

REPORT

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Fazal Khan, Registrar, CEO

DATE: December 2-3, 2024

SUBJECT: Registrar's Report

Highlights:

- Government Relations
 - Regulations
 - Immigration Policy concerns
- Staffing
- Appointed Public Member Recruitment
- External Relations
 - Event dates
- Collaboration Efforts
- Space Sharing Initiative

Government Relations:

Regulations

With both the updated Registration & Exams Regulation as well as the Professional Misconduct Regulations that came into effect on July 1st of this year, the College continues to invest considerable time in informing the required stakeholders as well as creating supporting information for the website and social media platforms. The College has attended three registrant tradeshow events and will be conducting support webinars to assist the registrants with changes to regulations.

With several policies being reviewed to align with regulation changes, the College is in the process of conducting environmental scans as well as striking focus group to support the work of the committees.

We are continuing to work with the Ministry of Health, with the support of Counsel Public Affairs, for our request for an exemption for Spousal Treatment. Currently the proposal has been posted to the government's website for their consultation period.

Immigration Policy Concerns

Both Georgian College and Seneca College have reached out to seek support with regards to recent changes to immigration policies limiting the number of student visas issued to international students and which professional programs would be prioritized. Both programs have noticed significant impacts on enrollment with international students comprising between 30-76% of total program enrollment. The College is monitoring the situation and determining the role it can play as this situation could impact the output the supply of opticians in the future.

Staffing:

No current changes to staffing. We have brought on one temporary staff member for the registration renewal period to assist with increased calls and emails, especially with the changes to the registration regulation driving more inquiries.



Appointed Member Recruitment

With turn over occurring within our Appointed Public Member ranks, the College started our recruitment process this fall with several excellent applicants indicating interest in participating as a committee member. The screening committee met November 19th to screen applicants for presentation to the Board for final selection at the December board meeting.

External Relations:

Below is a list of events attended/engaged in since the last report as well as upcoming events in the fall:

September 15, 2024: OOA CE Show Ottawa
October 6, 2024: OOA CE Show London
October 7-8, 2024: CNAR Regulatory Symposium, Ottawa
October 9, 2024: National Meetings, Ottawa
November 2, 2024: OOA Student Night
November 3, 2024: OOA CE Show Toronto
November 12, 2024: Registrant Renewal Assistance Webinar

The College has leveraged the Ontario Opticians Association's multiple city road show that included shows in London, Sudbury, Ottawa and Toronto, to spread awareness of changes to the incoming Registration Regulation as well as the Professional Misconduct Regulation. Our presentations were well received and registrant traffic to our booth yielded excellent interaction.

On November 12th the College team provided an accredited lunch hour webinar to assist our registrants as they navigate new requirements and changes to the renewal process. The webinar was extremely well attended with over 440 opticians in attendance. A recorded version of the webinar has been posted for those who could not attend.

Collaboration Efforts

The Board will be hearing from our consultants regarding our joint Indigenous Engagement project with the College of Optometrists at the December Board meeting. This project was undertaken to better understand the Indigenous community's challenges and experiences faced as patients seeking eye care. This project is a cornerstone of the College's strategic initiative around diversity, equity, and inclusion with an end goal of developing a standard of practice which guides the registrants regarding Cultural Safety and Humility. This collaborative effort has not only resulted in cost sharing, but it is also aimed at developing aligned standards which would benefit both professions and ultimately the patient.

Space Sharing Initiative:

The COO finalized our space sharing contract with the College of Respiratory Therapists who moved in as of October 1, 2024. In preparation for the co-sharing arrangement, the COO has undertaken considerable efforts to convert our workstations to 'hotel' style workstations where multiple team members can use the space. Signage has been updated and storage lockers have been installed for the new team. This arrangement with the CRTO will allow our college to test a space sharing arrangement and possibly pave the way for additional colleges to enter arrangements with the COO for other unused office days.

Respectfully submitted by:

Fazal Khan, RO
CEO, Registrar