



NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

John Butler | Chairman of the Board

Here we are in 2022, I'm sure like most everyone I am hoping this year we will see some significant changes over the past 2 years. Covid has been a challenge for all, but especially challenging for health professions including Opticians. I hope we all have a much better year this year.

The NSCDO continues to work with the Health Department in relation to the changes in phases that take place and how they may relate to our guidelines and protocols. To date they remain in place however, when changes are made, we will notify our registrants and post the changes on our website.

The College is happy to welcome a new Registrar Cavell Ferguson, Cavell comes to us with a great deal of experience and is very helpful if you have any questions or concerns please reach out to her. We also welcome Alicia Austin as a new director. Alicia is a DO with Ocean Optometry who is eager to be involved. We are excited to have her join the Board.

The NSCDO is involved with Nova Scotia's self-regulated health professions network (NSRHPN), education (NEC), labor mobility including Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR), competency gap analysis (CGA), OCC, OAC and NAIT. These are some of the groups working for the betterment of Opticians in Nova Scotia and in Canada.

Please take the time to review the Registrars report in this newsletter for information on our new on-line Registration. Any questions regarding registration can be directed to Cavell by email at registrar@nscdo.ca or calling 902.425.7928.

Did you know most inquiries coming into the Board office can be answered on the NSCDO website at www.nscdo.ca. Please take the time to visit the website and review the information provided as you will find it can be very informative with many related links.

I sincerely thank all the directors on the Board and the Opticians involved on the many committees for their hard work throughout the year.

On behalf of myself and all Opticians, I would like to extend my condolences to the Nader family, Tony was a wonderful man and Optician, such a tragic loss to all that knew and loved him.



REGISTRAR'S REPORT

Cavell Ferguson

As in the past year we continue to make improvements to the on-line registration process. The functionality that allows members to enter their own in CE/PD credits through the members portal is available again and credits can be verified with the original source eliminating the need for paper copies.

NSCDO continues to look at improvements to the member portal and updating resources for the website. Any suggestions for improvement can be sent to registrar@nscdo.org

Licensed Opticians as of March 31, 2022

Total Membership: 279

Dispensing Opticians: 170

Contact Lens Fitters: 91

Non-Practicing: 16

New Members: 25

Total Students: 31

Dispensing Opticians: 29

Contact Lens: 2

NACOR REPORT

Tanya MacPhee

The mission of the National Alliance of Canadian Optician Regulators (NACOR), is to work collaboratively through a national forum to support provincial regulators in areas such as: competencies for opticians, accreditation of continuing education, examinations, gap analysis and prior learning assessment (PLAR).

NACOR is staffed by two full-time employees, Jodi Dodds and Jaime Hay. It is important to note, however, that while NACOR has a staff of two, their actions are directed by the decisions of the provincial optician regulatory boards and colleges. The NACOR board of directors is comprised of a representative of each province. Every province in Canada is a member of NACOR, including Quebec.

So, what's new? National meetings were held on-line in the spring and the fall of 2021 with one or more representatives from every province in attendance, including 3 attendees from Nova Scotia. Since the National Competencies for Canadian Opticians, 4th Edition was completed and released, all tools have to be updated to reflect the change. Work is ongoing for PLAR and the CGA. New bridging and assessments for refraction are complete and can be found on the NACOR website. Of particular interest, the PLAR process is being simplified and streamlined. It will be less expensive and time consuming to the applicant, NACOR, and the regulatory boards. This is a win all around.

What's new in the rest of Canada? As a reminder, the British Columbia Minister of Health announced a commitment to modernize health profession regulation which seeks to, among other things, reduce the number of regulatory colleges to improve efficiency and effectiveness. The College continues to collaborate with the regulators of other professions in BC to prepare for the changes ahead. This is very big news to optician regulators and it is something that is becoming a hot topic across the country. Optician regulators in other provinces have been working on projects ahead of reform to demonstrate their effectiveness, such as improving board governance, updating standards, and improving processes that promote greater accountability and transparency.

It is also interesting to note that on January 1st, 2022, the Alberta College and Association of Opticians (ACAO) became the College of Opticians of Alberta (COA). This was in response to passed provincial legislation that requires health regulators serving dual mandates of regulating professionals and advocating on their own behalf... to separate. Why? Because a regulatory college must ensure public safety, while an association promotes the members. The Alberta government believes it is difficult to do both.

These changes demonstrate that while self regulated professions each have their own college, act and regulations, they are all technically under the control and scrutiny of health departments of each province. Speaking of which... The Nova Scotia Department of Health and Wellness is planning various stages of consultation between January and May 2022 in an effort to develop a framework to Modernize the Regulation of Health Professions in Nova Scotia. How will this look? The government of Nova Scotia is proposing a common legislative foundation in a single act that would span multiple professions, bringing significant efficiencies within health regulation. It appears that most colleges will be modified and continue as independent regulators under the new legislation. The next few years may prove to be busy for Canadian optician regulators, the NSCDO included.

Did you know that the only reason optician regulators exist is to protect the public? That is their single mandate. They are there to keep the public safe by ensuring members are competent to practice through duties such as registration, education, audit, evaluation, and discipline. The mandate is similar in each province and that is what makes NACOR so indispensable. Having a national platform where regulators share, collaborate and develop tools allows each provincial optician regulator to better fulfill their duties to protect the public.

As usual, I am enthused by the efforts and accomplishments being made by NACOR. This is a very collaborative and effective group with measurable results. I look forward to seeing what's next.

NACOR EXAMINATION COMMITTEE

Tanya MacPhee

We need your help!

The NSCDO, sometimes in conjunction with NACOR, has various roles to fill from time to time, such as the opportunity to serve on a committee, become an examiner or a content expert. We would like to create a database of willing candidates who we can reach out to, as the need arises.

If interested, please send an email to registrar@nscdo.org. The email should identify the type of opportunities that would interest you the most, your preferred contact information, as well as any related experience and credentials.



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Shelley Smith-Bona

At this time of year, we are reminded that our continuing education credits are needing to be completed.

Continuing Education is an important part of any profession. As an Optician it is equally important to continue to do CE to keep your mind sharp, to expand your scope of practice, and to also get all those important credits for your license.

As a Licensed Optician, it is your responsibility to manage your CE Credits. The NS College of Dispensing Opticians has been working on making this easier for you and we now have the portal ready for you to enter your credits on-line throughout the year.

Make sure to keep a copy of all the credits that you achieve each year for your personal records.

You can still submit credits by scanning and e-mailing to registrar@nscdo.org or by mailing them in to the NSCDO office. For a full listing of credits types, please visit the website at [NSCDO_PD_Guidelines.pdf](#)

OCC REPORT

Glenna Locke

The Opticians Council of Canada now has only NACOR as a member. Individual schools and provincial associations that wish to join the OCC are welcomed.

The Regulators mandate is to protect the public, the Associations advocate for the profession, and Shools educate. The OCC works on all areas where all groups can collaborate and share information.

National meetings were held in May and November 2021 via video conference. The OCC executive is now named President, Vice President, and Treasurer.

Public Awareness Campaign: The OCC hired Fute marketing a few years ago to run The Licensed Optician Campaign. The marketing objectives are to educate the public about the advantages of seeing Licensed Opticians, target the audience that has an interest in becoming an Optician, as well as target international applicants. The marketing company uses Facebook and Instagram videos and Google campaigns. Both websites are well positioned and are showing a great increase in traffic. The web campaign and Google Ads campaign are showing increases in both impressions and actions. There has been a rapid growth in traffic since 2018.

SOCIAL MEDIA



Alicia Austin

The NSCDO now has a social media presence! This will bring more awareness about who we are as a regulatory body and what we do. Social media seemed like the next logical step to get our messages out to the general public. We now have a Facebook, Instagram and Twitter page!

The aim is to bring these to life by early April. So, for now the pages are live and set up to start moving us towards a more active public outreach. You can find us on all our social media platforms with @TheNSCDO. We will be looking for topics to share and discuss so please reach out to registrar@nscdo.org if there is something you would like us to tackle.

In the future we would also like to turn the spotlight on some of you! If you'd like to nominate an optician, student optician or contact lens fitter in your office or even volunteer yourself we would love to hear from you! Please follow us on your favorite media platform and share the posts we publish. It will go a long way toward our viewership.

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Please check the following web links for up to date information and guidelines.

<https://nscdo.ca/?action=covid19>

<https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/>

<https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/alerts-notice/>

<https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/resources/>

**ANNUAL GENERAL
MEETING**

6:00 pm, Thursday, June 10, 2022

***Please RSVP by Friday, June 4, 2022**

**Main Floor Boardroom,
1718 Argyle Street, Halifax, NS**

NOMINATION COMMITTEE

Glenna Locke

NSCDO is asking for Opticians interested in serving on the Board of Directors to submit their names along with a bio/resume. Candidates may also be nominated by at least two registrants or by the Nomination Committee. This year we have four positions available for a two-year term; three of the current incumbents will be re-offering to serve.

If you are interested in serving, please forward your intentions to us on or before May 25, 2022. The final slate of candidates will be confirmed by May 26, 2022 and communicated to you by email. If an election is necessary, we will use Lime Survey as we did for the past election. Should we require an election, the survey will be emailed to you by May 31, 2022 and elections would take place on June 2, 2022.

If you have any questions, please refer to our [By-Laws](#) or contact the College at registrar@nscdo.ca

Mailing Address: Attention: Glenna Locke
Chair of the Nomination Committee Nova
Scotia College of Dispensing Opticians
Halifax Professional Centre
342 - 5991 Spring Garden Road,
Halifax, NS B3H 1Y6

**ANNUAL GENERAL
MEETING**

6:00 pm, Friday, June 10, 2021
*** Please RSVP by Friday, June 4, 2022**

Main Floor Boardroom
1718 Argyle Street, Halifax, N.S.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

John Butler; Chair

Glenna Locke; Vice Chair

Shelley Smith Bona; Treasurer

Cavell Fergusn; Registrar/Recording Secretary

Lynn Countway; Director

Anne Cox; Director

Alicia Austin; Director

Susan Long; Director

Tanya MacPhee; Director

Marilyn Swaffer; Director

Graham Sweett; Director



Halifax Professional Centre
342-5991 Spring Garden Road
Halifax NS B3H 1Y6

Tel: 902.425.7928
Fax: 902.425.0360

Email: registrar@nscdo.org
Website: <https://nscdo.ca>