

# President's Message

June 28, 2021

## Thank You!

This is our last President's Message of the school year. As I reflect on this year, endurance is the noun that needs to be stressed. The endurance to deal with each day and to emerge from this year with the grace that you have all exhibited is a triumph. In many ways, it has been a painful year for us and those who we support. The time to heal has arrived. Principals and vice-principals have enabled staff and students to continue to teach and learn no matter the format and without interruption. The learning that has taken place this year is in large part due to your efforts and support. The ability to navigate through any task thrown at you is an under-rated skill of school leaders. I thank you for the sacrifices you have made this year. I commend you for the stretches that you continue to make each day. I hope that the summer provides an opportunity to distance yourselves physically and emotionally from the work that has consumed your lives through this very long year. Finally, I am hopeful that we will all begin our next year continuing to emerge from the pandemic, finding more opportunities to connect with our colleagues, staff and students and once again enjoying the work that we do to the fullest.

## Starling Minds Now Available for Associates

We are pleased to announce that the Starling Minds online mental wellness program will now be available to OPC Associates, as part of your Associate membership fee! This program is based on Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT), an evidence-based practice that can help individuals overcome and manage anxiety, depression and stress. It is anonymous and confidential, accessible 24/7 and personalized to the unique needs of each individual. As an online resource, you can access it on demand – when you can best fit it into your busy schedule. [Learn more and register here.](#)

## Public Consultation on K-12 Standards Development Committee (K-12 SDC)

The ministry is seeking public consultation on the K-12 SDC. Its mandate is to provide recommendations to government on removing and preventing accessibility barriers in the public education system. The Initial Report is a joint effort of representatives from the disability community and the education sector to identify the barriers that students with disabilities face and the measures needed to remove and prevent them. It is now available for public comment [online](#). The public – including students, parents, school and school board staff – are invited to [submit feedback](#) until September 2, 2021.

## Media

- [Indigenous artist uses painting to heal from residential school trauma](#)
- [Bringing the truth of Indigenous lives to Canadian textbooks](#)

- [As school year ends, educators already thinking about next year](#)
- [Teachers and coaches urge full return to sports in the fall](#)
- [Teachers need ongoing anti-Black racism training, not workshops](#)
- [Programs to help students catch up](#)
- [BC research says Covid risk in schools same as in community](#)
- [Civil liberties group joins constitutional challenge of election reforms](#)

## **Queen's Park**

The House is in recess until September 13.