

## President's Message

February 8, 2021

Black History month provides additional opportunities for personal and professional learning for us all. For those leading this learning through the sharing of your own lived experience, we understand this heavier work takes its toll. We thank and support you in these efforts, recognizing that it allows a deeper understanding through empathy. You do not have to walk in someone's shoes to share their experiences, but learning first-hand about the countless obstacles that have had to be overcome helps us to try to understand just how worn out those shoes are. Nelson Education's webinar "The Future of Education for Black Students" on Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup> was a great opportunity to learn from the perspective of a panel that highlighted many voices. Our learning is constant and continuously builds on each new understanding. Through this learning, we all must take responsibility for doing the work that leads to change. February highlights Black History, but the learning and support cannot be limited and continues throughout the year. Please review the weekly Professional Learning Bulletin sent out on Wednesdays to learn more about opportunities provided by the OPC and others.

### **New Issue of *The Register* Posted**

Our Winter 2021 issue of *The Register* [has now been posted](#) to our website. Read stories about disrupting racism, the Upcycled School, [dealing with stress](#), the revocation of Reg 274 and an interview with Equity Consultant Tana Turner. We hope you enjoy this issue and find it professionally helpful.

### **Upcoming Free Professional Learning Webinars**

As we continue to develop and deliver more online professional learning for our Members, we invite you to participate in three webinar series in February and March, consisting of 60-minute webinars as part of the [Autism Spectrum Disorder](#) project, the [Supporting Student Mental Health](#) Project and the [New Math Curriculum](#) Project.

### **OCT Seeking Principals/Vice-Principals for Roster Positions**

Bill 229 maintains peer review for statutory committees of the Ontario College of Teachers. The College is now looking for qualified administrators, reflecting Ontario's diversity, to be roster candidates who may then be called upon as panelists on committees when reviewing matters involving P/VPs. [Learn more](#) about the criteria for appointment and the application process. It is important that there be practising and retired P/VPs on these rosters – particularly Investigation, Discipline and Fitness to Practice – from among whom the College may choose to ensure peer review. Please consider applying for this opportunity and serving your colleagues and the profession. And let us know if you are applying so we can offer background and support.

### **New Starling Minds Mental Fitness Program**

Learn more about Starling Minds' enhanced Mental Fitness program by [watching this video](#) that highlights the program contents. It 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. Registration, access and usage is completely confidential. If you have any issues signing up, email [members@starlingminds.com](mailto:members@starlingminds.com) for support.

## Media

- [14-yr-old author hopes to inspire other Black youth to write](#)
- [Few boards have asymptomatic testing in place so far](#)
- [How teachers are trying to get Black history lessons into classrooms](#)
- [Questions raised about hiring of additional support staff as schools re-open](#)
- [Parents say new Autism program is lacking](#)
- [Student teachers hoped to boost teacher supply list](#)
- [Will March Break be cancelled?](#) (See [our statement](#) released last week)

## Queen's Park

The House is in recess until February 16.