

## BRIEFING NOTE

**TO:** Council

**FROM:** Executive Committee

**DATE:** December 2 and 3, 2019

**SUBJECT:** 4.2 Approval of the Auditor for 2020 Fiscal Year

☒ For Decision

☐ For Information

☐ Monitoring Report

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**Purpose:**

To appoint an auditor for the 2020 fiscal year.

**Background:**

As set out in the by-laws, at the December meeting, the board is responsible for appointment of the auditor for the following year. The Council has approved Sevitt and Associates as the College's auditing firm for the 2019 fiscal year. Sevitt and Associates has functioned as the College external auditors since 2002.

At its meeting of January 28, 2019, Council indicated that that it wished to examine whether it should appoint an alternate auditor in the future.

**For Consideration:**

At its meeting of September 23, 2019, the Executive Committee reviewed proposals from three audit firms and assessed the potential benefits and risks of appointing a new firm. The committee also reviewed the recommendation of the Chartered Professional Accountants (CPA) of Canada, which suggests that audit quality can be maintained by conducting an internal review of the auditor every 5 years using a comprehensive audit tool<sup>1</sup>. The CPA also recommends that audit committees conduct annual auditor reviews that consider how the auditor demonstrated independence, objectivity and professional skepticism; the quality of the engagement team; and quality of the communications and interactions with the external auditor<sup>2</sup>. Other Ontario regulators have adopted the CPA recommendation to conduct internal audits.

In the attached letter, dated October 23, 2019, Peter Sevitt, Principal, Sevitt and Associates, indicates that the firm has undergone a merger with Grewal Guyatt LLP, and will continue under the banner of Grewal Guyatt, and will continue to offer the same level of service to the College.

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<sup>1</sup> See CPA, (2018) "Oversight of the External Auditor: Guidance for Audit Committees" [available here](#).

<sup>2</sup> See CPA, (2018) "Annual Assessment of the External Auditor: Tool for Audit Committees" [available here](#).

**Recommendations/Action Required:**

The Executive Committee recommends that Grewal Guyatt LLP be appointed as the College's auditors for the 2020 fiscal year and to proceed with an internal audit of the firm using the comprehensive audit tool as recommended by Chartered Professional Accountants (CPA).

October 23, 2019

College of Opticians of Ontario  
90 Adelaide Street West, Suite 300  
Toronto, ON M5H 3V9

Dear Fazal,

It is with great excitement that I write you this letter announcing the merging of Sevitt & Associates with Grewal Guyatt LLP as of October 1, 2019. After operating my practice for many years, I have made the decision to continue my practice under the Grewal Guyatt banner as they provided the best fit for our firm and our clients.

I will be continuing with the merged practice as a Principal of the firm and Malcolm Vaz will join as an Assistant Manager. Malcolm will continue to be the initial contact person. I am confident that you will continue to receive the same level of service you have become accustomed to and the firm will now be able to offer a wider range of specialty services.

Grewal Guyatt LLP is a boutique accounting firm providing traditional corporate, personal, partnership, Not-for-profit, estate, and trust tax filings services. In addition, they have the expertise in being able to provide the following:

- Comprehensive estate and succession tax planning;
- Corporate re-organizations;
- Business valuations and litigation support; and
- Legal services including incorporations and upkeep of corporate minute books.

The firm's leadership team consists of Rick Grewal (CPA, CA, TEP), Adam Guyatt (CPA, CA, CFA, CBV, CFF, FVS) and Wesley Isaacs (LLB).

Rick who trained with KPMG and PwC, leads the firm's corporate tax re-organization and estate planning team. Adam trained with Deloitte and oversees the firm's compliance, business valuation and litigation support services. Wesley is a tax lawyer and former Bay Street partner from a prominent law firm who assists with complex re-organizations and manages the legal side of the firm.

I am more than confident our new affiliation will serve us all well.

Sincerely,



Peter Sevitt, CPA, CA  
Cell: (416) 890-2344  
Email: peter@grewalguyatt.ca

*ps. Please call to confirm a time to meet as all.*