

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

October 4, 2021

Regulatory Amendment - Spousal Exemption

The Board reviewed the stakeholder feedback for a proposed amendment to the General Regulation under the *Opticianry Act, 1991*. The proposed amendment would exempt spouses from the definition of “patient” for the purposes of the sexual abuse provisions under the *Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991*. If passed, the amendment would permit opticians to treat their spouses in certain circumstances. The Board passed a motion to submit the proposed amendment to the Ministry of Health for approval. Please note that proposed regulations do not come into effect until receiving royal assent by the Ontario Government. As a result, it remains prohibited for opticians to treat their spouses until further notice.

Amendments to the Code of Ethics

Following a review of stakeholder feedback, the Board approved changes to the [Code of Ethics](#). The updated Code has been refreshed to ensure it continues to align with the Standards of Practice, patient expectations, and the current professional environment. The updated Code will continue to serve as the foundational document to set the College’s expectations for professionalism and ethics from opticians.

Board Governance

In keeping with the Board’s commitment to updating the governance manual, the board approved updates to the following policies: Asset Protection Policy, Investment Policy, Delegation to the Registrar Policy, Registrar, CEO Job Products Policy, and the Registrar, CEO Position Description Policy.

Monitoring Reports

The Board reviewed and/or approved the following monitoring reports:

- The Strategic Plan Monitoring Report
- Communications and Support to the Board Monitoring Report
- Role of the Board Officers Policy Monitoring Report

The Board also approved a new template to monitor the Governance Approach Policy, which will be completed by a board member and presented at the May meeting.

Third Party Assessment of the Board’s Efficacy

The Board passed a motion to begin implementing a process for third-party assessments of the Board’s efficacy. These external assessments will be carried out every three years, beginning in 2022, and will be used in conjunction with the annual self-evaluation process to enhance the board’s performance and ensure alignment with governance best practices.

Financial Reports

The Board reviewed the financial variance reports.