

MEMO

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Fazal Khan, Registrar

DATE: May 11, 2020

SUBJECT: 13.3 National Meetings Report

The national meetings consisting of the NACOR (National Association of Canadian Opticianry Regulators) and OCC (Opticians Council of Canada) were held via videoconference on April 16, 2020. These meetings were originally scheduled as a two-day meeting to be held in Victoria, British Columbia, but were condensed into a one-day videoconference format due to travel restrictions during the pandemic period.

The COO's Board Chair and Registrar were in attendance. The day consisted of the NACOR AGM, the OCC AGM and a NACOR Board meeting.

Issues discussed included:

- Potential Financial impact of cancelled spring examination sessions.
- CGA (Competency Gap Analysis) and PLAR (Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition) processes moving away from in-person interviews. An analysis of this was conducted concluding that the interviews were not adding any additional value and were adding to time delays and costs. The report will be discussed by the COO Registration Committee.
- Alberta's request for scope expansion is out for stakeholder feedback.
- NACOR name change: The acronym remains as NACOR, however, the term 'Association' has been substituted with 'Alliance'. Renamed the National Alliance of Canadian Opticianry Regulators will further differentiate this group from the advocacy groups representing opticians.
- Most provinces are exploring fee reductions or fee deferrals in light of the financial impact on registrants during the pandemic.

- A marketing update was given by Fute Marketing around the national awareness campaign and there was a discussion regarding funding of the program for 2021. The campaign achieves several regulatory objectives including ensuring interest in the profession to maintain a steady supply of opticians, providing transparent and easily accessible information to international candidates for licensure and public education on the benefits of using the services of a registered professional. The College Board will review funding in the fall. Fute also confirmed that part of the project for 2020 will be to complete a French version of the website including all informational videos to be recreated in French.

While constrained by the condensed format, the remote meeting format was effective and efficient.

Submitted by:

Fazal Khan, RO
NACOR representative