

# BRIEFING NOTE

**TO:** Board of Directors

**FROM:** Amy Stein, Deputy Registrar

**DATE:** December 5, 2023

**SUBJECT:** NACOR Report

For Decision

For Information

Monitoring Report

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## Purpose:

To provide a high-level summary of the national meetings held in Vancouver on October 19, 2023. No action required.

## Background:

The College, as a member of the National Alliance of Canadian Opticianry Regulators (NACOR), participates in semi-annual national meetings held in the Spring and Fall each year. NACOR was formed as a collaborative vehicle to discuss issues of interest to each of its regulatory partners as well as the development of tools such as the National Opticianry Competencies, the Entry to Practice Examination and other tools such as the Prior Learning and Assessment Recognition tool. This ensures opticians are trained and assessed consistently across the country, thereby assisting in provincial mobility. Provincial opticianry regulators from across the country comprise the NACOR Board of directors, sending Board and administration representatives to attend these collaborative meetings.

## Meeting Highlights:

The recent national meetings were held at the offices of the College of Opticians of British Columbia in Vancouver on October 19, 2023. In attendance were the Vice-Chair, Deputy Registrar and Manager of Professional Practice and Quality Assurance.

Highlights include:

- **Patient Access Survey:** A presentation was delivered by Nikolas Lopez from Léger Marketing to review the results of a nation-wide survey that was carried out to gauge patient experience with access to opticianry services across Canada. An update will be provided to the COO board at the December meeting on the survey results as they pertain to Ontario.

- **Standard Setting for National Exams:** The NACOR board was given an update on standard setting for the Nationals Exams, which is the process used to evaluate pass marks/cut scores. The pass marks are being reviewed following recent changes to the exams post COVID-19. NACOR is working with John Wickett of Wickett Measurement Systems to ensure the review process and results are in line with psychometric best practices.
- **National Nursing Database:** A presentation was delivered by Cynthia Johansen, Registrar and CEO of the BC College of Nurses and Midwives, on a national collaboration amongst all 25 Canadian nursing regulators to develop a national database of registrants. All registrants in the database will be assigned a unique identification number that will facilitate interprovincial mobility and the sharing of information about concerns and disciplinary findings. The database will be internal to regulators, however plans are also underway for a public-facing searchable database in the future.
- **National Trends in Regulation:** Dianne Millette (Registrar of the College of Physical Therapists of British Columbia), Bradley Chisholm (The Regulator's Practice) and Cathi Mietkiewicz (Mietkiewicz Law) gave presentations on trends in regulation, including amalgamation, governance and the introduction of a new regulatory model in Ontario under the Health and Supportive Care Providers Oversight Authority.
- **NACOR Restructure:** Jodi Dodds presented to the board on a proposal to restructure NACOR to address current trends, threats and concerns and ensure its long-term viability. The goal is to re-establish NACOR as an independent service provider to ensure its financial viability, reduce potential conflicts of interest, ease the financial burden on provincial regulators, and ensure the organization remains workable through any legislative changes that affect NACOR members (e.g. amalgamation of health colleges). The proposal will be discussed in more detail at the December board meeting.

