

## REGISTRATION POLICY

### Labour Mobility Policy

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#### I. Background

The College of Opticians of Ontario (COO) is party to a Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) amongst Canadian opticianry regulators that seeks to achieve the objectives set out under chapter 7 of the Agreement on Internal Trade (AIT) to ensure that opticians licensed in one Canadian province or territory will have their qualifications recognized in another Canadian province or territory.

#### II. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to outline the COO registration process for individuals registered with an opticianry regulator in another Canadian jurisdiction in accordance with the MRA, *Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991* and *Opticianry Act, 1991*, and any regulations under those acts.

#### III. Definitions

“**Labour Mobility Applicant**” means an individual who applies to the COO for a certificate of registration who, at the time of their application, are licensed or registered, and in good standing, with an opticianry regulator in another Canadian province or territory.

“**Eligible Class**” means the following classes of registration which Labour Mobility Applicants are eligible to apply for:

1. Registered Optician
2. Registered Intern Optician

“**Eyeglass Only Applicant**” means a Labour Mobility Applicant who, at the time of application, holds a license or certificate of registration in another Canadian province or jurisdiction that authorizes them to dispense eyeglasses but not contact lenses in that jurisdiction.

“**Registration Regulation**” means [O. Reg. 32/24](#) under the *Opticianry Act, 1991*.

#### IV. Scope

This policy applies to Labour Mobility Applicants who are applying for registration in an Eligible Class.

#### V. Policy

##### *Eligibility Criteria*

1. To be eligible for registration in Ontario, Labour Mobility Applicants must meet the following requirements:
  - a. At the time of their application, the applicant must either:

- i. Hold a valid license or certificate of registration issued by a Canadian opticianry regulator that is equivalent to a certificate of registration in an Eligible Class, or
- ii. In the case of Eyeglass Only Applicants:
  1. hold a valid license or certificate of registration issued by a Canadian opticianry regulator that authorizes them to dispense eyeglasses, but not contact lenses in that jurisdiction, AND
  2. complete the additional steps set out in section 2.
- b. The applicant must be in good standing in the out-of-province jurisdiction where they hold a license or registration.
- c. The applicant must have practised in a manner consistent with their registration/license within the two years prior to the date of application or undertake to complete any additional training or other requirements specified by the Registration Committee.
- d. The applicant must meet the general requirements for registration set out in section 5 of the Registration Regulation. Where an applicant was required by their home province to demonstrate language proficiency in a manner that is equivalent to the requirement in paragraph 3 of section 5 of the Registration Regulation, they will be deemed to have met this requirement.

#### *Eyeglass Only Applicants*

2. Eyeglass Only Applicants must complete the following additional steps to become registered with COO as a Labour Mobility Applicant:
  - a. Successfully complete the contact lens section of an opticianry program that has been accredited by the COO, or an accrediting body approved by the COO, as set out in the [Accredited Education Policy](#). Click [here](#) for a list of accredited opticianry programs.
  - b. Apply for registration, and become registered, as an Intern Optician.
  - c. Successfully complete the national contact lens examination administered by the National Alliance of Canadian Optician Regulators (NACOR). Please note that applicants must submit a separate application directly to NACOR to sit the national contact lens examination.
  - d. Apply for registration as a Registered Optician.

#### *Application Process*

3. To apply for registration as a Labour Mobility Applicant, applicants must:
  - a. Complete the application form.
  - b. Provide a letter of standing from their current licensing body.

- c. Provide evidence of practise within the previous two years.
- d. Answer each declaration question on the application form and provide further information as applicable.
- e. Submit any additional requirements for the class of registration applied for including, where applicable:
  - i. A Vulnerable Sector Check.
  - ii. Provide proof of professional liability insurance.
  - iii. A passport photograph.
- f. Pay the applicable application and registration fees.

*Inactive or Non-practising Opticians*

4. Under the Registration Regulation, only individuals who hold a certificate of registration with the COO as a Registered Optician are eligible to change their class of registration to Inactive. As a result, individuals who hold a license or registration with another Canadian opticianry regulator as an inactive or non-practising optician are not eligible to apply to the COO as a Labour Mobility Applicant.
5. To become eligible as a Labour Mobility Applicant, the applicant must first be re-issued a license or certificate of registration that permits them to practice opticianry in their home jurisdiction.
6. Labour Mobility Applicants who successfully become registered with the COO as a Registered Optician will be eligible to apply to change their class of registration to Inactive.