

President's Message

March 15, 2021

OPC Seeking an Equity and Inclusion Specialist to Join our Team

We are looking for a candidate to help guide and support our anti-oppression, equity, diversity and inclusion initiatives, including coordinating the work of our Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Advisory Committee, liaising with our District EDI leads and striving to imbue these commitments in all aspects of our operations and structures. A complete application package must be received electronically by **4:30 p.m. on March 25, 2021**. Applicants being considered for interviews must be available on **April 19, 2021**. Second interviews, if necessary, will be held on **April 21, 2021**. See the [posting on our website](#) for further details.

Are You Retiring This Year?

Spring is in the air and retirement season will soon be upon us. Our Protective Services Team has developed a set of resources related to retirement. These include

- a [sample retirement letter](#)
- a tip sheet with [general guidelines for retirement](#)
- [retirement insurance options](#) with information about health and dental benefits and
- information about [OPC Term Membership](#) for those who want to return to work after retirement on a short-term contract basis.

Congratulations to those who are retiring – we wish you all the best as you begin your next chapter!

New Starling Minds Mental Fitness Program

Have you taken some time to learn about Starling Minds' enhanced Mental Fitness program? If not, we encourage you to do so 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 for support.

Media

- [York Region DSB releases strategy to combat anti-Black racism](#)
- [Jobs cuts coming in light of funding cuts from ministry](#)
- [Case increases concerning as educators remain unvaccinated](#)
- [Most boards still not offering in-school COVID-19 testing](#)
- [Teachers call for end to standardized testing during pandemic](#)
- [Schools may have to shut again for third wave of pandemic](#)

- [Student survey highlights mental health impacts](#)

Queen's Park

There were questions in the House last week about [ministry memo outlining funding cuts for next year, more affordable and accessible child care](#) and [pandemic consequences for students with complex needs](#).