

BRIEFING NOTE

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Fazal Khan, Registrar/CEO

DATE: December 6, 2021

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 Fall NACOR meeting took place November 24, 2021. COO participants included the Board 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 expects the updated tool to be available by Q2 of 2022.

-NACOR has completed its own bank of bridging modules for eyeglasses, contact lenses and refraction. In the past, learning modules from NAIT (Northern Alberta Institute of Technology) were the only bridging courses available. NACOR is now hosting these modules on its website. Potential applicants can view the modules at no cost.

-A decision was made to limit the time to complete the bridging modules to a time period of one year from date of start.

-As NACOR and the COO operation on a cost recovery basis, a decision was made to reduce the NACOR administered PLAR fee to \$385 to reflect the reduced costs of the process with the elimination of the in-person interview portion. The COO registration committee will review its PLAR fee to reflect this change.

-The NACOR board committed to hosting a 3-hour national anti-racism workshop at the board level as well as making this training available provincially for each of the respective regulatory boards.

-The NACOR board was receptive to participation in a national approach to revising the Non-Insured Health Benefits Program, the program that administers vision benefits for the Indigenous community.

-The Quebec Order of Opticians is in discussions with the Quebec Order of Optometrists with respect to opticians having the ability to alter prescriptions within agreed upon parameters.

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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