

## President's Message

September 28, 2020

### Civil Liabilities and Health & Safety Tip Sheets

While the demands of your role are continuously changing, COVID-19 has added a layer of complexity leading to more stress and anxiety, particularly for questions around civil liability. It is your responsibility (liability) to ensure that the school environment and all school activities are reasonably safe. You can't always control what happens under your supervision resulting in harm or injury to others, and the question of liability will focus on whether you were negligent in the discharge of your duties. Our PST has prepared a Tip Sheet on [Civil Liabilities](#) to help you understand civil liability concepts, and we encourage you to review your right to a legal defence and indemnification outlined in your Terms and Conditions Agreement. **It is reassuring to know that school boards have comprehensive liability insurance and P/VPs are covered by those policies, so long as they were acting in the course of their employment duties and in good faith – even if there was some negligence that led to harm.**

We also encourage you to be mindful of your own personal health and wellness during this time. If you are feeling overwhelmed, stressed or anxious, there are concrete steps you can and should take to manage. Reach out to a friend or trusted colleague, contact our PST, call your doctor and/or access the [Starling Minds program](#). We also encourage you to read our Tip Sheet on [OPC Supports for Health and Wellness](#).

### Annual General Meeting

The [Annual General Meeting of the Ontario Principals' Council](#) will be held virtually at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, October 22, 2020. It is open to all Members, but only Provincial Councillors can make motions and vote. The meeting will confirm the election of the 2020-2021 Provincial Councillors to enable them to become Directors of the OPC, receive the latest Audited Financial Statements, appoint the Auditors and conduct other business in accordance with the Constitution.

### Keynote Speakers Confirmed for ICP!

We are excited to announce that 5 keynote speakers have been confirmed for the 2021 ICP convention: Colonel Chris Hadfield, Sugata Mitra, Yassmin Abdel-Magied, Richard Gerver and Gabrielle Scrimshaw. You'll be able to get a sneak preview of our speakers during our free [leadership development series](#) this fall. Join us for these 60-minute webinars, open to Members and Associates, taking place from October 1 – November 17.

### Student Leadership Plaques

Many schools have requested our Student Leadership Award small plaques in the past few weeks. Since schools are now back in session, we will be shipping the plaques to any schools

that have not yet requested them over the next few weeks. The large plaques are also scheduled to ship in the next few weeks, for those who require one. As is our usual practice, additional small and large plaques may be ordered through our [online store](#). If you have any questions or require further information, please contact Brad Harris at [bharris@principals.ca](mailto:bharris@principals.ca).

## Queen's Park

There were questions in the House last week about [a lack of plan to re-open](#), [cancelled school bus routes due to lack of drivers](#), [increasing class sizes](#), [collapsed classes](#) and [planning for second wave](#).

## Media

- [Boards pivot to Plan B as outbreaks close schools](#)
- [Virtual school delayed again due to lack of teachers](#)
- [Crisis looming unless more kids get flu shot this season](#)
- [Runny noses and testing limbo](#)
- [Teachers tell labour board reopening plan is "morally unconscionable"](#)
- [Standardized testing moving online](#)
- [Retired teachers called on to return as pandemic shortage worsens](#)
- [Parents worry virtual learning will lead to setbacks](#)
- [Schools scramble to make up for pandemic learning losses](#)