



## President's Message

June 7, 2021

### Outdoor Graduations

Last week, the Premier encouraged schools to hold outdoor graduation events before the end of June. Recognizing that is only weeks away, that you have consulted with local Public Health Units and your boards, and that considerable time and care has already been put into planning this milestone, we issued a public statement, stating that asking schools to change direction and organize an outdoor event, while social distancing restrictions are still in place, is impractical and unrealistic.

### Supporting Student Mental Health – Project Lead Positions

We are seeking two highly qualified practising OPC Members (one elementary and one secondary) as project leads for the Supporting Student Mental Health Project, supported by School Mental Health Ontario, to collaborate on the design, development and implementation of project deliverables. The **application deadline is June 14 at 12:00 p.m.**

### OPC Scholarship Awards

Our Scholarship program supports the children of current, retired and deceased OPC Members for students who have been accepted to a post-secondary program, based on criteria and an application process developed and administered by each OPC District.

For 2020-21, Provincial Council approved a 50% increase from \$1,000 to \$1,500 per 100 Members to the scholarship funding to OPC Districts. Since its inception, we have granted \$1.1M for these scholarships.

### Media

- [Principals opposed to outdoor graduation ceremonies](#)
- [Attendance sliding at virtual schools amid burnout](#)
- [Ministry documents show COVID-19 cases may have been spreading in schools](#)
- [International student population continues to increase](#)
- [Public opinion polling affects back-to-school decision](#)
- [Calls grow to rename Ryerson schools across Ontario](#)

- [Children's health experts deeply concerned students will not be returning](#)

## **Queen's Park**

There were questions in the House about whether students will return to school, Canada Christian College legislation, whether schools were safe last fall, inaccurate reports of safe schools, accommodations for students with special needs, searching former residential school sites, support for children's mental health services, decision to keep schools closed, investments to keep schools safe, problem with holding outdoor grad ceremonies, decision to keep schools closed and \$10 daily child care.

The House is now in recess until September 13.