

President's Message

January 4, 2021

Happy New Year! I hope you all managed to recharge over the break and that the first week back supported confidence in the re-opening of schools, currently taking place in our northern boards and eventually in the south. We remain focused on supporting a safe environment for workers and students, advocating for vaccination prioritization and surveillance testing, and finding ways, where possible, to reduce the extraordinary demands on school leaders. You play a vital role in ensuring that our students are receiving a quality education through incredible disruption. You are doing an amazing job!

New Dates for ICP Convention

Due to COVID-19, it is not possible for us to safely host the International Confederation of Principals (ICP) Convention as planned in Toronto this summer. We are delighted to announce that it will now be held from **Monday, July 25 – Thursday, July 28, 2022**. Our keynote and featured speakers, as well as our convention facility and hotel partners, have worked with us to make this happen. Delegates will have the opportunity to spend additional time in Toronto, the GTA and other parts of the province since there will not be the need to rush back home to start the school year. Keep checking [our website](#) for further updates and details.

Member Acquitted

We are very pleased that our Member, Principal Sean Hume, was acquitted of assaulting a student in charges stemming from an incident in 2018. The decision comments on the difficult job of principals and commends Mr. Hume for the restraint he showed in the course of the incident, which took place over a very extended period of time. The judge held that Mr. Hume was entitled to attempt a restraint of the child in the circumstances because the student posed a safety risk to himself, to Mr. Hume and to other students. This decision is important not only to Mr. Hume, but to all P/VPs in the province. We hope that this decision will protect future P/VPs from criminal prosecution when they are required to restrain students behaving in threatening and/or violent ways. Mr. Hume is grateful for the assistance received from the OPC and his many colleagues in the TDSB and across the province, who have sent messages of support throughout his long ordeal, and for the more recent messages in response to this unmitigated victory. Media coverage of the acquittal has also been very positive.

New Podcast – School Mental Health Ontario

Are you familiar with [School Mental Health Ontario](#)? It is a provincial support team, helping schools enhance student mental health through evidence-based strategies and services. It has recently developed many resources related to COVID-19, to help students,

educators, parents and families navigate the unique challenges of this pandemic. [Listen to our podcast](#) with Theresa Kennedy, Co-Director of SMHO, as she outlines these important and timely resources.

We are **now on Apple iTunes**. [Listen and subscribe now!](#)

Webinars – Supporting Student Mental Health and Autism Spectrum Disorder

Starting on January 19, we invite you to participate in two free webinars, consisting of 60-minute sessions to support school leaders as part of the [Autism Spectrum Disorder](#) project and the [Supporting Student Mental Health](#) Project.

Media

- [Province expands emergency child care as schools remain closed](#)
- [Remote learning advice from those who have been online for months](#)
- [Struggles as school goes online](#)
- [Remote learning brings extra challenges for teachers with kids at home](#)
- [For students with disabilities, lockdowns come with a huge cost](#)
- [When kids are in crisis, how can we help?](#)
- [Slow internet brings more challenges for online learning](#)
- [Parents have mixed reaction to continuation of online learning](#)
- [Teaching the excitement of chess](#)

Queen's Park

The House is in recess until February 16.