

BRIEFING NOTE

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Fazal Khan, Registrar/CEO

DATE: May 30, 2022

SUBJECT: NACOR Report

☐ For Decision

☒ For Information

☐ Monitoring Report

Purpose:

This report is for information only.

Background:

The College participates in two National Alliance of Canadian Opticianry Regulators (NACOR) meetings each year. The College, along with all other Canadian opticianry regulators, is a member of NACOR. NACOR provides regulatory support to all provinces to ensure consistency between provinces and assist with processes such as labour mobility. Tools include the National Registration Examination as well as Prior Learning Assessment tools.

For Consideration:

The Spring NACOR meeting took place April 13, 2022. COO participants included the Board Chair, Vice Chair, Registrar and Deputy Registrar. Attached is a copy of the Ontario Provincial Report.

Highlights include:

-NACOR updated the board on the status of the new PLAR tool that would enhance the behavior-based questions and eliminate the interview portion of the process. This would enhance consistency, improve access for applicants and reduce costs. NACOR intends to launch this revised process on June 1st. Jodi Dodds will be meeting with provincial Registration Committees individually to update them. Each regulator will have to update the content pertaining to this on their respective websites.

-A presentation was given by Accreditation Canada who administer the EQual Accreditation Program for opticianry programs on a national basis. Georgian, Seneca and La Cite colleges have all received accredited status. The program continues to look for subject matter experts for their survey teams.

-As part of aligning all regulatory tools with the updated Competencies, NACOR is updating the Pre-Arrival Tool “PART” using grant funds secured by the College of Opticians of British Columbia. The tool is free to use by prospective international applicants to evaluate their skills in comparison to the competency profile of a Canadian optician.

-The national team from Counsel Public Affairs presented its environmental scan commissioned by the COO regarding the Non-Insured Health Benefits plan (NIHB). This presentation will be given to the COO at its upcoming May board meeting.

-The NACOR board discussed the structure of the Fall National Meetings with the hopes that this meeting will be in-person. If the meeting goes forward in-person, the intention is to host a round table event, inviting all opticianry stakeholders to discuss a host of items including the impact of the pandemic on the profession.

Public Interest Considerations:

Participation and membership in NACOR support the public interest as it ensures consistency in opticianry competencies, skills and service across jurisdictions.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Considerations:

Participation in NACOR ensures access to registration tools such as PLAR (Prior Learning, Assessment and Recognition) that ensure fair and equitable access to the profession by foreign applicants.

Recommendations/Action Required:

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