

COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS December 2 - 3, 2019

Council Approves College Financial Reports

Council approved the 2019 Year-to-date Financial Report and the budget for 2020.

Approval of the Auditor

The board approved Grewal Guyatt LLP as the auditor for 2020.

Changes to the Professional Portfolio Program

Amendments to the professional portfolio program were approved after extensive consultation with stakeholders. These changes come into effect on January 1, 2020.

The new annual QA requirements are:

- 4 accredited Contact Lens (CL) Hours, 4 accredited Eyeglass (EG) Hours, 4 accredited Professional Growth (PG) Hours, 4 Self Directed Hours. ROs with refracting status must complete an additional 2 hours relating to refraction (RF)
- The requirement for a learning goal to accompany the self-directed hours has been removed
- The Jurisprudence Chapter 1: Professional Boundaries and Sexual Abuse Prevention will be completed once every three years, and will count as a Professional Growth Activity in the year it is taken

2020 will be a transition year for the new requirements. For 2020 only, Opticians may complete 8 self-directed hours or any combination of self-directed hours and accredited professional growth hours.

More information about the new QA requirements can be found on the College [website](#).

New Standards of Practice Approved

Council approved updates to the Professional Standards of Practice and Practice Guidelines for Ontario Opticians. The new Standards and Guidelines are available on the College's website [here](#).

Some of the key changes include:

- A new guideline on the delivery of prescription eyeglasses prior to fitting and adapting
- New standards and guidelines on remote practice
- A new standard on advertising and social media
- Expanded record keeping obligations

Patient Bill of Rights

Council approved the patient bill of rights, a resource for members of the public to understand what to expect from a registered optician and provide information to patients about protecting their eye health.

Executive Committee Election

The Council elected the Executive Committee for 2020:

- Bryan Todd, RO, Elected Member, Chair
- Steven Kinsella, Public Member, Vice-Chair
- Ingrid Koenig, RO, Elected Member
- Dorina Reiz, RO, Elected Member
- Jacalyn Cop-Rasmussen, Public Member

The College also welcomed a new Public Member, Diana Bristow, to the Board.

Proposed By-Law Changes

The College is proposing changes to the terminology of Council members and Optician members in order to make their roles and responsibilities clearer to the public. One of the changes being proposed is changing the term for opticians from 'members' to 'registrants'. Also being proposed are changes to the Council and Committee eligibility criteria. These proposed changes to the by-law will be circulated for stakeholder feedback.

Continued work on Policy Governance Implementation

Council passed the following Governance policies at the December meeting: Council Information Monitoring System Policy, Vote Supermajority for the Termination of a Registrar, CEO Policy, New Strategic Agenda, By-Law Amendments to Schedule C and newly proposed Schedule E.

Role of the Chief Examiner

Council decided to eliminate the role of Council Chief Examiner. NACOR is responsible for the administration of the exam, supported by College staff.

Changes to the Student/Intern Supervision Policy

Council approved a policy that expands the eligibility criteria for ROs who wish to supervise students or interns. ROs who are actively practising for a minimum of three years within the last five years or have fitted a minimum of 750 eyeglasses within the last five years, are eligible to supervise students and intern eyeglass fits. To supervise contact lens fittings, members must meet the requirements of the Contact Lens Mentor policy. Click [here](#) to view the amended supervision policy.