

REPORT

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Fazal Khan, Registrar, CEO

DATE: March 2, 2026

SUBJECT: Registrar's Report

Highlights:

- Government Relations
 - As of Right Legislation
- Board Composition
- Collaborative Efforts
- Premises Lease
- External Relations
 - Event Dates
- Registration Renewal

Government Relations:

As of Right Legislation

On November 3, Bill 56, the *Building a More Competitive Economy Act, 2025*, received royal assent. This bill resulted in certain amendments to the *Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991* that have come into effect as of January 1, 2026. The bill also included an amendment to the *Opticianry Act, 1991* that allowed the government to make regulations relating to As of Right for opticians.

On December 12, 2025, a new regulation was made under the *Opticianry Act, 1991*. [O. Reg. 328/25: Exemption – Restricted Titles](#), came into effect on January 1, 2026 and authorizes nationally registered opticians holding an equivalent license to practice in Ontario “As of Right” while they await processing of their registration application. Applicants must also meet other eligibility requirements set out in the regulation.

Information including application forms are available on the College’s website. To date, no applications under this pathway have been submitted to the College.

Board Composition:

We are pleased to have received confirmation that Government Public Appointed Board Member, Alicia Munian has been reappointed for another three-year term effective March 9, 2026. As well, The College welcomes newly elected Board Member, Golta Mohammadi to sit as the board member for District 5, Toronto until the end of the year as she completes the balance of the term formerly held by Grazyna Sepczynska.

Collaborative Efforts:

The College met with senior leadership of the opticianry program at Seneca College in December to discuss various issues including the current downturn in enrolment numbers. Discussions centered around working collaboratively to increase domestic awareness of the profession via social media campaigns.

The College will be partnering with the Ontario Opticians Association (OOA) to host our first Queen's Park Opticianry Awareness Day. This event is focused on creating awareness and educating members of the provincial government on the important role opticians play in eye health care. The event will be held on May 8th over the lunch hour.

Premises Lease:

At the December Board meeting, the Board directed the Registrar to enter lease negotiations ahead of the lease completion in June 2027 to proactively seek a favorable lease extension. With the skilled efforts of our leasing agent, we were able to secure an additional five-year extension to our lease that is below current rates and will certainly be well below rates expected in 2027 as space availability decreases with the trend of more offices returning to in-person operations.

External Relations:

Below is a list of upcoming external events this fall:

February 2-3, 2026: MDR AI Conference for Regulators, Toronto

February 5, 2026: Seneca Polytechnic Student Opticians Trade Show, Toronto

February 9, 2026: Seneca Polytechnic Student Presentation

February 19, 2026: COO Standards of Practice Lunch and Learn Webinar

March 1, 2026: Independent Opticians Business Tradeshow, Toronto

March 22, 2026: AOE Continuing Education and Tradeshow, Markham

April 19, 2026: OOA Continuing Education and Tradeshow, Vaughn

May 8, 2026: COO/OOA Queens Park Opticianry Awareness Day

Registration Renewal:

The registration renewal has now closed successfully. This was the first year that we were renewing registrants in the Inactive Optician class and our second year under the new extended deadline. Discussions with the registration team indicated a smooth holiday closure with no significant issues arising with respect to registrants renewing their certificates over the holiday period.

Fazal Khan, RO Registrar, CEO