



BRIEFING NOTE

TO: Council

FROM: Governance Committee

DATE: October 2nd, 2017

SUBJECT: By-law Amendment – Electoral District 6

Background

Before the *Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991* (RHPA) was enacted, Council was referred to as the Board of Ophthalmic Dispensers. During this time the majority of members held 'Eyeglass only' licenses. To ensure that there was sufficient contact lens expertise on the Board, one elected position was specifically set aside for opticians who held the specialty designation Certified Contact Lens Fitter (CCLF).

The College has not issued any new CCLF designations since 1991 and it is not recognized as a protected title under the RHPA. It is also not a specialty recognized in the College's Registration Regulation. All members of the College are registered to fit both eyeglasses and contact lenses, thus representation of both skill sets is present at the Council table.

At the May 15, 2017 Governance Committee meeting, the Registrar briefed the Committee regarding the issues surrounding the designated CCLF seat and raised the possibility of changing the CCLF seat to one of the following options:

1. Contact lens mentor seat;
2. Creating a “new member” seat (e.g., member in their first 5 years of practice)
3. Creating an “academic” seat;
4. Creating an extra seat for Toronto / GTA;
5. Redistributing the existing regions and creating a new region;
6. Eliminating the seat completely;
7. Any other suggestions from the committee.

At its May 29th meeting, Council recommended the Governance Committee consider changing the CCLF seat to one of the following options:

1. Replacing the CCLF seat with a “contact lens mentor” seat;
2. Replacing it with an “academic” seat; or
3. Creating a “Member at Large” seat.

The Committee’s initial preference was to pursue an Academic seat and asked staff to reach out to opticianry educators and explore whether there would be any interest in such a seat, and if so, what the eligibility criteria should be.

The Committee reviewed the feedback received from educators at its September 6, 2017 meeting. The Committee had concerns that there was not sufficient interest in an academic seat to ensure that it could be regularly filled from among the small pool of potentially eligible candidates.

By contrast, the Committee noted that there are currently 277 individuals recognized by the College as Contact Lens Mentors. A “contact lens mentor” seat would therefore provide a significantly larger pool of candidates eligible to run for the seat, and would ensure that someone with current expertise in fitting contact lenses have a voice at Council.

For Consideration:

The Governance Committee recommends that Council adopt the following by-law amendment and circulate for stakeholder feedback for a period of 60 days.

Current Language	Proposed Amended Language	Rationale
<p>6.3 Eligibility for Election</p> <p>A Member is eligible for election to Council in an electoral district if, on the deadline for the receipt of nominations and up to and including the date of the election:</p> <p>(m) in the case of electoral district 6, the Member is currently a holder of a Certificate of Proficiency in the Fitting of Contact Lenses issued by the Board of Ophthalmic Dispensers under the <i>Ophthalmic Dispensers Act</i>;</p>	<p>6.3 Eligibility for Election</p> <p>A Member is eligible for election to Council in an electoral district if, on the deadline for the receipt of nominations and up to and including the date of the election:</p> <p>m) in the case of electoral district 6, the Member is currently <u>recognized by the College as a Contact Lens Mentor in accordance with the College's contact lens mentor policy as approved by Council</u>;</p>	<p>Currently, one seat on Council is reserved for an individual holding designated by the College as a Certified Contact Lens Fitter, or "CCLF". The College has not issued any new CCLF designations since 1991, and it is not recognized as a protected title under the <i>Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991</i>.</p> <p>This amendment would replace the current seat on Council reserved for an individual holding a CCLF designation with a seat reserved for an individual recognized by the College as a Contact Lens Mentor. Contact Lens Mentors are those individuals recognized by the College as having sufficient experience and expertise to supervise the contact lens fittings of student or intern opticians.</p>