the ministry about various aspects of the current school situation, with changes and updates on policies and procedures. While you may be receiving these memos from your board, we also post copies on the Member side of our website, under [Resources](#). We encourage you to check this section if you are looking for any memos.

Provincial Council Meeting

Our second Provincial Council of the year will be held later this week, virtually. If you have any questions, comments or input you would like considered by Council, please communicate with your local Councillor by Wednesday February 3rd.

Home Office Expenses - 2020

For the 2020 tax year, the Canada Revenue Agency has given employees working from home two options for claiming home office expenses. The **Temporary flat rate** applies to employees working from home due to the pandemic. You can claim \$2 for each work-from-home day up to \$400 per individual. You do not need a Form T2200 from your employer and are not required to keep documents to support your claim. The **Detailed method** applies to employees working from home due to the pandemic and eligible employees required to work from home. You can claim actual amounts you paid. You must have a completed and signed Form T2200S/T2200 from your employer and are required to keep documents to support your claim. The CRA has an [online resource](#) on how to choose an option and do the calculations for the amount to be reported. This is not tax advice. For advice relevant to your personal circumstances, you may wish to seek advice from a tax professional, such as an accountant, as you are responsible for the option you choose and the amount you claim on your taxes.

Media

- [Ottawa schools set to re-open](#) (OPC is quoted in this article about validation issue)
- [Boards can hire teacher-ed students for supply positions](#)
- [What will it take to re-open schools in hot zones?](#)
- [Teachers create a course in understanding anti-Black racism](#)
- [Trustees ask government to review and replace police liaison program in schools](#)
- [Doctor recommends cancelling March Break to prevent another COVID-19 spread](#)
- [Schools boost safety protocols as students head back to class](#)
- [Universities and colleges banned from asking sexual violence victims about their history](#)
- [Disrupted schooling and learning loss will have effects after pandemic](#)

Queen's Park

The House is in recess until February 16.