

President's Message

October 19, 2020

OPC Census

Thank you to the 2,000 Members who have completed our first Census. You still have a week to do so, and it's imperative that we hear from all of you to help us continue our work around equity, diversity and inclusion. Each Member received an email on October 12 with a unique link to respond. **Please note** that the Census is open to Members only, including those on paid sick leave, statutory leaves or LTD. Associates have not been sent the email link. The Census **will remain open until Monday October 26** at midnight EST. Recognizing your extreme time pressures, it should take just 5-10 minutes to complete. If you have any technical issues, please email support@principals.ca

Revocation of Regulation 274

After lobbying for many years, we were very pleased to hear that the government will be revoking Regulation 274 as of October 29. This regulation has led to ongoing challenges as you tried to staff your school in the best interests of students. The government has issued an [interim provincial teacher hiring policy](#) and will be sharing a draft PPM in November that we will provide input on. Boards will be expected to have their own hiring policies in place that comply with the PPM by December 31, 2020.

Ontario College of Teachers Elections Election

Every three years, the OCT holds an [election for a new College Council](#). The next one will take place in 2021. Principals and vice-principals (other than those in acting positions) are eligible to vote for one P/VP representative. In 2017, the three provincial principal associations invited expressions of interest from all Members for this position. Following an interview process, the OPC, CPCO and ADFO decided to endorse John Hamilton, an elementary principal in the Durham District School Board, for the P/VP position. John was elected in 2018 and has ably discharged his responsibilities as a member of the College Council since that time. He is currently the Chair of the Discipline Committee.

The three associations believe it makes good sense to ensure Members will continue to benefit from John's experience, skill acquisition and relationship building in the role. As a result, we are collectively supporting him in his bid to seek re-election. More information will be coming in advance of the election, taking place March 8 – April 12, 2021, but we wanted to let you know of our intention to support John's candidacy. This endorsement does not preclude any other principal or vice-principal from putting their name forward for election to this position.

Professional Learning Webinars

Between October 20 and November 18, we will be offering free webinars on leadership development, wellness, mental health and equity. Join us for [Alexandra Fortier](#), [Tana Turner](#), [Yassmin Abdel-Magied](#), [Gabrielle Scrimshaw](#), [Denise Duhaime](#), [Sugata Mitra](#) and [Kellylee Evans](#). [Recordings and resources](#) from past webinars and discussions are also available.

Queen's Park

The House did not sit last week.

Media

[COVID's impact on women's mental health on the rise](#)

[Some boards scrap high school exams amid pandemic](#)

[Some things out of control of principal in stemming virus](#)

[Can we solve the runny nose issue related to COVID?](#)

[Class action lawsuit filed over cancelled school trips](#)

[Criticism over hybrid model of in school and online teaching](#)

[There is no reconciliation without the voices of indigenous women](#)