

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

January 12, 2026

Updates to the Standards of Practice

Changes to the [Standards of Practice and Practice Guideline](#) took effect on January 12, 2026. The updates are designed to provide clear and updated guidance on delivering safe, ethical, and effective care. Registered Opticians should familiarize themselves with the updated [Standards and Guidelines](#). Visit our website for a detailed [summary of changes](#).

By-Law Changes create one all-Ontario Electoral District

The Board approved by-law changes to support a decision made in December 2024 to revamp the board election model by moving to a single all-Ontario electoral district. The by-laws were updated to put the new model in place ahead of board elections that will take place in Spring 2026.

Several Registration Policies were updated for greater clarity

The Board approved updates to registration-related policies for consistency and accessibility:

- [The Registration Appeal Policy](#) clarifications were made to outline the appeal process more concisely for applicants.
- [Photo Submission Requirements](#) now outlines the requirements for digital photos.
- [The Policy on Findings and Vulnerable Sector Checks](#) maintains the core requirements for applicants to undergo a vulnerable sector check and to provide additional information in the event of charges or findings.
- [The Reinstatement and Changing from Inactive to Active Status Policy](#) updates removed transitional language allowing opticians who were suspended for more than three years to reinstate their certificate, as the July 1, 2025, deadline had passed.

Board Governance

The Board reviews policies on a schedule set out in the Governance Manual. In keeping with that schedule, minor amendments were made to the following policies:

- Director Job Description Policy 4-04
- Board Meeting Process Policy 4-22
- Board Policy Development Policy 4-24
- Pre-Election/Pre-Appointment Screening Policy 4-29

Financial Condition Policy

Amendments to the Financial Condition Policy were approved. The changes require the Registrar, CEO, to identify to the board any amount expected to deviate from the budget by more than 10% by the end of the year.

COO Skills and Diversity Matrix

The skills and diversity matrix was revised to ensure that, in addition to geographic representation, committees collectively possess a broad range of skills and attributes to understand and address patient needs across the province.

Election of the 2026 Executive Committee

The board elected the following individuals to the Executive Committee for 2026:

- Kevin Cloutier, RO, Chair, Board Professional Member
- Derick Summers, RO, Vice- Chair, Board Professional Member
- Omar Farouk, Board Public Member
- Stephen Kinsella, Board Public Member
- Paul Imola, RO, Board Professional Member

Election of the National Examinations Committee (NEC) Representative

Stephanie Kelly was elected as the representative for the National Examinations Committee for 2026.

2026-2028 Strategic Plan

The COO is pleased to announce the approval and launch of the College's [2026-2028 Strategic Plan](#). The new plan was informed by an extensive consultation process with Registrants, system partners, and members of the public, and continues to focus on the following three pillars:

- **Public Pillar:** Safer and More Inclusive Patient Care
- **Registrant Pillar:** The College is relational, accessible, and responsive to changes in technology and evolving patient expectations
- **The Organizational Pillar:** The College demonstrates regulatory leadership through governance excellence.
- Updates on the College's progress toward achieving its strategic goals are provided every March and September during board meetings.

Monitoring Reports

The Reserves Policy Monitoring Report, the Investment Policy Monitoring Report, and the Registrant Relations Policy Monitoring Report were presented to the board by the Registrar. Monitoring reports were assigned to Board members for the coming year.

Financial Reports

The board approved the financial variance report to October 31, 2025, and the 2026 budget.