



**College of Optometrists of Ontario
Council Meeting
June 18, 2015
APPROVED**

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Attendance:

Dr. Thomas-A. Noël, President	Dr. Derek MacDonald
Dr. Pooya Hemami, Vice President	Dr. Dino Mastronardi
Ms. Irene Moore, Treasurer	Ms. Luisa Morrone
Dr. Dennis Ruskin	Dr. Areef Nurani
Dr. Bill Chisholm	Dr. Patrick Quaid
Mr. Francis Christopher	Dr. Marlee Spafford
Ms. Shoshana Gladstone	Mr. Ira Teich
Mr. Emad Hussain	Dr. Marta Witer

Regrets:

Mr. John Van Bastelaar

Staff:

Dr. Paula Garshowitz, Registrar	Mr. David Whitton
Ms. Hanan Jibry	Dr. David Wilkinson
Ms. Mina Kavanagh	

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1. Call to Order: Dr. Noël called the meeting to order at 9:12 a.m. Dr. Noël welcomed everyone to the meeting.

a. Conflicts of Interest: Dr. Noël asked Council members if anyone had a conflict of interest with any item on the day's agenda; Dr. Noël declared a conflict related to Essilor and would recuse himself from discussions related to internet dispensing. No other conflicts of interest were declared.

2. Adoption of the Agenda: A draft agenda was circulated before the meeting.

Moved by Dr. Ruskin and seconded by Mr. Christopher **to adopt the agenda.**

Motion carried

Representatives from the Office of the Fairness Commissioner joined the meeting.

3. Presentation by the Office of the Fairness Commissioner at 9:15 a.m.: Ms. Nuzhat Jafri, Executive Director, and Mr. Richard Webster, Policy Analyst, of the Office of the Fairness Commissioner (OFC) gave

18 a presentation to Council. Ms. Jafri outlined the OFC’s mandate and processes, which are designed to
19 build transparent, objective, impartial, and fair licensing practices among regulators. She also described
20 the OFC’s continuous improvement strategy, which depends on a productive collaboration between the
21 Commission and the regulators it oversees. Ms. Jafri commended the College on the good progress it
22 has made in its registration practices over the last number of years.

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24 *Representatives from the Office of the Fairness Commissioner left the meeting.*

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26 **4. Adoption of the Consent Agenda:** A draft consent agenda was circulated before the meeting. Six
27 items were removed from the consent agenda for further discussion: reports from the Registrar, the
28 Executive Committee, the Quality Assurance Committee, the ICRC, the Registration Committee, and
29 EHCO.

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31 Moved by Dr. Quaid and seconded by Ms. Morrone **to adopt the consent agenda.**

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Motion carried

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Items removed from the consent agenda

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a) Registrar’s Report: A report was circulated prior to the meeting. Council learned that Dr.
35 Garshowitz, at the request of the Office of the Fairness Commissioner, will participate in a
36 panel presentation at the Council for Licensure Evaluation and Regulation (CLEAR)
37 conference being held in Boston, MA in September. The topic will be “Assessing
38 International Qualifications: What Works and What Doesn’t.” Dr. Garshowitz will focus on
39 the new FORAC credential assessment process.

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b) Executive Committee: A report was circulated prior to the meeting. Dr. Noël advised Council
41 that a scheduled meeting with representatives of University of Waterloo School of
42 Optometry and Vision Science (WOVS) would be rescheduled for the fall.

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c) Quality Assurance: A report was circulated prior to the meeting. Dr. Kamy Morcos updated
44 Council on discussions about the need for a new SRA tool to assess members who
45 voluntarily limited their scope of practice. Council debated the challenges and benefits of
46 limiting record assessments for such members.

47

d) ICRC: A report was circulated prior to the meeting. Council discussed the new risk
48 assessment tool that ICRC is developing. The tool is in its third iteration and should undergo
49 final testing in the coming weeks.

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e) Registration: A report was circulated prior to the meeting. Council discussed the new FORAC
51 credential assessment process, specifically with respect to the flow of candidates and
52 anticipated future challenges. As of June 1, 2015, there had been 37 referrals by the College
53 of candidates approved to apply for the Touchstone Institute’s evaluating exam.

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f) EHCO: A report was circulated prior to the meeting. Dr. Noël updated Council on the last
55 EHCO meeting. EHCO has created three subcommittees to develop best practice co-
56 management guidelines to improve patient care and outcomes.

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58 **5. Financial Matters/Treasurer’s Report:** College Treasurer Ms. Irene Moore presented the report.

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60 **a. Treasurer’s Report:** Ms. Moore advised Council that the Executive Committee had recommended a
61 budget variance to replace network server hardware and additional IT-related expenses.

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63 Moved by Ms. Moore and seconded by Dr. Hemami **to approve a variance to \$60,000 for computer**
64 **hardware and to approve an additional \$35,000 for further configurations costs related to the new**
65 **College database.**

66 **Motion carried**
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68 **b. Balance Sheet and Income and Expenditure Report – to April 30, 2015:** The unaudited income and
69 expense (I&E) report through March 2015 shows that administrative expenditures have been 45% below
70 forecasts in the first three months of 2015. Hence, the College has an operating surplus of
71 approximately \$56,000 through March 2015, which compares favourably to the initial 2015 budget's
72 forecast of a \$136,500 operating loss. However, the timing for disbursements for several expenditure
73 lines can fluctuate throughout the year and it is premature to reduce administrative expense forecasts
74 at this time.

75
76 **c. Investment Account:** The current investment portfolio (as of April 30, 2015) is weighted (59%) toward
77 fixed-income instruments (including cash/money market and preferred shares), followed by a more
78 modest allocation to common equity securities (41%), and which collectively provide high liquidity for
79 future purposes and/or tolerances for unexpected events.

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81 **6. Motions Brought Forward From Committees:**

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83 **a. Quality Assurance Committee**

84 **i. Clinical Practice Panel (CPP):** A report was circulated prior to the meeting. The Panel has reviewed
85 OPR 7.4 in its entirety and introduced minor guideline amendments.

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87 Moved by Dr. Nurani and seconded by Dr. Quaid **to approve revisions to OPR 7.4 Patients with**
88 **Diabetes.**

89 **Motion carried**
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91 The Panel recommended that OPR 7.11 Patients with Dry Eye Disease include as an appendix the
92 Canadian Journal of Optometry's "National Dry Eye Disease Guidelines for Canadian Optometrists,"
93 which would provide a comprehensive reference for optometrists and the public.

94
95 Moved by Dr. Ruskin and seconded by Dr. Nurani **to approve revisions to OPR 7.11 Patients with Dry**
96 **Eye Disease.**

97 **Motion carried**
98

99 Wording of the document "Spectacle Therapy Using the Internet" was revised to confirm that the
100 standards for spectacle therapy are the same regardless of whether it is performed entirely in-office or
101 when partially using the Internet.

102
103 Moved by Dr. Nurani and seconded by Dr. Ruskin **to approve revisions to Spectacle Therapy Using the**
104 **Internet.**

105
106 Council reviewed this document and made suggestions that would allow for practitioner discretion with
107 respect to filling an expired prescription. The changes will be reflected in the published document.

108

109 Amendment to the motion:

110 Moved by Dr. Nurani and seconded by Dr. Ruskin **to amend the document to remove the phrase “after**
111 **which it cannot be filled.”**

112 **Amendment motion carried**
113 **6 opposed**

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115 **Vote on main motion amended.**

116 **Motion carried**

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118 The Panel presented revisions to OPR 6.7 Binocular Vision Assessment and Therapy. These revisions
119 more clearly present the Binocular Vision Assessment as an assessment subsequent to initial
120 examination and expand the assessment components.

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122 Moved by Dr. Nurani and seconded by Dr. Quaid **to approve amendments to OPR 6.7 Binocular Vision**
123 **Assessment and Therapy.**

124

125 After considering the amendments, Council offered suggestions for phrasing and punctuation. The
126 changes will be reflected in the published document. Amendments were suggested, including replacing
127 the phrase (title) “referral for strabismus surgery” with “referral to strabismus surgeon”.

128

129 The Chair asked if CPP Chair, Dr. Nurani, or Dr. Quaid had a conflict of interest due to their clinical
130 interest in Vision Therapy, both said they had none to declare. The Chair asked if CPP should wait before
131 amending OPR 6.7 Binocular Vision Assessment and Therapy since EHCO had just recently formed a new
132 subcommittee to review Vision Therapy and Strabismus surgery. Dr. Nurani, who also represents the
133 College at EHCO, said it was not necessary to wait. In the future, if sufficient proof is presented to CPP
134 that strabismus surgery is beneficial to the binocular vision of children, then CPP would amend this
135 document. Dr. Noël informed Council that one of the key strategies of the College was better inter-
136 professional collaboration.

137 Amendment to the motion:

138 Moved by Dr. Nurani and seconded by Dr. Witer **to make amendments to the document as suggested**
139 **by Council.**

140 **Amendment motion carried**

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143 **Vote on main motion amended.**

144 **Motion carried**

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146 **7. Transparency Project:** A report was circulated prior to the meeting. Ms. Moore updated Council on
147 the Transparency Subcommittee’s recent activities. There have been three meetings since February.
148 During this time, ICRC’s risk assessment framework was redesigned. Draft Phase 2 transparency by-law
149 amendments, based on recommendations approved by Council, are now ready to circulate for comment
150 by members and stakeholders. Council discussed various aspects of the proposed by-law amendments
151 and their potential effect on members and on College processes. Once the circulation period of 60 days
152 is completed, the Transparency Subcommittee will consider the feedback and provide a report to
153 Council for their consideration.

154
155 Moved by Ms. Moore and seconded by Dr. Chisholm **to approve circulation of the Phase 2 by-law**
156 **recommendations to members and stakeholders for comment.**

157 **Motion carried**
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159 **Action Item:** Staff will prepare and circulate the proposed by-law amendments for comment.

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161 **8. Internet Dispensing Update:**

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163 **IN CAMERA SESSION**

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165 Moved by Dr. Hemami and seconded by Dr. Chisholm **to have the meeting go in camera.**

166 **Motion carried**
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186 Moved by Dr. Ruskin and seconded by Dr. Nurani **to exit the in camera session.**

187 **Motion carried**
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189 **9. Regulation Updates:**

190 **a. Spousal exemption Regulation:** The regulation amendment has been submitted to the Ministry of
191 Health and Long-Term Care and will be reviewed in due course.

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193 **b. QA Regulation:** The new regulation has been submitted to the Ministry of Health and Long-Term
194 Care, and will be reviewed in due course.

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196 **c. Designated Drugs Regulation:** These provisions are currently before the Ministry, which will respond
197 in due course.
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199 **10. Optometry Review Committee:** Council learned that Bill 91, *Building Ontario Up Act, (Budget*
200 *Measures) 2015* received Royal Assent on June 4, 2015. Bill 91 was an omnibus bill that contained a
201 number of measures to be brought into force when the budget was passed by the government. Among
202 these is a proposal to end “practitioner review committees” such as the Optometry Review Committee.
203 The College is waiting for instructions from the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care on how to
204 proceed.

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206 **11. Dates of upcoming Council meetings:** The next Council meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday,
207 September 30, 2015. The following meetings are set for Wednesday, January 20, 2016 and Friday, April
208 15, 2016.

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210 **12. Adjournment:** Moved by Dr. Chisholm and seconded by Ms. Moore **to adjourn the meeting at 3:30**
211 **p.m.**

212 **Motion carried**