

MUTUAL RECOGNITION AGREEMENT

Policy A-01

Labour Mobility Chapter of the Agreement on Internal Trade Canadian Opticians Mutual Recognition Agreement Among Opticianry Regulators

Policy A-01

September 28, 2002

LABOUR MOBILITY CHAPTER OF THE AGREEMENT ON INTERNAL TRADE

CANADIAN OPTICIANS

MUTUAL RECOGNITION AGREEMENT AMONG OPTICIANRY REGULATORS

APPROVED BY COUNCIL: September 28, 2002

INITIATING BODY: Canadian Federal Government - July 2001

PUBLICATION DATE: October 2002

DISTRIBUTED TO: The Membership: (Registered Opticians, Interns & Students)
Georgian College
Seneca College
Northern Alberta Institute of Technology
Ontario Opticians Association
Opticians Association of Canada
Federation of Health Regulatory Colleges of Ontario
College of Opticians of British Columbia
Saskatchewan Ophthalmic Dispensers Association
New Brunswick Guild of Dispensing Opticians
Dispensing Opticians Board of Newfoundland & Labrador
Alberta Opticians Association
The Opticians of Manitoba
Ordre des opticiens d'ordonnances du Quebec
Nova Scotia Board of Dispensing Opticians
Prince Edward Island Board of Dispensing Opticians
Federal Government - AIT Division
Provincial Government - AIT Division
Ministry of Health and Long Term Care (Ontario)

REVIEW DATE: December 2005

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Registrar - College of Opticians of Ontario

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE POLICY?

To facilitate the mobility of Opticians in Canada

WHO IS AFFECTED?

All Opticians in Canada

THE COLLEGE POLICY FOR OUT OF PROVINCE OPTICIANS HOLDING AN EYE GLASSES AND A CONTACT LENS OPTICIANS LICENCE OR CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION:

Applicants for a certificate of registration as a registered Optician who, at the time they apply, are licensed or registered, and in good standing, in another province or territory of Canada to dispense both eye glasses and contact lenses, will be accepted for registration provided that they meet the general registration requirements in subsection 4(1) of the College's registration regulation. The conditions of a certificate to be issued to such persons include those set out in the College's registration regulation, as well as the terms, conditions and limitations imposed on the licence or certificate of registration issued to them in their home province or territory. Registrants must meet all Ontario Optician renewal requirements in order to maintain their certificates in good standing in Ontario.

THE COLLEGE POLICY FOR OUT OF PROVINCE "EYE GLASSES ONLY" OPTICIANS IS AS FOLLOWS:

Applicants for a certificate of registration as a registered Optician who, at the time they apply, are licensed or registered, and in good standing, in another province or territory of Canada to dispense eye glasses but not contact lenses, must meet all of the College's registration requirements. This means that, in addition to the general registration requirements referred to above, they must have successfully graduated from an Ontario Opticianry program listed in the Schedule to the regulation, or one deemed equivalent by the Registration Committee; they must have successfully completed the College's examinations or examinations deemed equivalent by the Registration Committee; and they must have completed at least 1000 hours of verified dispensing experience. They must also meet certain additional exemptible registration requirements. The College's Registration Committee has now deemed NAIT's Opticianry program to be equivalent to the Ontario Opticianry programs that are listed in the Schedule to its registration regulation.

The College has adopted certain new policies for such "eye-glasses only" applicants from other provinces and territories who have not graduated from an Ontario opticianry program or its equivalent and who have not successfully completed the College's examinations or their equivalent. An applicant who, at the time of application, has successfully completed the eyeglasses sections of the NAIT program will be considered to have met the College's educational requirements upon his or her successful completion of the contact lens sections of the Georgian, Seneca or NAIT programs. If the applicant chooses to enroll in Georgian or Seneca College, he or she should apply to be registered as a Student Optician. If the applicant chooses to enroll in the contact lens sections of the NAIT program, he or she should apply to be registered as an Intern or Registered Optician. The Registration Committee's policy will be to direct the Registrar to issue a certificate of registration as a Student Optician to such applicants upon their enrolment in the NAIT program (provided that they submit the required application, pay the fee and meet the general requirements under subsection 4(1) of the regulation). Upon successful completion of their educational program, applicants will be eligible for a certificate of registration as an Intern Optician, after which they will be eligible to write the College's examinations. Upon successful completion of the College's examinations, and provided that they meet the other registration requirements referred to above, applicants will be eligible to receive a certificate of registration as a Registered Optician.

An "eye-glasses only" applicant from another province or territory, who has neither graduated from Georgian or Seneca Colleges nor completed the eyeglasses sections of the NAIT program, will have his or her application referred to the Registration Committee for consideration of whether he or she meets the College's registration requirements.