

REPORT

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Fazal Khan, Registrar, CEO

DATE: June 5, 2023

SUBJECT: NACOR Report

Purpose: To provide a high-level summary of the national meetings held in Montreal, Quebec, April 19-20th. No action required.

Background: The College, as a member of the National Alliance of Canadian Opticianry Regulators (NACOR), participates in semi-annual national meetings held in the Spring and Fall each year. NACOR was formed as a collaborative vehicle to discuss issues of interest to each of its regulatory partners as well as the development of tools such as the National Opticianry Competencies, the Entry to Practice Examination and other tools such as the Prior Learning and Assessment Recognition tool. This ensures opticians are trained and assessed consistently across the country, thereby assisting in provincial mobility. Provincial opticianry regulators from across the country comprise the NACOR Board of directors, sending Board and administration representatives to attend these collaborative meetings.

Meeting Highlights: The recent national meetings were held at the Delta hotel in Montreal, Quebec. In attendance were the Chair, Vice Chair, Registrar and Deputy Registrar. The first day consisted of an all-day Industry Round table event, the second in this series. Over 80 representatives from regulators, educators, associations and industry were in attendance from across the country including a large contingent from Quebec. This facilitated meeting was a continuation of work started in the Fall at the first Industry Round Table event. Data was collected and shared from all sectors to help understand supply and demand trends of opticians across the country. A key theme that was identified was the relatively flat supply of opticians, based on new registrations and those leaving the profession, and an increase in the retail demand for opticians. The session ended with the group identifying a desire to improve awareness of the profession in hopes of attracting more people to become opticians as well as redefining the role of an optician in the eye care community.

The NACOR board meeting was held on the second day. Highlights included:

- Deployment of the updated PLAR tool which included enhanced case-based scenarios and the deletion of the panel interview. This new tool comes into effect May 1, 2023 and brings with it a lower cost of \$350/section (reduced from \$650/section) as there are now cost savings realized from the deletion of the panel interview portion. This tool is now administered online, improving accessibility, particularly to foreign applicants who can access this tool from their home country.

- The National Exams Committee (NEC) met in February of 2023 to review and update the Entry to Practice examination as it had not been reviewed since prior to the pandemic.
- All provinces indicated a commitment to participate in Ontario's public survey to assess accessibility to opticianry services. With provincial cost sharing, this survey is now expanding to deploy the survey across the country.
- Highlights from provincial reports included Manitoba requiring all board members to complete Indigenous reconciliation training, the opening of a new opticianry school in New Brunswick, 'As of Right' style legislation being implemented in Nova Scotia that impacts all regulated health professionals and BC reporting challenges with unauthorized use of title post amalgamation of its 20 regulatory bodies down to 6.
- Aside from committing to a country wide patient survey, members of NACOR expressed interest in exploring the development of a national opticianry registry to assist patients in tracking all opticians across the country in the event that changes in legislation entices opticians to practice interprovincially.

Respectfully submitted by:

Fazal Khan, RO
NACOR
Representative