

President's Message

September 21, 2020

We know and want to acknowledge that your work for students and staff continues to take a toll. As you shift from reopening tasks to the “regular routine” of running your school, you are now faced with managing positive COVID cases and new procedures that replace established routines. We continue to advocate for you at weekly ministry meetings and with OPSOA and PCODE. Although the daily tasks continue to be overwhelming, please know that there are many people working behind the scenes with the intent to lighten the growing workload that you face. Your local Provincial Councillors participate in weekly meetings with us to share concerns and gather best practices from around the province. You are always welcome to reach out to me directly. I cannot stress enough how important it is that you look after yourself by setting limits to what can reasonably be accomplished in a day.

Ministry Memo

Last week the ministry released a memo on [emergency and crisis response in schools](#). It includes [Guidelines for Maintaining Emergency Procedures](#) and an appendix for [planning fire drills](#) aligned with public health advice related to COVID-19.

Census

In mid-October, we will be embarking on our first OPC Census 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. Watch for more information so you can join your peers and participate in this very important initiative.

Ontario's New Math Curriculum

As Ontario's new math curriculum comes into effect, the OPC, in partnership with CPCO and ADFO, invite you to participate in the free upcoming webinar *New Math Curriculum: The First 90 Days*. This 60-minute session, intended to support you during the implementation phase, will be offered on September 29th and 30th and on October 1st at 4:15 pm. For more information and to register, [visit our website](#).

Twitter Chat

Our first Twitter chat of this school year will take place this **Thursday September 24 from 8:00-9:00 pm EST**. The topic will be Navigating Change. OPC President Ann Pace will be our special guest. To take part, sign into 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!

Queen's Park

There were questions in the House last week about [COVID-related school bus transportation](#), [funding of smaller classes](#), [commitment to smaller classes](#), [funding for special education](#), [support for the child care sector](#), [additional COVID funding for schools](#), [lack of social distancing in schools](#), [delayed starts due to online registration](#), [indoor limits on people and on schools](#), [continuity of education in event of an outbreak](#) and [additional funding for PPE in schools](#).

MPP Mike Schreiner (Green) introduced [Bill 200, Employment Standards Amendment Act](#). It would prevent employers from requiring employees to get a certificate from a qualified medical practitioner if they are sick.

Media

- [Parents shouldn't panic over early case jumps in schools](#)
- [Virtual schools face rocky start](#)
- [Teachers worry about taking a checklist approach to anti-Black racism](#)
- [No choice for in-school vs virtual if no internet available](#)
- [Government launches self-screening tool for schools](#)
- [Has pandemic created our universal child care moment?](#)
- [Some spec ed teachers required to teach online and in person](#)