



NSCDO
NOVA SCOTIA COLLEGE OF
Dispensing Opticians

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NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

John Butler | Chairman of the Board

The NSCDO would like to thank Lorne Ostrov for his many years of serving on the Board as Director, Treasurer, Chair and Past Chair. Lorne was very giving with his time, ideas and values and will be missed. We would also like to thank Sindy Strong for her work serving on the Board and the many committees that she has been involved with.

The NSCDO would like to welcome Robert Billard as our College Liaison. Rob will be visiting dispensing practices including Optometrists' offices throughout the province to ensure practices are operating legally as it relates to legislation. Rob is not an officer or director of the Board; therefore as liaison he will forward any concerns or questions to the NSCDO.

The UDWG (Unregulated Dispensing Working Group) has developed a Facebook page in an effort to capture social media with a campaign regarding unregulated dispensing. The page can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/NSeyecarepros/>. The press release just before Halloween focused on positive information regarding contact lenses and cosmetic contact lenses. It was very successful and we will continue to update and develop the page with new information, please visit and share the site. We can all contribute by educating customers and the public explaining the risks of unregulated dispensing and how your profession as Opticians provides safe eye health care. Sell yourselves and your profession.

The NSCDO and the NSSDO held a joint meeting between

the groups on January 27, 2016. Discussions regarding the UDWG, fall graduations of students, the direction of the NSSDO and mandate of the NSCDO were among some of the topics. I would like to thank Robert MacLeod and the Society executive for a productive meeting.

The NSCDO AGM is being moved to a more practical date that coincides with the year-end financial statements. The AGM is typically a very short meeting lasting 10-15 minutes and until recent years we attached our AGM with a regular Board meeting. Since developing our newsletter now all the reports and information are released in detail in February and not delivered at the AGM. The membership will still be invited to attend the AGM if they wish and please RSVP to the NSCDO to provide numbers for attendance.

The NSCDO is continually working to make sure Nova Scotia is current, in line with other health care professions and involved with any National issues. Our profession is in a stronger, better place today than it ever has been and that is the direct result of many Opticians working hard on several committees, maintaining legislation and working together in areas that involve several stakeholders.

If you would like to get involved and give back to your profession please remember to fill out that portion of your renewal form. Registration renewal forms can be found on the NSCDO website at www.nscdo.ca.

**ANNUAL
GENERAL MEETING**

6:00 pm, Wednesday, June 15, 2016
***Please RSVP by June 8, 2016**

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



NACOR REPORT

Glenna Locke

The National Association of Canadian Optician Regulators met on October 1, 2015 in Vancouver, BC.

Adverse Event Report: Canadian eye care regulators are collecting data for a study that reviews the number of adverse incidences for patients that use the services of a regulated eye care professional as well as those patients who have sought their eye wear through unregulated sources. This report is not a punitive exercise but rather an attempt at gathering current data regarding risk of harm. The Adverse Event Report Form is almost ready for use; just a few small changes such as adding file/case # and provincial identifiers.

Items from the Strategic Plan completed in March 2015 were mentioned such as the development of continuing competency tools and framework for Regulatory Colleges to assign timelines to be completed.

An informal working group for provinces working with PLAR applicants met on September 20, 2015; policies to remain as standardized as possible. There is an online written GAP analysis. This identifies which competency that a particular candidate has or requires. Candidates will be graded as below, at, or above and then will be assigned bridging modules.

The Continuing Competency Program is designed to update or replace the current continuing education credit system. When one sits in on seminars this does not guarantee they know what it is or even if they are interested. "We don't know what we don't know". This is a way to ensure that members remain competent over the lifetime of their career. The Framework of this program:

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. CCA Tool and Plan | 5. Specialty Practicum |
| 2. Bridging | 6. Final Exam of Competency |
| 3. Specialty Program | 7. Recognition |
| 4. Specialty Module | |

NACOR is hoping to have this finalized by the end of the year.

NACOR voted in favor of adding basic refraction (not automated) to Scope of Practice. Schools will add this to their curriculum.

NACOR exams must be translated to French as well as the Candidate Handbook by July 2016. NACOR will request funding through the Federal Government.

The next meeting date for NACOR is May 13, 2016 in St. John's, NL.



REGISTRAR'S REPORT

Hazel MacDonald

Licensed Opticians as of February 29, 2016

Dispensing Opticians	261
Contact Lens Fitters	62
Non-Practicing	14
Eyeglass Students	15
Contact Lens Students	2

New Dispensing Opticians

Wanda Bungay
 Justin Butler
 Evelyn Ekstrom
 Julia Fleming
 Jesse Hanna
 Janica Landry
 Jay MacDonald
 Christie Maher
 Johnna Nickerson
 Kaitlin Shaw
 Sonja Symonds

New Contact Lens

Leah Conway
 Janica Landry
 Kaitlin Shaw

NATIONAL EXAMINATION COMMITTEE

Tanya Wohlschlager

The National Exam Committee met in Ottawa January 14-17, 2016. The meeting was attended by representation from all provinces with the exception of PEI.

The committee spent the first two days working with consultant, John Wickett, to review the question bank to be used in the CCA, the Continuing Competency Assessment Tool. The analysis was based on the results from the pilot that was sent out to opticians across the country in November. The pilot was successful in giving a large amount of valuable data with 1013 participants from coast to coast. Questions were corrected or deleted, based on results of the pilot and discretion of the NEC. The questions cover all 12 units of the National Competencies for Canadian Opticians, 3rd edition. Question results were also assigned a scale which will in the future identify where a participant has strengths and weaknesses. Going forward, the CCA will be a useful tool for provincial regulatory bodies to use as a way to tailor their continuing education to address gaps in knowledge.

Day 3 of the meetings was used to review the National Eyeglass Examination. A small portion of this day was used to review the 2013-2015 exam statistics. The remaining time was used to review each section of the exam. A few small changes were made and the latest version of the ANSI standards was adopted.



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Marion Ripley

Another year has passed and the trend for continuing education online continues. There are more Opticians taking online CE courses and I expect this trend to continue well into the future. Continuing education is very important and helps us stay fresh and up to date on new advancements in our profession.

Just a reminder that you can check the NSCDO website, www.nscdo.ca, under "Cont Ed Providers" for seminar guidelines and an application form. The guidelines ensure that ALL seminars are given the proper category as well as the credits warranted for the content given. (EG) Eyeglass Dispensing (CL) Contact Lens Dispensing (EC) Eyeglass or Contact Lens (PS) Professional Service (RF) Related Field.

If you are attending a course or seminar and you want confirmation of accreditation or any other information, please contact Hazel MacDonald, NSCDO Registrar at nscdo@ns.aliantzinc.ca. All Seminar submissions can be sent directly to the NSCDO.



OCC REPORT Glenna Locke

The Opticians Council of Canada is comprised of three member organizations: OAC (Opticians Association of Canada), NACOR (National Association of Canadian Optician Regulators) and CAOE (Canadian Association of Opticianry Educators).

The Opticians Council of Canada met for National Meetings on October 2, 2015 in Vancouver, BC.

OAC - Dalie Schellen spoke and was very happy to see a full National organization. Quebec is now sending members to both OAC and OCC. Numbers are down for students in Sight Testing as well as Contact Lens (Advanced Practice).

CAOE - Tim Schmidt spoke about accreditation and National competencies; challenges are enrollment, caliber of students and an increased percentage of international students.

My Loud Speaker worked with CAOE to create a short video promoting how to become an Optician, not just what is an Optician, to help promote the schools. The schools are working on adopting ANSI tolerances into curriculum as well as adding some basic refracting but will need some more information and meetings prior to this.

The Public Awareness Campaign (Love Your Eyes 2015) by My Loud Speaker was very successful; there was a lot of engagement and interaction. Trivia questions were geared more about Opticians and what they do, who they are, and the benefits of seeing an Optician. No financial decision was made for the 2016 budget for the Public Awareness Campaign; will wait until the OCC executive meeting in May regarding strategy for the new funding plan. The OCC is hoping all organizations will keep prior commitments.

The OAC invited Roy Hessel, Clearly Contacts CEO, to speak following the OCC meeting. They have dropped Contacts from the company name and are now just Clearly. Roy explained that 4% of users shop online for glasses. Glasses are still seen as a high ticket item that needs significant consideration. People are dependent on their eye care professional to make sense of their prescription. Any purchase has to start with a visit to an eye care practitioner. They want to build a working relationship with Opticians and have hired some over the past year to verify and adjust glasses for customers.

The next meeting date for OCC is May 14, 2016 in St. John's, NL.



NOVA SCOTIA REGULATED HEALTH PROFESSIONS NETWORK

Hazel MacDonald

The Nova Scotia College of Dispensing Opticians is a member of The Network; a combined conscience of Nova Scotia's 21 self-regulated health professions. On September 24, 2015, Principles of Assignment and Delegation Guidelines for Working with Unregulated Care Providers were approved by the Nova Scotia Regulated Health Professions Network Council.

Motion:

Whereas the duties of the Network include:

(a) Be a forum to share resources, information, trends and issues among the regulated health professions and others;

(b) Promote best practices in health-profession regulation while preserving the regulatory autonomy of each regulated health profession;

(c) Enable Network members to build capacity for their regulatory functions by facilitating collaboration with other Network members and other bodies;

(d) Facilitate the development of strategies and approaches that will enable Network members to respond individually and collectively to regulatory challenges and opportunities;

(e) Encourage voluntary collaboration among Network members for any purpose that serves the public interest;

Be it resolved that the Regulated Health Professions Network endorse as good practice the approaches set out in the document "Assignment and Delegation to Unregulated Care Providers" and recommend adoption by Network members to the extent that is permitted by relevant legislation.

The Network can be found at www.nsrhpn.ca

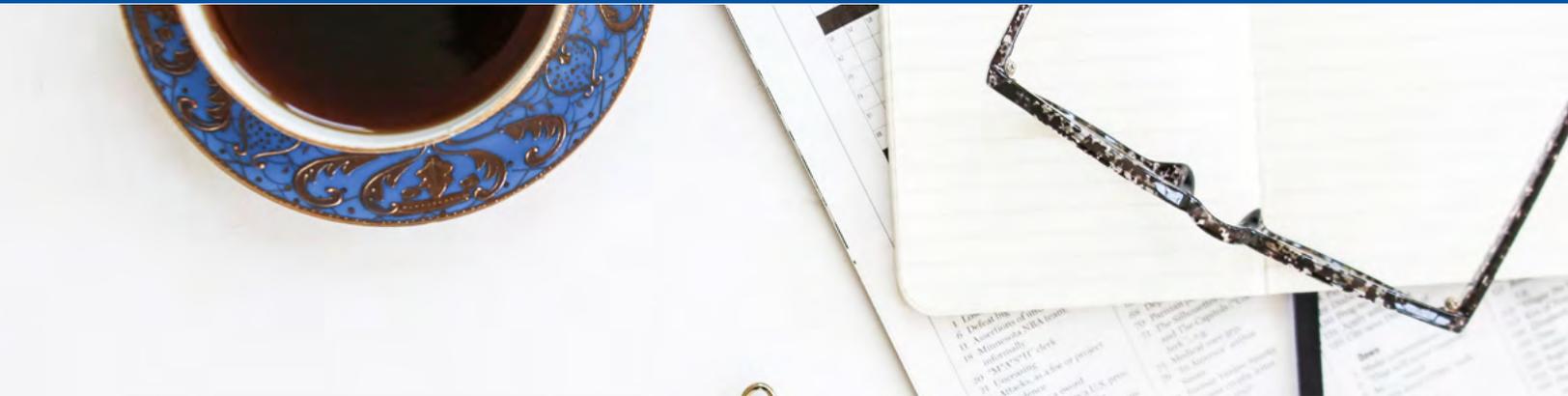


IN MEMORIAM

Rick Strong

Rick Strong, 56, of Windsor, NS passed away on February 25, 2016 after a brief but courageous battle with cancer. Rick was an optician in Nova Scotia for 35 years, having started his career working with his dad, optician Wilfred (Junior) Strong at Imperial Optical. For many years, Rick worked for Doctors Eye Clinic / FYI Doctors in Lower Sackville and most recently at Walmart Vision Centre in Dartmouth.

Rick was an excellent optician, musician, computer expert and a good friend to all who knew him. The College wishes to express our sincere condolences to Rick's wife, optician Sindy Strong and the rest of his family.



NOMINATION COMMITTEE

Michelle Ashford

The NSCDO is asking for Opticians interested in serving on the Board of Directors to submit their names along with a bio/resume to Michelle Ashford, Chair of the Nomination Committee. Candidates may also be nominated by at least 2 registrants or by the Nomination Committee. This year we have 2 (two) Director Terms expiring: John Butler and Shelley Smith Bona both have re-offered.

If you are interested in serving, please forward your intentions to us on or before March 21, 2016.

The final slate of candidates will be confirmed by April 6, 2016 and communicated to you by email. If necessary for Elections, electronic ballots will be forwarded to you by April 13, 2016 and Elections would take place on April 29, 2016.

If you have any questions, please refer to our Bylaws or contact the College at nscdo@ns.aliantzinc.ca

Mailing address:
Attention: Michelle Ashford
Chair of the Nomination Committee
Nova Scotia College of
Dispensing Opticians
Suite 430, Halifax Professional Centre
5991 Spring Garden Road
Halifax, NS B3H 1Y6

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

John Butler; Chair
Michelle Ashford; Vice Chair
Deborah Moulton; Treasurer
Susan Feltmate; Director
Glenna Locke; Director
Shelley Smith Bona; Director
Graham Sweett; Director
Marion Ripley; Director
Hazel MacDonald; Registrar



Suite 430 Halifax Professional Centre
5991 Spring Garden Road
Halifax NS B3H 1Y6
Tel: 902.425.7928
Fax: 902.425.0360
Email: nscdo@ns.aliantzinc.ca
Website: www.nscdo.ca

