

# Report

**TO:** Council

**FROM:** Fazal Khan, Registrar

**DATE:** Tuesday January 30, 2018

**SUBJECT:** National Initiatives Update

**GUEST SPEAKER:** Laura Greer

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## **OCC- Opticians Council of Canada**

The OCC has embraced the direction of “Keeping Opticianry Relevant” and to that end the focus has been on recruitment as well as scope expansion. From a regulatory perspective there has been a concern of ensuring there are enough registered opticians available to serve the public need. As well, many unauthorized practice cases cite a lack of opticians as a primary cause.

A presentation was given by Laura Greer of Hill and Knowlton (H&K), Government Relations firm. H&K has spent the past year assessing the state of refraction and prescribing across Canada. Efforts are being focused on Alberta where there is already refraction and the move is to expand scope to encompass prescribing.

H&K presented the ‘Tool Kit’ for each province to customize with high level direction regarding how each stakeholder, regulator, associations, and educators are to interact with government. Emphasis was placed on what role each group should play.

Key points included:

- Government will look favorably if a solution is brought forward with optometry in support.
- Government supports cautious growth and expansion. They recommend patience and a staged project plan.
- Imperative to define the ask and be clear. Must define refraction vs. prescribing to reduce opposition and controversy.

Next Steps:

- Customize tool kit containing items like speaking notes, messaging and whom to speak with in the government will be provided to each provincial group.
- Discussions with provincial regulators and associations on strategy and definition of roles for each group.

Ms. Laura Greer will be in attendance to give an over view to council.

Fazal Khan, RO  
Registrar, CEO