

REPORT

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Fazal Khan, Registrar, CEO

DATE: October 2, 2023

SUBJECT: Registrar's Report

Highlights:

- Government Relations and Pending Regulations
- External Relations
 - Event dates
- Collaboration Efforts
- Elections
- Government Public Appointments
- Space Planning

Government Relations and Pending Regulations:

Internal bi-weekly update meetings are being held with Counsel Government Relations. Counsel is actively following up on pending regulations.

The Ministry of Health has assured us that our pending Registration and Professional Misconduct regulations will now be prioritized with the passing of the Emergency Regulation this past August. They have reached out to us indicating that they will also look at our request for an exemption for Spousal Treatment.

External Relations:

This fall is shaping up to be a busy season. The College has already participated in the Ontario Opticians Association Ottawa CE event and trade show. The show was attended by approximately 100 Ottawa region opticians and the College had a speaking space and booth. The College was well received, and we had excellent engagement. There are several more events this fall including:

October 19th: NACOR national regulatory meeting (BC)

October 27-29th: Registration Exams-Toronto

October 23rd: Georgian College Student presentation

November 4th: Ontario Opticians Association Student Night

November 5th: Ontario Opticians Association Toronto Trade Show & CE Event

November 12th: AOE CE Day and Tradeshow.

November 17-19th: Registration Exams-Ottawa

Collaboration Efforts

National: With respect to ongoing efforts to address HHR-Health Human Resources, the College has been an integral contributor in hosting Industry Round Table discussions with other regulators, educators, associations, and industry stakeholders. From a regulatory perspective, the College has partnered with other opticianry regulators at a national level to conduct a survey of Canadian patients to assess such things as their ability to access services. Leger Marketing was engaged to conduct the survey which closed in August, and we await final data from the study.

Provincial: The COO will be partnering with the College of Optometrists as part of our strategic initiatives, to engage the Indigenous community as we seek input to assess challenges, they may face in accessing eye health care services and to inform the development of standards of practice around Cultural Safety and Humility which would guide both professions. This collaborative effort would not only result in costs sharing, but it would also assist in developing aligned standards which would benefit both professions and ultimately the patient.

Elections:

The College opened nominations for 3 electoral districts including:

District 1 (Southern)—currently held by Elsa Lee, not returning.

District 5 (Toronto)---currently held by Dorina Reiz, not returning.

District 8 (Central)--currently held by Neda Mohammadzadeh, not returning.

Extended nomination periods were held for District 1 and District 8. The Screening Panel has held two interview days and will conclude its final session by September 26, 2023. Ms. Grazyna Sepczynska will be acclaimed for District 5 and Mr. Carlos Pacheco will be acclaimed for District 8. Further updates to be provided.

Government Public Appointments:

The College is pleased to welcome back Mr. Omar Farouk and Ms. Peggy Judge, who have been reappointed to the College for additional terms. Ms. Diana Bristow will be completing her time with the College at the end of November and the College would like to take this opportunity to thank Ms. Bristow for her contributions to the College.

Space Planning

To reduce long term operating costs, the College administration team continues to explore the possibility of space sharing with other Colleges that have moved to a permanent virtual operation and may be looking for occasional use of facilities. While the College lease still has approximately 4 more years left, the College administration team is actively exploring all options. The team participated in an onsite pilot test this summer at the College of Pharmacists to explore the option of sharing space in their office which is currently under capacity. The college will be exploring options for smaller colleges to utilize the COO's premises on days when our team is not in-office. Long term, these options may have the potential to reduce facilities operational costs by 40-50%.

Respectfully submitted by:

Fazal Khan, RO
CEO, Registrar