



# BECOMING AN ELECTED OR APPOINTED MEMBER

Serving as an Elected or Appointed Member is a personally and professionally rewarding way of helping to ensure safe, high-quality vision care for Ontario patients. If you are a Registered Optician that is interested in using your knowledge and skill in the interest of public protection, consider seeking nomination to run for a position on the Board of Directors or apply to become an Appointed Member.

## WHAT IS INVOLVED?

Opticians who serve as Appointed or Elected Members make decisions that support the College of Opticians of Ontario's (College) mandate of ensuring that the public receives safe, ethical, and competent care by Registered Opticians.

Board Members attend regular meetings and make decisions about policies and strategic directions of the College.

In addition, Board and Appointed Members:

- Serve as a member of the Discipline Committee to hear cases into allegations of professional misconduct or incompetence. Most Board and Appointed Members also serve on at least one other committee of the College.
- Attend committee meetings and make decisions relating to registration, quality assurance, standards of practice, patient relations, governance, or complaints and investigations.
- Commit to maintaining confidentiality and undergoing training in the following areas:
  - » Introduction to the College
  - » Communications Training
  - » Facilitation Training
  - » Sexual Abuse Prevention
  - » Governance Training
  - » Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
  - » Technical Training on Zoom and other College online platforms
  - » Jurisprudence
  - » Legislation, fiduciary duties and code of conduct
- Receive an honorarium for attending meetings and reviewing meeting materials. Members are also reimbursed for reasonable travel and expenses.

## WHO CAN RUN/APPLY?

To seek election to the board of directors, or to serve as an appointed member, you must meet the eligibility criteria set out in the College's by-laws. No prior experience is required, however, applicants may be required to demonstrate certain skills or attributes, or complete pre-election/appointment training before becoming eligible.

## BOARD MEMBERS

### **How can I become an elected board member?**

To become an elected board member, you must seek nomination for election in your district during that district's election year. Seats come up for election every three years. Nominations open in August/September of the election year, and the election takes place in October/November. Check our [website](#) or email us [elections@collegeofopticians.ca](mailto:elections@collegeofopticians.ca).

### **What is the length of service?**

Board Members serve a three-year term.

### **What time commitment is required?**

Board Members attend 4 Board meetings and approximately 3-8 Committee meetings per year. Board Members typically serve on 2 or more College Committees, including the Discipline Committee.

## APPOINTED MEMBERS

### **How do I become an Appointed Member?**

Applications for Appointed members are typically accepted in September/October each year. Applicants are asked to submit a completed eligibility checklist, a resume, and a letter of interest. Check our [website](#) regularly for updates or email [crobertson@collegeofopticians.ca](mailto:crobertson@collegeofopticians.ca)

### **What is the length of service?**

Appointed Members serve a two-year term.

### **What time commitment is required?**

Appointed Members attend 4 Board meetings and approximately 3-8 Committee meetings per year. Appointed Members typically serve on 2 or more College Committees, including the Discipline Committee.



# COLLEGE OF OPTICIANS OF ONTARIO (COO)

The COO is the registering and regulating body for opticianry in Ontario, and protects the public as mandated by the Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991. Opticianry in Ontario is a self-governing profession. Opticians provide optical dispensing services, including the provision, fitting and adjustment of subnormal vision devices, contact lenses and eyeglasses.

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