

REPORT

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Fazal Khan, Registrar, CEO

DATE: June 5, 2023

SUBJECT: Registrar's Report

Highlights:

- Government Relations and Pending Regulations
- MOH
 - College Performance Measurements Framework
 - Temporary Emergency Class
 - As of Right
- External Relations
- Space Planning

Government Relations and Pending Regulations:

Internal bi-weekly update meetings are being held with Counsel Government Relations. Counsel is actively following up on pending regulation updates as well as monitoring the landscape for possible governance and regulatory model changes.

Ministry of Health:

College Performance Measurements Framework (CPMF)

The College has successfully submitted its 2022 CPMF report to the Ministry of Health prior to the required deadline. Kudos to our Deputy Registrar, Amy Stein and our administration team for gathering the required data and completing this extensive annual report which can be found [here](#).

Temporary Emergency Class Circulation

To meet the imposed implementation deadline of July 2023, the College had circulated a draft amendment to the Registration Regulation regarding the new Temporary Emergency Class and held a special meeting to consider the amendment. The proposed amendment was accepted by the Board and submitted to the Ministry. Some clarification was sought and provided, and we now await the next steps from the Ministry.

New “As of Right” Legislation

On February 21, 2023, the Ontario Government introduced Bill 60, the Your Health Act, 2023. This new legislation, if passed, is the first step toward creating “As of Right” rules in Ontario that will permit health care workers registered in another province or territory to practice in Ontario without having to first register with one of Ontario’s health regulatory colleges.

For now, the legislation will only apply to registrants of four specific health professions: physicians, nurses, respiratory therapists, and medical laboratory technologies. The rules will not come into effect until the government enacts additional regulations that will set out the conditions for those practising under the As of Right rules.

At this time, the legislation does not propose any changes that will be applicable to the opticianry profession. The College continues to monitor developments.

Similar legislation has come into effect in Nova Scotia as of April that impacts all of their regulated health professions.

External Relations:

The College has had a busy Spring attending stakeholder events. The College has already participated in three student information sessions between Georgian and Seneca College. As organizations begin to return to in-person for events, the College has been invited to participate in speaking engagements, trade shows and national events. This includes:

March 7th: Seneca College Student Trade Show

March 26th: AOE CE Day and Tradeshow. This event was well attended with approximately 450 opticians in attendance. The College had a booth at the event with staff from the Quality Assurance and Registration departments. There were several positive conversations regarding the proposed registration fees.

April 19th to 21st: NACOR National Meetings-Montreal

Industry Round Table: Once again, the COO was an integral contributor in hosting the second Industry Round Table, a collaborative meeting of regulators, educators, associations, and industry stakeholders. The meeting was hosted in Montreal, Quebec on April 19th and had over 80 attendees in attendance from across Canada. This session saw a continuation of work started in the Fall session of 2022. The group reviewed data gathered from all sectors including enrollment and registration trends as well as expected demand for opticians over the next few years. NACOR presented samples of the public awareness efforts that were developed collaboratively by the Opticians Council of Canada (OCC).

By days end, the group had identified a desire to continue efforts in creating awareness,

both domestically and internationally, of the profession. There was also interest in reviewing the role and scope of opticians moving forward. Next steps include presenting an action plan and assessing which parties are interested in participating.

NACOR Meeting: The NACOR board meeting was held April 20th with all provincial regulators in attendance. Highlights included the announcement of the updated PLAR (prior learning assessment and recognition) tool which will see the elimination of the interview portion which will be replaced by enhanced case-based scenarios. This new tool will be offered virtually, increasing accessibility for foreign applicants to access the tool from their home country as well as substantially lowering the cost of the process to the applicant.

Other highlights included the announcement that Manitoba has instituted mandatory Indigenous reconciliation training for its board members, participation by all provinces in a national patient survey regarding access to optical services and a commitment to exploring a national public register. This is of particular interest with the recent effort of provincial regulators to ease the movement of health professionals across provincial borders.

April 23rd: Ontario Opticians Association CE Day. The College had a booth and two speaking opportunities at this event with over 500 opticians in attendance. Once again, the conversations were positive. The College update was focused on explaining the various policies that are in circulation for feedback currently as well as changes to the Quality Assurance program that are coming into effect in 2024.

June 9th-11th: Ontario Registration Examinations at Seneca College

Space Planning

The College administration team continues to explore the possibility of space sharing with some Colleges that have moved to a permanent virtual operation and may be looking for occasional use of facilities. While the College lease still has approximately 5 more years left, the College administration team is actively exploring all options.

Respectfully submitted by:

Fazal Khan, RO
CEO, Registrar