

President's Message

January 18, 2021

Changes to the Ontario College of Teachers Act

As you recall from an [earlier message](#), Bill 229, *Protect, Support and Recover from COVID-19 Act*, received Royal Assent on December 8, 2020. We have developed a [summary of the bill](#) for your reference and information. Although the OPC, CPCO and ADFO made a [written submission](#) to the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs at Queen's Park, the bill received Royal Assent without the changes sought. Our submission focussed on P/VP representation on statutory committees, on College Council and important new bodies such as the Selection and Nominating Subcommittee. We will continue to monitor and report on the College's implementation of changes to its governing legislation.

New Starling Minds Mental Fitness Program

As we start a new year amidst the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, we want to remind you that 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.

Twitter Chat

New Math Curriculum

Our first twitter chat for 2021 will be held on **Thursday January 21 from 8-9pm EST**. The topic will be the new math curriculum. To take part, sign in to 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!

Media

- [Kids at home? Creative, practical tips for parents](#)
- [What's needed to keep schools open](#)
- [TVO offers at-home learning supports](#)
- [Concerns about students with special needs returning to school](#)

- [Human Rights Commission urges colleges/universities to ensure equity](#)
- [OSSTF calls for pause of all student in-school learning](#)
- [Nearly half of Canadian adults struggle with literacy](#)
- [Media literacy in the age of disinformation](#)

Queen's Park

The House is in recess until February 16.