



The College of Opticians of Ontario proposes to make the following changes to its bylaws:

- 1) New Quality Assurance Program Fees**
 - a. **\$1000 peer assessment fee** in cases of member non-compliance
 - b. **\$50 late fee** for professional portfolios
 - c. **\$50 fee** where professional portfolio is deficient in accredited continuing education hours
- 2) New requirement for members to report criminal and other charges to the College**

The following chart sets out the wording of the proposed new by-laws, and an explanation for each proposed by-law.¹

New Quality Assurance Program Fees		
By-law section	Proposed by-law wording	Explanation
Article 5: Fees	<p>5.5.1 <u>Quality Assurance Program Fees</u></p> <p><u>The fees associated with the Quality Assurance Program are as follows, effective January 1, 2018:</u></p> <p>(a) <u>Peer and Practice Assessment, when the assessment is ordered by the Quality Assurance Committee due to member non-compliance with the Professional Portfolio</u></p>	<p>A peer and practice assessment involves an in-person interview, a chart review, and a premises inspection by a trained peer assessor. It is a Quality Assurance (QA) program tool used to assess a member’s knowledge, skill and judgment.</p> <p>Given the resources involved in administering a peer assessment, the QA Committee has not used this tool often. The Committee wishes to use the assessment tool more fully in the future, in particular for members who are non-compliant with the QA program requirements to ensure that these members</p>

¹ Proposed new by-law wording is underlined in the chart.

	<u>requirements or Competency Review and Evaluation (CRE) process:² \$1000</u>	have maintained safe and effective knowledge, skill and judgement. Fees do not include HST.
	(b) <u>Late fee for members who submit the professional portfolio past the due date required by the Quality Assurance Committee:³ \$50</u>	To date, the Quality Assurance Committee has not imposed any consequences for late submission of portfolios. Many regulators charge a fee for members who submit the portfolio past the deadline. Late fees are also charged to our members for missing registration renewal deadlines.
	(c) <u>Submission of a professional portfolio which is deficient in accredited continuing education: \$50</u>	The costs to the College incurred by addressing deficient portfolios are high. Staff and Committee panels spend considerable time reviewing, preparing and following up with these members.
New requirement to report criminal and other charges to the College		
15.7 Providing Information to the College	If requested, the Member shall immediately provide the College with the following information, in the form requested by the College: [...] <u>(xvii.1) Information about any currently existing charges against the Member, commenced on or after January 1, 2017, in respect of a federal offence or an offence under the Health Insurance Act;</u>	The College by-laws currently require the College to post any relevant criminal or other charges against a member on the public register. It is up to the Registrar to determine whether a charge is relevant to the member’s suitability to practise and should be posted on the public register. This provision clarifies that members must disclose all federal and <i>Health Insurance Act</i> charges against them to the College, regardless of whether the member believes the charge is relevant to their suitability to practise. This provision would put the onus on members to inform the College about certain potentially relevant charges against a member. It would not require members to report every provincial charge made against

² Members who are asked to complete a Peer and Practice assessment because of a low “multi-source feedback” (MSF) score will not be required to pay the assessment fee, since these members would have been randomly selected, and the MSF itself has not yet undergone program evaluation.

³ As per the Quality Assurance provisions of O. Reg. 219/94, members are required to provide information about their continuing education or professional development activities within 30 days of being notified of the request (s. 10(2)(a)).

		<p>them (though under the <i>Regulated Health Professions Act</i> members must currently report all findings of guilt for any offence).</p>
<p>15.8 Notification of Changes of Information</p>	<p>The Member shall notify the College, in writing, of any changes to the following information within 30 days of the effective date of the change: [...]</p> <p><u>(vii) information about any currently existing charges against the Member, commenced on or after January 1, 2017, in respect of a federal offence or an offence under the Health Insurance Act, including where the charges have been stayed, withdrawn or dismissed, where additional charges have been laid, or where a finding has been made; and</u></p> <p><u>(viii) information about any currently existing charges against the Member that are in the register pursuant to Article 15.6(xxv), including where the charges have been stayed, withdrawn or dismissed, where additional charges have been laid, or where a finding has been made.</u></p>	<p>This provision requires members to promptly update the College about any changes made to charges against the member. This includes updating the College about any charges that have been posted on the public register.</p> <p>This ensures that the information on the College’s public register is kept up to date.</p>