

President's Message

February 16, 2021

Happy Pancake Tuesday!

Postponement of March Break

We know that many of you are disappointed with last week's announcement about the postponement of March Break until April 12-16. Our advocacy work on your behalf, to maintain the Break, included a [public statement](#) issued on February 5, a meeting with the Minister, meetings with ministry staff and a letter to the province's Chief Medical Officer of Health. Despite our advocacy and that of many other education stakeholders, the government has determined that there is a health imperative that necessitates this decision. We know the new dates may overlap with other deadlines in the school year calendar, and we will raise these issues with the ministry, as well as continuing to advocate for enhanced safety measures in schools that are meaningful and impactful.

School Board Investigations Tip Sheet

Participating in a workplace investigation – whether as a Complainant, a Respondent or a witness – can be a stressful experience. Being aware of your board policies and procedures that govern workplace investigations, as well as the board's obligation to ensure that investigations are procedurally fair, can help ensure that you are not surprised along the way. Our Professional Services Team (PST) has prepared a [Tip Sheet](#) on School Board Investigations for your reference, to help you understand the workplace investigation process and the components of a fair investigation. If your board informs you that you are required to be involved in an investigation as a Respondent or a witness, please contact the PST to help and support you through all aspects of the process.

International Confederation of Principals (ICP) Webinar

The ICP is hosting its first webinar for 2021, [A Conversation with Mary Robinson](#), former president of Ireland and United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. She is currently Chair of [The Elders](#), a group of global leaders working for peace, justice and human rights. The topic of the webinar will be dismantling inequality in education. It will be held Tuesday February 23 at 11:00 am GMT (6:00 am EST). [Registration](#) is free for OPC Members, as the OPC is a member of ICP and you, by extension, are an ICP member as well.

Media

- [March Break postponed as Third Wave looms](#)
- [Would there be less racism if we were better at teaching Black history?](#)
- [Black curriculum shifts from slavery to stories of kings and queens](#)

- [Students have access to graduation coaches](#)
- [Quebec report cards show worrisome results](#)
- [Fighting anti-Black racism in education](#)

Queen's Park

The House reconvenes today.