

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING HIGHLIGHTS May 11, 2020

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### Financial Reports

The Board reviewed the following financial reports:

- Year-to-date variance report was approved
- 2019 Audit Report was approved
- A Financial Condition Monitoring Report was also presented to the board for information only

### COVID-19 Update

The board heard an overview of the impact of COVID 19 on the College operations and registrants. Highlights included:

- The College is continuing to operate remotely
- A dedicated [COVID-19 information page](#) has been set up on the College's website
- [Emergency Practice Guidelines](#) were approved to address the provision of essential services
- A [directory of Urgent Care Providers](#) was created for patients
- Updates to the Quality Assurance Program were made to suspend all peer assessments, grant an extension for the submission of all 2019 portfolios and defer the multisource feedback process to 2021.
- The Spring 2020 National Examinations have been cancelled until further notice
- [Return to Practice Guidelines](#) are currently being developed

### COVID-19 Accommodation: Registration Fee Adjustment

The Board of Directors met is considering a by-law change that will reduce the 2021 annual fee for registered opticians by \$200. The purpose of this proposed by-law change is to:

- Assist registrants in meeting their registration obligations for the coming year by ensuring that regulatory processes do not place an undue burden on them or, by extension, their patients
- Ensure an adequate supply of qualified ROs will be able to offer opticianry services to Ontario patients in 2021
- Maintain the College's ability to protect the public through the regulation of the profession

Each year the College budgets some portion of the registration dues towards building contingency funds including a General Reserve to address situations such as this. The figure proposed by the Board aims to provide relief to registrants while preserving the College's financial stability.

Stakeholders are [invited to provide feedback](#) on the proposed fee adjustment by July 22, 2020.

### **Implementation of a Vulnerable Sector Check for New Applicants**

To ensure that the College is fulfilling its mandate of public protection, the Board approved a [policy](#) to implement Vulnerable Sector Checks for new applicants. Effective January 1, 2021, all new applicants for a certificate of registration as a Registered Optician will be required to submit the results of a Vulnerable Sector Check as part of their application to the College. The policy does not apply to Student or Intern applicants, who will continue with the current practice of self-declaration.

### **Governance Manual Update: Board Meetings Process Policy**

The board approved the Board Meeting Process Policy. The policy sets out processes that will be followed for Board meetings, including the development of agendas, meeting procedures, and minute taking.

### **Board of Directors Meeting Dates for 2020**

The Board of Directors approved an additional meeting day for July, as well as a training day in July.