

President's Message

March 22, 2021

Eliminate Discrimination Every Day

Yesterday was the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. While one day is set aside to collectively acknowledge this need, everyday must be an example of this action. Last week's mass shooting in Atlanta was a hate crime targeted at Asian women. Like anti-Indigenous and anti-Black racism, anti-Asian racism is well documented in Canadian history, and it has been on the rise throughout the pandemic. As educators, we must recognize our role in dismantling the structures, practices and attitudes that support the dehumanization of all those who have historically been under-represented in our society. It is our role to work against oppression and hate. It is our role to support our colleagues, staff and students whose voices haven't been heard. That support can be shown in our actions to learn, teach and promote practices that affect change. The elimination of racial discrimination is our daily call to action.

Long-term Disability (LTD) Coverage End Dates

Under the OPC Benefits plan, there are five LTD options, LTD1-LTD5. Your eligibility for the option you have chosen is subject to certain eligibility timelines.

- LTD1, LTD2 and LTD5 – you are covered until the date you are eligible for a 70% unreduced pension (generally after 35 years of qualifying service)
- LTD3 and LTD4 – you are eligible until the date you reach your 85 factor (age plus working experience), age 65 or the date you retire.

It is your responsibility to notify the OPC of your pension eligibility, as we do not have access to that information. Premium deductions will continue until we receive written notice that you have reached your pension eligibility, retirement date or age 65, and wish to terminate your coverage. Premiums are non-refundable.

You can confirm your eligibility by visiting the [Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan website](#). Your LTD option is shown on your benefits profile, which can be accessed on [our website](#) by clicking on "My Profile" in the upper right corner of the homepage (login is required). If you have or will soon reach any of the above pension eligibility dates, complete and return the [Application to Terminate Insurance Coverage](#) form and provide the required documents to support the request for termination, as applicable. For additional information, please contact us at opcbenefits@principals.ca.

Twitter Chat

Our next Twitter chat will be held this Thursday March 25 from 8-9pm EST. The topic will be Supporting Special Education During COVID-19. 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

- [The pandemic's effect on youth mental health](#)
- [Provinces should act fast to avert a teacher shortage](#)
- [Manitoba government eliminates elected school boards](#)
- [Manitoba teachers' union fights to keep P/VPs as members](#)
- [Peel boards ask for classes to go online due to increasing cases](#)
- [Teacher looks to expand Black history education](#)
- [Pandemic depriving toddlers and infants of social interaction](#)
- [More boards are opting out of the OSSLT pilot test](#)

Queen's Park

The House did not sit last week.