

## President's Message

October 26, 2020

### OPC Census

Due to the tremendous workload you are all operating under, we have decided to extend our OPC Census response date until November 9. This is not a survey. We want every Member to be represented. Tell us who you are, how you self-identify and how we can work to support your needs. The link for the Census was sent to every Member via a special President's Message email on **October 12**. If you have not yet done so, please take 5-10 minutes to complete it. We need your input to help us continue our work around equity, diversity and inclusion. The Census is open to Members only, including those on paid sick leave, statutory leaves or LTD. If you have any technical issues, please email [support@principals.ca](mailto:support@principals.ca).

### Provincial Council Meeting and Annual General Meeting

Last week we held our first Council meeting of the year, and our AGM, virtually. Thank you to all our Councillors who re-jigged their in-school work schedules to take part. Your input was helpful and appreciated. Our [Annual Report for 2019-20](#) was distributed, along with the [AGM Handbook](#) and [audited financial statements](#). Highlights from the meeting will be sent to Members later this week.

### Membership and Group Benefits Forms Due

Newly appointed administrators must submit their [OPC membership application form](#) within 60 calendar days of appointment. If your appointment date was Sept 1, you must submit this by **October 31** to avoid a loss of historical protective services coverage for any employment-related event that occurred prior to becoming an OPC Member. For more information, please contact [membership@principals.ca](mailto:membership@principals.ca).

Members in boards\* participating in our Benefits plan must also submit their [Group Benefits application](#) for Long Term Disability Insurance (LTDI) by **October 31**. If your application is not received by October 28 or has outstanding items, the first premium withdrawal will likely occur in December for four months. Medical evidence of insurability and Insurer's approval will be required if forms are late. Members who did not have LTDI coverage up to their date of appointment must submit medical evidence. For more information, please contact [opcbenefits@principals.ca](mailto:opcbenefits@principals.ca).

\*Boards participating in the OPC Benefits Plan include Algoma, Bluewater, Durham, Grand Erie, Greater Essex, Halton, Hamilton- Wentworth, Lambton Kent, Near North, Niagara, Ottawa-Carlton, Peel, Rainy River, Renfrew, Simcoe, Superior-Greenstone, Toronto, Trillium Lakelands, Upper Canada, Upper Grand, Waterloo Region and York.

## Queen's Park

There were questions in the House last week about [funding for schools during pandemic](#), [testing delays for teachers waiting for COVID results](#), [issues with virtual schooling](#), [Reg 274](#), [availability of child care services](#), [degree granting provisions allowed at Canada Christian College](#) and a [lack of teachers in virtual classrooms](#).

## Media

- [Universities say cancelled exams won't affect post-secondary plans](#)
- [Gr 12 students facing a test of nerves](#)
- [New program aims to address wait times for access to mental health care](#)
- [Virtual learning adapts to software issues](#)
- [Teens seeking more help for mental health since pandemic started](#)
- [Pandemic worsens shortage of French Immersion teachers](#)
- [Schools look to phase in pandemic-safe extracurriculars](#)
- [Calls for greater Black history in school curriculum](#)
- [Government under fire for granting university status to evangelical college](#)
- [Working to promote college education](#)