

REPORT

TO: Council

FROM: Fazal Khan

DATE: December 3rd, 2018

SUBJECT: 11.2 NACOR Report Fall 2018

NACOR REPORT

The National meetings were held in Quebec City October 11th to 13th. Meetings that took place included the registrar's administrative group, NACOR (National Association of Opticianry Regulators), a joint meeting of NACOR and the CAOE (Canadian Association of Opticianry Educators), the OAC (Opticians Association of Canada) and the OCC (Opticians Council of Canada—made up of all three groups).

FYI Doctors Presentation re QA modules

An optician representative from FYI Doctors gave a presentation to the Registrars group regarding their in-house quality assurance program built for internal use by their staff. They have a library of 66 education modules, each approximately 15 to 20 minutes in length and termed as 'Micro-learning'. These short modules are better suited to the participants busy work schedule.

FYI was reaching out to NACOR to discuss opening access to the platform on a fee basis to share costs on expanding the platform. The platform is of interest as an alternative distance CE platform for opticians who are not members of the association.

National Competencies

NACOR is in the process of updating the third edition of the National Competencies. While refracting competencies were jointly developed with the participation of content experts from the educational institutes in May of 2017, considerable work was undertaken over the past six months including a large working session in September in Toronto to update the eyeglass and contact lens competencies. NACOR intends on launching a national survey in December, circulated through the regulators to all Canadian opticians to review and give input on the draft competencies. Each province will offer continuing education hours for participation in the national survey. The input from the surveys will be compiled and reviewed in January 2019 at a working session to assist in validating the competencies. The Competencies will then be finalized in the spring of 2019 by NACOR and sent back to the individual provincial councils for approval.

Change in NEC meeting format for 2019 meeting

Every January the NEC (National Exams Committee) meets to discuss and make adjustments to the national exam. This January however the session will be used by NACOR to run the validation exercise

of the national competencies. This exercise will require content experts to assist in this process. The NEC will resume its regular format in 2020.

License Harmonization Presentation

The registrars from Ontario and British Columbia gave a presentation to the other regulators on benefits and challenges of licence harmonization for those jurisdictions that currently have separate eyeglass and contact lens licences.

Presentation on BC regarding regulatory reform

The Registrar of the College of Opticians of British Columbia gave an update regarding the regulatory review underway in that province. The Minister of Health in BC has asked all health profession regulatory bodies to put forth recommendations for their reform by year end. References were made to the UK and Australian models of health care delivery based on risk-based health care regulation. The Minister has also asked regulatory bodies to contemplate remote health delivery.

FEES

NACOR discussed nominally increasing exam fees to the candidate to cover the rising costs of competency development, exam blueprinting and validation as well as other administrative challenges such as French translation of exams and processes such as PLAR (prior learning assessment and recognition). A \$50/section increase in fees was discussed with the increase being held back by NACOR. Similarly, an increase to \$800/section was discussed regarding the PLAR process.

Joint NACOR-CAOE Meeting

The boards of NACOR and the CAOÉ had their first joint meeting. Several issues were discussed. A major topic was exam candidate anxiety and improving transparency around exam development and delivery.

The issue of equipment familiarity was a major source of concern for the two Ontario based schools. One possible resolution discussed was to investigate if the COO could run two concurrent exam sessions, one at each school to allow students to be examined on familiar equipment.

NACOR also invited the CAOÉ to send observers to exam sessions as well as sending a representative to the NEC meeting to bring forth concerns or suggestions for the NEC group to deal with.

Finally, discussion on the creation of an exit survey of all exam candidates was discussed. Results of the exit survey to be shared with both NACOR and the CAOÉ in hopes of improving the exams process for all candidates. All of these suggestions were well received by the CAOÉ.

OCC Meeting:

Fute Marketing presented the completed “Become an Optician” website to the group. This website was developed using funds contributed by all groups, regulators, educators and associations to develop a tool for people interested in a career in opticianry. The website includes links to the educational institutions as well as resources for international applicants considering a profession in opticianry in Canada.

Essilor Canada demonstrated new refracting technology. They unveiled their new 'single lens' phoropter system that uses patented fluid technology to create a phoropter that only contains a single lens. A refraction lane was set up and demonstrations were given to all members of the OCC.

All groups shared their respective reports and the OAC (Opticians Association of Canada) announced their withdrawal from the Opticians Council of Canada citing a desire to revisit how they interact with the various stakeholders. The OAC will not be participating in the OCC past the end of 2018.

With the development of the OAC withdrawal from the OCC, there is discussion underway to consider not moving forward in 2019 with any joint public awareness campaigns until there is agreement on how the OCC will move forward with its remaining members.

The afternoon session was devoted to a working session to determine if certain competencies could be segregated into entry to practice or advanced practice. There was a considerable amount of discussion regarding the topic of refraction.

Recommendations:

