College of Opticians of Ontario

BRIEFING NOTE

TO: **Board of Directors**

FROM: **Fazal Khan, Registrar and CEO**

DATE: **November 30, 2026**

SUBJECT: **Investment Policy (2-06) Monitoring Report**

☐ For Decision ☐ For Information ☒ Monitoring Report

Purpose:

To provide the Board with a monitoring report on the Investment Policy, in accordance with the monitoring report schedule approved by the Board.

CEO Interpretation and Evidence:

The Investment Policy (2-06, previously 2-09) was approved by the Board in October 2018.

The monitoring report covers the period from June 2026 to December 2026. The next Investment Policy Monitoring report is due in June 2027.

Policy Requirement	Interpretation and Evidence
Investment Funds Management	The Registrar, CEO has managed the COO investments with the services of a Senior Investment Advisor (BMO Nesbitt Burns) to provide expertise in the investment approach and investment portfolio.
Investment Parameters	The Registrar, CEO has met the Board's expectations of: reasonable liquidity (by maintaining a liquidity ratio over 2.0 and ensuring that invested maturity dates are split throughout the year), continued revenue (by closely managing operational expenses in a hybrid environment), and ensured preservation of capital through a conservative investment strategy. The Registrar, CEO has invested funds that will achieve a reasonable return on investment, between 2.55% and 3.55% against the current average market rate of 2.5%. These investments will be realized in June 2027, and October 2027. The Registrar, CEO has ensured that the College maintains a diversified investment portfolio consisting of multiple GICs, each within the CDIC insurance limit, and a high-interest savings account holding the equivalent of three months of operating expenses at a current interest rate of 1.45%. Collectively, the portfolio maintains sufficient funds to cover a minimum of 12 months of the College's operating expenses through the combination of funds held in the high interest savings

	account as well as GIC's maturing at staggered dates throughout the year. These funds remain accessible for withdrawal as needed. The College has not borrowed any funds during this reporting period.
Evaluation of Results	With the support of the Deputy Registrar and the Finance Manager, the Registrar, CEO monitors the investments to ensure compliance with the Investment Policy and the recommended investment approach. The external Senior Investment Advisor provides additional monitoring and an investment performance overview at the time of maturity.
Reporting	The Registrar, CEO has provided audited financial statements to the Board in June 2026. These reports include investment results for the previous fiscal year which have been reviewed and independently verified by the Auditor. Financial statements for the 2026 fiscal year will be provided in June 2027.

Public Interest Considerations:

This policy serves the public interest by ensuring investment is used efficiently, transparently, and sustainably. It optimizes investment placement while improving service delivery by maintaining funds in high interest savings account that can be withdrawn at any time. The policy promotes accountability through clear guidelines and regular reviews of investment with the guidance of an investment manager and aims for equitable resource distribution. This approach helps enhance public trust, protect funds against possible risks, and align investment management with the College's needs.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Considerations:

The College's portfolio is limited to secure GIC investments within the risk threshold established by the Board and there has not been a need identified to ensure that the College is not failing to include underrepresented entities.

Risk Management Considerations:

The policy being monitored falls into the Operational Boundaries policy category. In reviewing this monitoring report, the board should consider whether it is satisfied with the Registrar, CEO's interpretation and application of the policy to manage risk relating to the COO's investments including market and liquidity risks.

Recommendations/Action Required:

The Board is asked to provide comments and feedback on the following questions:

1. Was the Registrar, CEO's interpretation of the Investment Policy reasonable?
2. Did the Registrar, CEO comply with this policy, as reasonably interpreted?

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