

## President's Message

October 5, 2020

Happy World Teacher's Day! We will always be teachers first. During the past eight months, you have exemplified your commitment, professionalism and flexibility for your students and school community. You have worked tirelessly to keep learning going as well as possible. Thank you for remembering that we always do it for the kids!

### Letter to the Minister

Now that we have completed the first month of the new school year, in person or virtually, we're noticing additional challenges you are facing that need to be addressed if the current school year is to be safe and successful for our students. Last week we sent a [letter to the Minister](#) outlining these challenges and seeking specific action going forward.

### OPC Census

On Monday October 12, you will be receiving an email to take part in our first Census. This information is being collected so that we can better serve and advocate for our diverse membership in an informed and effective manner. The Census will allow us to confidentially collect demographic data to better understand how our Members self-identify and what concrete steps we can continue to take to combat oppression and advance equity, inclusion and diversity in our profession, association and schools. The completion of the Census by every Member is essential so that we have accurate data with which to work.

### Webinar for Workplace Strategies for Mental Health

Canada Life, one of our partners in the ONE-T Benefits plan, is hosting a free [webinar on workplace strategies for mental health](#) on October 8 from 1:00 – 2:00 pm EST entitled *Find your silver lining in the COVID cloud*. It will address tools and strategies to help face the winter ahead, re-thinking what we want out of life, discovering new ways to support and stay connected, reducing what strains you and finding ways to increase what energizes you. There is no cost to attend and no prior registration is required. It will be hosted through Teams. We hope you can find some time to attend.

### Fiscal Year 2019-20 Audit Process and Results

Our fiscal year (FY) runs from July 1<sup>st</sup> – June 30<sup>th</sup>. As we are required to do, we retain an accounting firm to conduct a full audit of our finances each year. This year's audit was conducted remotely by RSM Canada LLP. The consolidated financial statements include the results of the OPC, International School Leadership and Principals Association Projects. We are pleased to report that we received a clean audit opinion, which was reviewed and approved by Provincial Council on September 29th. This year's audited statements will be available to Members in the [Finances section](#) of our website following our AGM on October 28th.

## Queen's Park

There were questions in the House last week about [delays in start-up of virtual schooling](#), [large class sizes during COVID](#), [increasing cases of COVID in schools](#) and [issues with online learning](#).

## Media

- [Racialized children hardest hit by COVID-19](#)
- [As COVID cases rise, parents raise concerns about increasing class sizes](#)
- [Stressed out caretakers want help and a provincial standard](#)
- [Which students are faring better under the pandemic?](#)
- [The horrors of residential schools must never be forgotten](#)
- [Concerns with virtual learning but parents still want in as cases increase](#)
- [Labour board won't hear teachers' challenge of back-to-school plans](#)
- [Students with just a runny nose can return to school after 24 hrs](#)