

REPORT

TO: Board of Directors Meeting

FROM: Fazal Khan, Registrar, CEO

DATE: March 6, 2023

SUBJECT: Registrar's Report

Highlights:

- Remote Operations
- Government Relations and Pending Regulations
- MOH
 - College Performance Measurements Framework
 - Temporary Emergency Class
 - As of Right
 - Meeting with Dr. Velji, ADM MOH
- External Relations
- Space Planning

Remote Operations:

The College has instituted Tuesday and Wednesday as in-office days while the balance of the week, the team remains available remotely. This has created weekly collaboration opportunities as well as a predictability to schedule appointments with the public and registrants as well as any routine maintenance on premises. The team continues to operate remotely with no impediment to timelines or workflow.

Over and above the expected 2 days per week in-office attendance, staff are prepared to support the Board and its committees with any in-person meetings.

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 Ministry has released the latest template of the CPMF reporting framework and the administrative team has begun work on creating the 2022 report.

Temporary Emergency Class Circulation

In order to meet the imposed implementation deadline of July 2023, the College has circulated a draft amendment to the Registration Regulation regarding the new Temporary Emergency Class. Feedback will be brought back to the Registration Committee and the matter will be brought before the Board at a special meeting on April 24th.

Now that this has come into effect, the staff have been exploring impacts on application processes, timelines and impacts on staffing.

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 is continuing to monitor developments.

Meeting with Assistant Deputy Minister, Dr. Karima Velji

The Registrar and Deputy Registrar had an introductory meeting with Dr. Karima Velji on February 21, 2023. The College provided an overview of the services provided by opticians as well as the efforts made to date in governance reforms. As the Ministry is focused on Health Human Resource (HHR) management, an extensive discussion was had regarding the College’s efforts as well as some of the challenges around international candidates and students who face challenges seeking work permits. Overall, the meeting was excellent, and we have committed to providing written information around the issues with work permits.

External Relations:

The College expects to have a busy season of stakeholder events, both this Spring and Fall. 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

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

April 23rd: Ontario Opticians Association CE Day

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

May 3rd to 5th: CLEAR International Regulatory Conference

Space Planning

The College administration team has been engaged in high level meetings 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. Several models are being explored. While the College lease still has approximately 5 more years left, the College administration team is actively exploring all options. The College of Physiotherapists had offered a proposal to share their space, however, has since withdrawn the offer as there not sufficient partners who see value in the model currently.

Respectfully submitted by:

Fazal Khan, RO
CEO, Registrar