

REPORT

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Fazal Khan, NACOR Representative

DATE: December 8, 2020

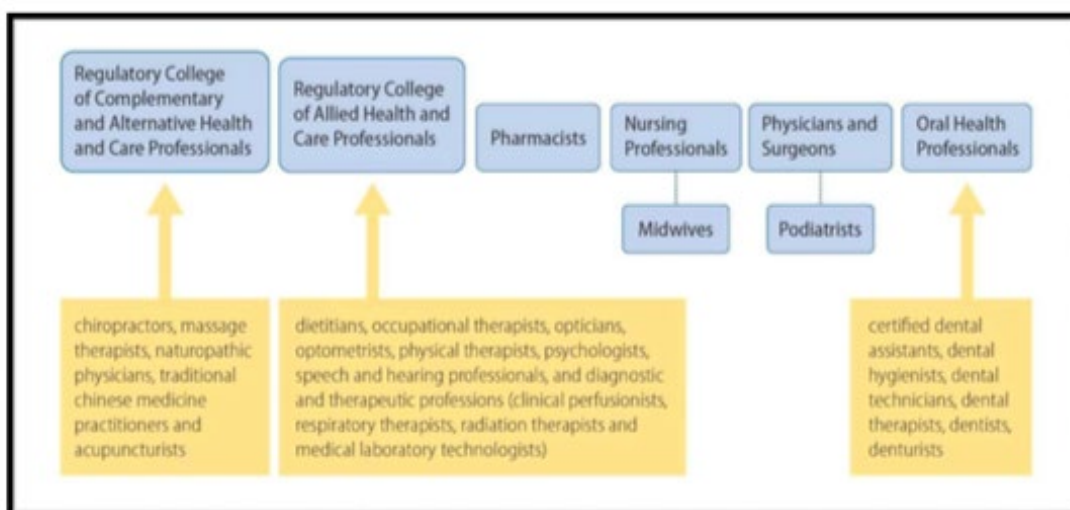
SUBJECT: NACOR Report

Highlights:

- Regulatory Updates
- PLAR-Prior Learning Assessment Recognition
- Cultural Safety and Humility
- Registration Examinations
- Public Awareness
- Board Positions

Regulatory Updates

The College of British Columbia gave updates on the progress of the amalgamation of the twenty health regulators into six consolidated regulatory bodies, up one group based on input received from the regulators.



The provincial government is looking at the required legislative changes to enable this revised regulatory model.

Alberta advised that it is undergoing regulatory reform as well. Currently they are both a combined regulator and association and are being directed to divide into two separate entities within the next 18 months.

Ontario gave an update on the College Performance Measurements Framework to the board.

Prior Learning Assessment Recognition (PLAR)

NACOR administration updated the board regarding changes to the PLAR format including the removal of the live interview process. This will significantly reduce wait times, subjectivity, costs and improve remote access for foreign applicants. Based on this reduction in cost, provinces are being prompted to review provincial fees charged for the PLAR as of March 2021.

Cultural Safety and Humility

The BC College of Opticians gave a powerful presentation on Cultural Safety and Humility including the history of the residential school system and efforts being made towards reconciliation. The BC representative updated NACOR on such efforts as training for staff, board and registrants as well as implementing land acknowledgements at board meetings.

Registration Examinations:

NACOR staff updated the board on the registration examinations. Due to the pandemic, all spring sessions of the examination were cancelled across Canada. Some provinces including Ontario ran a modified version of the examination to accommodate for safety precautions this fall however NACOR reported a 50% drop this year with only 400 of the 800 expected candidates writing the examinations. This will have impact across the country for the in-flow of new registrants. The National Exams Committee has agreed to maintain the modified exam format for at least 6 months into 2021 and re-evaluate.

Public Awareness:

The College continues to participate in the national awareness program. Fute Marketing presented statistics on the effectiveness of the efforts to promote the 'Become an Optician' website which, of many functions, serves as a resource for international candidates to use a

screening tool to assess if their skill set from abroad matches the role of an optician in Canada. Interesting statistics included:

- A flow through of 23% of visitors to educational intuition's websites.
- An increase of 63% of traffic to the website.
- 38% of visitor traffic is from outside Canada.

The NACOR board discussed a scaled down program for 2021 based on financial constraints of all contributing members.

Executive Elections:

NACOR board chair, Fazal Khan moves to the position of Past Chair for 2021, Lisa Bannerman of BC moves to Chair, Tanya Emm of NS remains treasurer and Jennifer Bertrand of Alberta joins the Executive Committee.

Respectfully submitted by:

Fazal Khan, RO
NACOR Representative, Ontario