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Global Principal Partnerships - An Overview

Global Principal Partnerships (GPP) is a formalized job shadowing program where Ontario Principals participate in this international exchange program with colleagues from abroad. As we become more and more focused on improving student performance, we recognize that we have much to share with and to learn from our colleagues in other countries engaged in the same pursuit.

We have had excellent 7-day exchanges with Denmark, Norway, Sweden and Italy where our Ontario Principals travelled abroad over March Break with the return visit being the previous fall, or in the spring. Our exchanges with Australia and New Zealand have been 10 days in length with our Ontario Principals travelling abroad at the end of July/beginning of August and the visiting Principals travelling to Ontario in the fall.

The program has three key components: *shared knowledge, immersed learning and inquiry-based research.*

Each Ontario Principal is matched with an international school leader through the data they provide through a GPP Survey Profile. Shared knowledge by like-minded professionals forms the basis for deep conversations.

Secondly, each Principal will job shadow their partner during the exchange with accommodation/meals being provided, thus reducing the cost of international travel significantly. By hosting at school and in the home, the exchanges create international professional learning communities where the friendships and cultural experiences are exemplary and long-lasting. Culturally and professionally, former GPP participants have pronounced these experiences as exceptional and undoubtedly, the best professional development of their careers.

Finally, school leaders will work on improving student achievement by selecting a specific area of focus to investigate. After the exchange, each Ontario participant will submit a brief summary that is aligned with the Ontario Leadership Framework and speaks to the changes or enhancements to their leadership from this exchange.

When educators are exposed to experiences totally outside their regular environments, they can look with a 'clear' lens at their own practices and ask the relevant questions necessary for change to occur. The self-reflective process heightens the ability of a school leader to focus on the merits of a school program within his/her district and then have directed conversations with their professional partners. As both provincial and international learning communities take these conversations to deeper levels, the insights gained are profound.

This professional growth opportunity is available to OPC Members and CPCO Associates for a registration fee of \$325 + HST when advised that a match has been found. All transportation costs to and from the partnering country are the responsibility of the participant, as are expenses incurred in the visiting country.

For more information, please contact OPC, CPCO or James Dowhaniuk at gpp.ontario@gmail.com