

REPORT

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Fazal Khan, Registrar, CEO

DATE: December 1, 2025

SUBJECT: Registrar's Report

Highlights:

- Government Relations
 - Regulations
 - Pending legislation: As of Right
- Collaborative Efforts
- External Relations
 - Event Dates
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- Registration Renewal
- NACOR Meeting

Government Relations:

Regulations

With the introduction of the Spousal Exception for treatment of spouses, as of August 29th, the College has been actively informing our registrant base on what the implications of this amendment are. The College website has been updated, draft guidance has been incorporated into the Standards of Practice document that is coming before the Board in December and information seminars have been conducted in Ottawa, London and Toronto. Our social media platforms are also being utilized to inform the registrant base.

As of Right Legislation

The provincial government, as part of its initiatives to reduce internal trade barriers has tabled an expansion of the As of Right legislation that initially came into effect in 2023, impacting physicians, nurses, medical technologists and respiratory therapists working in a hospital setting. The ministry is proposing to expand the number of colleges under this legislation including opticianry and optometry.

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 will

come into effect on January 1, 2026. The bill also included an amendment to the *Opticianry Act, 1991* that allows the government to make regulations relating to As of Right for opticians.

These amendments create some of the necessary framework for the proposed As of Right expansion, but it is still necessary to enact additional regulations to give effect to the As of Right expansion

Collaborative Efforts:

The latest collaboration amongst other health regulatory partners includes a joint training workshop on the topic of Plain Language writing, hosted by the College of Chiropractors on November 11-12th. Several of our team members will be in attendance.

The COO and College of Audiologists and Speech Language Pathologists held a second joint equity webinar on October 29, 2025, which focused on ageism in healthcare.

The College will be partnering with the Ontario Opticians Association (OOA) to participate in a health and wellness event at the Ismaili Community Centre November 23rd. The OOA has also agreed to partner with the College in a Queens Park Opticianry Day in the spring of 2026.

The College will be meeting with the leadership and faculty of Seneca College in December to discuss areas to collaborate around student enrollment. With the reduction in international student visas, opticianry education educators are finding a downturn in enrollment numbers which will have implications for new applicant numbers for the College.

External Relations:

Below is a list of upcoming external events this fall:

September 21, 2025: OOA Continuing Education and Tradeshow, Ottawa

October 5, 2025: OOA Continuing Education and Tradeshow, London

October 20-23, 2025: CNAR Regulatory Conference and NACOR Administrators Meeting, Calgary

October 20, 2025: Seneca College Program Advisory Committee (PAC) Meeting

November 8, 2025: OOA Student Night

November 9, 2025: OOA Continuing Education and Tradeshow, Richmond Hill, ON

November 23, 2025: Health and Wellness Fair, Ismaili Community Centre (Joint with the OOA)

The CNAR Regulatory Conference has an attendance of over 950 Canadian regulatory attendees. Along with the registrar and deputy registrar, the College sent two other team members to attend various seminars relevant to their portfolios.

Our engagements with registrants in Ottawa, London and Toronto have been very fruitful. These events continue to give us an excellent opportunity to encourage registrants to get more involved with the College as appointed and elected members as well as peer assessors and examiners. These events

allow us to connect and understand the needs of our registrants to better comply with their regulatory requirements and learn updates from the College.

The College, in partnership with the Ontario Opticians Association (OOA) hosted a joint booth at the Health and Wellness Fair, held at the Ismaili Community Centre. This was a public facing event where the College and Association were able to interact with over 140 community members informing them that opticians are trained and licensed, the importance of dealing with a regulated health professional and the overall importance of eye health care. This event was an excellent opportunity for both organizations to interact with the patients they serve.

Public Government Appointments:

The College welcomes new Public Government Appointee, Greg Chitilian to the COO Board for a three-year term. Greg Chitilian's has a background in both engineering in finance and is a current member of the Association of Professional Engineers of Ontario (PEO). The administrative team has met with Greg for an initial orientation as he will be joining for his first board meeting in December.

Registration Renewal:

The registration renewal season is now upon us and thus far we have had a smooth launch. This will be the first year that we are renewing registrants in the Inactive Optician class. The team continues to monitor changes in the Canada Post job action as it may have an impact on the mailing of renewal decals and replacement badges.

With the introduction of our extended renewal deadline for registration renewal and the annual quality assurance deadline to January 15th, the College will be closed December 29th-31st to allow, especially the renewal team, an opportunity to take some much-deserved down time. This will be a pilot initiative, and the administrative team will reassess prior to the next renewal season to ensure that the registrant base continues to be well supported.

National Alliance of Canadian Opticianry Regulators (NACOR):

Opticianry regulatory administrators from across Canada to discuss topics of national interest including the recent initiatives to further promote labour mobility, updates regarding the PLAR (prior learning, assessment and recognition) program and recent updates to the National Registration Examination. There were discussion and consensus that Cultural Safety and Humility would be explored as an entry to practice competency during the next round of updates to the Entry to Practice Competency document which is due to be reviewed in 2026-2027.

This meeting marked the final NACOR meeting for Executive Director, Jodi Dodds. Jodi has been the face of NACOR for over two decades. Under her stewardship, opticianry has positioned itself as a leader in collaboration. In her time as Executive Director, NACOR has established the groundwork for the

successful movement and recognition of opticianry credentials across Canada. Starting with the development of a national competency framework, the creation of a single national licensing examination and the accreditation of teaching institutions, Jodi and NACOR have created the environment for opticians across Canada to receive the same training and entry to practice examination that facilitates the safe movement of opticians between all provinces of Canada and is an example and envy of most health regulators across the country. This is the legacy that Jodi Dodds leaves behind. Wishing her the best in her next endeavors.

Fazal Khan, RO Registrar, CEO