



President's Message

May 10, 2021

Provincial Council Meeting and Elections

Last week we held our final Provincial Council meeting of the year, again virtually. We want to say a special thanks to the Councillors who have attended the meetings, taken part in weekly calls with our PST team to keep us up-to-date about what is happening in your boards, advocated with your senior admin teams on your behalf and represented you strongly throughout this very difficult year. We could not do our work effectively at the provincial level without this strong representation and support at the local level.

As part of the Council meeting, we held our election for the 2021-22 Provincial Executive, effective July 1. Congratulations to

Lisa Collins	President	Near North
Patsy Agard	President-Elect	Ottawa-Carleton
Lorne Gretsinger	Vice-President	DSB Niagara
Chad Mowbray	Vice-President	Ontario North East
Leslie Mantle	Member-at-Large	Rainbow
Alison Osborne	Member-at-Large	Kawartha Pine Ridge
Ann Pace	Past President	York Region

I would like to thank everyone who put their names forward for the election. It is a healthy sign of our organization that new Councillors want to take on this role each year. A special thank you to Nancy Brady (Ottawa-Carleton) who is ending her term on our Executive after serving as our 2019-20 Provincial President, and to Sylvie Blais (Thames Valley) and Irfan Toor (Simcoe) who served as Members-at-Large this past year.

When Are You Planning to Retire?

In our recent meetings with ministry officials, to plan for retention and to assist with our provincial negotiations, we would like to have a data-driven snapshot of our Member's plans for retirement. To do so, we're asking you to complete [this short poll](#) that will identify what year you plan to retire, if your original retirement date has changed and if so, why. The poll will be open to all Members until Monday May 24. Each Member may respond 1 time. Thank you for taking the time to provide this very important information to us.

Starling Minds Webinar Series

Tomorrow, Tuesday May 11, is the second webinar in the 6-week series for the Starling Minds Mental Health Fitness program. The webinars will take place each Tuesday afternoon at 4:00

pm EST and will include an Introduction to the program, a detailed plan of how to build good mental therapy habits and best practices, and a private community forum to interact with your peers and learn collectively. [Learn more about the program](#) and how to register.

Media

- [Educators worry about Covice-19 school absences](#)
- [Students to receive year-round mental health support during pandemic](#)
- [Puberty during the pandemic leads to more issues for kids](#)
- [TDSB announces summer school will be fully online](#)
- [Online schooling will remain an option for '21-22 school year](#)
- [7 questions not to ask an Indigenous person](#)
- [Mental health treatment should not be delivered through schools](#)
- [Toronto Public Health orders shut down to all in-person learning](#)
- [Ontario needs more Pride flags](#)

Queen's Park

There were questions in the House last week about [lack of resources for schools during pandemic](#), [planning for 2021-22 school year](#), [government request for ban on international students](#), [plans for continued online learning](#) and [affordable child care](#).

Lucille Collard (L) introduced Bill 287, [Equity Education for Young Ontarian Act](#), which would require that the history of colonization and its impact on the rights of Indigenous and racialized people, the ongoing racial and social inequities in Ontario and how students can contribute to building an inclusive and equitable Ontario become part of the curriculum from JK-Gr 12.