



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE



## NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

John Butler | Chairman of the Board

This past year the NSCDO has had a few changes with the appointments of two new directors. We would like to welcome Angela Hume and Susan Long to the Board of Directors. The College can be a very interesting and rewarding way to give back to your profession. There are numerous ways to be involved with the College and there are many committees provincially and nationally requiring NS representation. If you have a strong interest and would like to get involved please remember to fill out that section on your renewal form.

Did you know that most inquiries coming into the Board office can be answered on the NSCDO website at [www.nscdo.ca](http://www.nscdo.ca)? Please take the time to visit the website and review the information there as you will find it can be very informative.

The NSCDO is involved with education (NEC), labour mobility including the new development for Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR), competency gap analysis (CGA), OCC, OAC and NAIT. NSCDO and the NSSDO continue to work with UWDG (Unregulated Working Dispensing Group). These are some of the groups working for the betterment of Opticians in Nova Scotia and in Canada.

I would like to thank the directors on the Board and the Opticians on the many committees for their hard work. Because of their involvement we continue to grow in our professionalism as Opticians.

The NSCDO is dedicated to supporting opticians in their delivery of high quality, safe and ethical care to the public of Nova Scotia. The College works diligently to maintain and advance our profession for the betterment of both the public and Opticians.

**ANNUAL  
GENERAL MEETING**

**5:30 pm, Wednesday, June 6, 2018**  
**\*Please RSVP by May 30, 2018**

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



# NACOR REPORT

Tanya Wohlsclagel

The NACOR meetings were held in April and November of 2017. There were one or more representatives from every province in attendance. An external company was hired to conduct several exercises designed to aid NACOR in revisiting and refreshing the NACOR Strategic Plan.

The British Columbia College of Opticians received grant money and designed a national pre-arrival website that is live at [www.opticianscouncil.ca](http://www.opticianscouncil.ca), though some portions are still under construction. This site is for people interested in entering this industry from high school, for a career change or through immigration. The goal is to provide more information, all in one place and to help address the likely shortage of opticians in future years and decades.

Finally, continuing competency was a frequent topic. Is it enough to pass your exam and be qualified to dispense optical appliances for decades after? Some other provinces don't think so! Other provinces are beginning to use a self-assessment tool to help members guide learning towards their weaknesses.



## REGISTRAR'S REPORT

Gail Stacey

### Licensed Opticians as of February 28, 2018

Dispensing Opticians	248
Contact Lens Fitters	67
Non-Practicing	15
Eyeglass Students	23
Contact Lens Students	2

### New Dispensing Opticians

Jennifer Anderson	Connie Marshall
Michelle Babineau	Rachael Martin
Wanda Bungay	Alicia McKim
Rayelle Canam	Lindsay Nathanson
Benjamin Cooper	Branden Nelson
Parneet Dhillon	Kristie Robertson
Sarah-Beth Hayes	Rutvi-Devang Sheths

### New Contact Lens Fitters

Michelle Babineau
Rayelle Canam
Brad DeCoste
Parneet Dhillon
Sarah-Beth Hayes
Rutvi-Devang Sheth



# NATIONAL EXAMINATION COMMITTEE

Tanya Wohlsclagel

The National Exam Committee meetings were held in Ottawa February 10 and 11, 2018. The meetings were facilitated by Jodi Dodds, executive director of NACOR. A representative from every province, with the exception of Prince Edward Island, was in attendance.

The group reviewed both the Optical Sciences 1 - Eyeglasses and the Optical Sciences 2 - Advanced Practice Contact Lens examinations.

The meetings began with a review of the result statistics from 2015, 2016 and 2017. The group reviewed each exam to ensure that the material was relevant, current and accurate and some adjustments were made. The changes were considered small and will not cause the exams to be more or less difficult. The changes will be implemented beginning in May of 2018.



## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Marion Ripley

Continuing Education plays an important role for an Optician. A variety of professional development topics will be considered to enhance dispensing skills, customer relations skills, business skills and advancing technology. It is NOT just about getting the credits for your License, it's about improving your optical skills to become a better Optician.

We now live in a digital world, so before you decide to take an on-line course or seminar, please be sure to submit it to the NS College of Dispensing Opticians for approval, or contact the Registrar to confirm it has already been approved.

It is also VERY important to remember, when attending a live seminar, confirm with the host that their presentation has been submitted on time to the NSCDO for approval. There have been a few instances over the last year where seminars were not submitted to the NSCDO prior to the event.

Just a reminder that you can check out the NSCDO website, [www.nscdo.ca](http://www.nscdo.ca), under "Continuing Ed / Providers" for seminar guidelines and an application form.

Contact Gail Stacey, NSCDO Registrar at [nscdo@ns.aliantzinc.ca](mailto:nscdo@ns.aliantzinc.ca) if you have any questions regarding your CON ED credits.

# OCC REPORT

Glenna Locke

The Opticians Council of Canada is comprised of three member organizations: National Association of Canadian Optician Regulators (NACOR), Opticians Association of Canada (OAC), and Canadian Association of Opticianry Educators (CAOE). The Opticians Council of Canada met in Calgary, Alberta on November 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017. The main theme of the message for all three groups was to work together with a common goal of keeping Opticianry relevant.

Update on Refracting Competencies working group: The group met in Montreal in May 2017. Subject matter experts from across Canada came up with competencies that could be added to current curriculum. The refracting working group went over each of the competencies and determined how they should be taught in theory, simulation, or real life, and how schools will incorporate each into their programs. These requirements are the minimum; if a school wants to teach beyond this they can, but must have the minimum covered in their curriculum.

The OCC hired a PR firm (Hill & Knowlton) to do a “jurisdictional scan” of individual provinces earlier this year with regard to readiness to expand scope of practice. All provinces were assessed other than the territories. Points looked at were: current scope and how has it changed, political environment, government position on expansion, stakeholder environment including potential opposition, and any attempts to expand in the past. The firm identified provinces where the environment is most conducive to seeing progress in the near term. Laura Greer from Hill & Knowlton spoke about the importance of engagement with government. “We Need to Engage”.

The OCC hired Jim McKinlay of McKinlay Consulting to work on strategic planning with the groups. This meeting was successful in that all groups want the same end result – to keep Opticianry relevant and to add refracting and ability to prescribe to the scope of practice. The group spoke about and gave suggestions regarding key success measures to expanding scope of practice.

My Loud Speaker has been hired again for the Public Awareness Campaign. Campaign update on “Hate Your Job”: the goal is to increase awareness and attract people to the profession and develop a target market aimed at people who are working but hate what they do. The Answer... Become an Optician! They suggest keeping this going on the website by continuing to share. There is continuous and strategic refinement on a weekly basis. There has been a spike in enrolment in schools. There is a link to “Hate Your job” on the Become an Optician website.

Become an Optician website: PLAR (prior learning and recognition) process assesses internationally trained Opticians to determine if they have any gaps in competency. CGA (Competency Gap Analysis) Interview determines whether or not an applicant is above or below expectations.

COBC received a grant from the government to develop new bridging courses, theory piece, and interactive activities. 13 bridging courses are on the website. Grant for Project 2 - Pre-arrival: before moving to Canada an applicant can check out how to become an Optician in Canada, what it is like to be an Optician in Canada, using videos, tools, and information. There is a competency self-assessment, licensing calculator, as well as a personality quiz (to see if Opticianry is a good fit). Alberta received a grant to build videos as well but this work is still in progress.

The OAC continues with educational enrolment through partnership with NAIT. Enrolment numbers in the Optical Sciences program are positive for the January 2018 intake. The OAC has signed a contract with NAIT to continue their business relationship through 2022. The French OAC/NAIT Optical program has been a great success. The OAC is in ongoing communication with the Canadian Association of Optometrists and Canadian Association of Ophthalmologists as they consider ways in which to easily incorporate Bill C313 regulations into the provincial legislation. It has been decided that some provinces are not favourable to open legislation now. It is suggested the federal legislation be leveraged and that we collaboratively educate consumers on the dangers of using Plano Cosmetic Lenses without ECP care. The OAC has made a pledge to help give sight to two million children in Canada who have not had an eye exam and need eyewear. This will be launched in January in Manitoba with the OAC spearheading the vision screening refraction and delivery of vision care services and products to a high-risk school in Winnipeg.

CAOE: four schools attended the meetings in Calgary (Oulton, Stenberg, Seneca, and NAIT). Each school will look at competencies (with regard to refraction), will weed out old information and add new information to the curriculum, and will include digital technology in curriculum. The schools will work together on this.

GREATNEWS!! The Ontario Superior Court ruling of January 11, 2018: The application to seek an injunction preventing Essilor/ Clearly from unlawfully dispensing prescription eyewear over the internet was successful. The College of Opticians and the College of Optometrists jointly filed the application in December 2016 and the matter was heard October 11, 2017. Justice Lederer delivered his decision January 11, 2018 in favor of the two regulatory bodies. The two Colleges are motivated by and required by legislation to maintain patient safety and to act in the public interest. The dispensing of corrective lenses is a controlled act, subject to Ontario legislation, that definitively requires a regulated health professional's involvement. The role of the Colleges is to regulate the practice of Optometry and Opticianry in order to maintain and enhance public safety.

# UDWG

Lynn Countway

The UDWG continues its efforts to inform the public of the dangers involved in unregulated dispensing of decorative, cosmetic, colour or fashion lenses.

The Halloween campaign was run from September 1 - October 31, 2017 and the ads on Google generated over 103,000 ad impressions that resulted in approximately 1,400 clicks for more information. Facebook generated over 75,000 impressions, approximately 890 new engagements and 122 new page likes.

With the November prescription verification campaign, over 200,000 impressions were made, approximately 900 visits to the Facebook page and 118 new page likes. With these results being based in the NS area, they are considered a success.

There are now some discussions around a warning video being developed in the future once thoroughly researched.



## NOMINATION COMMITTEE

Michelle Ashford

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 two registrants or by the Nomination Committee. This year we have four positions available including the position of Board Chair. All four Board Members will be re-offering to serve for the next two years. If you are interested in serving, please forward your intentions to us on or before April 28, 2018. The final slate of candidates will be confirmed by May 15, 2018 and communicated to you by email. If necessary for elections, electronic ballots will be forwarded to you by May 22, 2018 and elections would take place on June 6, 2018.

If you have any questions, please refer to our By-laws or contact the College at [nscdo@ns.aliantzinc.ca](mailto:nscdo@ns.aliantzinc.ca).

Mailing address:

Attention: Michelle Ashford  
Chair of the Nomination Committee  
Nova Scotia College of Dispensing Opticians  
Suite 342, Halifax Professional Centre  
5991 Spring Garden Road, Halifax, NS B3H 1Y6



## CONTINUING COMPETENCY ASSESSMENT (CCA)

Tanya Wohlsclagel

Are you an exceptional optician? Do you know your stuff? Are there some areas where you could expand your knowledge or brush up on? The Nova Scotia College of Dispensing Opticians will have something that will help!

A plan to use a continuing competency assessment tool is being considered. We don't know what we don't know. This confidential online tool will be a simple assessment that will help opticians to understand their weak areas. The assessment generates very broad results such as "exceptional" or "needs improvement".

There are no scores and no pass or fail results. The purpose is to help members identify and celebrate their strengths and identify and address their weaknesses. Stay tuned for more details!

# IN MEMORIAM



## David Martin White

David Martin White, 58, passed away Monday, November 13, 2017. David attended Acadia University and UNB before working as an optician for over 30 years. He proudly owned & operated David's Eyewear in Kentville and Windsor. His passion was to care for his clients and never hesitated to go the extra mile. David also served several years on the Examinations Committee. David will be sadly missed by all, especially his wife, Pamela, his two sons Cody and Tyler, and his 2 step-children Amanda & Ryan. The NSCDO extends its deepest sympathies to all and would like to thank David for all his years of service to his community & the optical profession.



## Melody Faye Jones

Jones, Melody Faye "Mel", age 53, passed away on October 19, 2017. Melody was a graduate of St. Mary's University majoring in history and English. She enjoyed her work as an Optician and Contact Lens Fitter.

She was an enthusiastic member of the Nova Scotia Mustang Club and loved driving her 1973 Mach 1. The NSCDO extends its sincere sympathies to her husband Denis Mondoux and family.



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**John Butler;** Chair

**Glenna Locke;** Vice Chair

**Shelley Smith Bona;** Treasurer

**Gail Stacey;** Registrar

**Lynn Countway;** Director

**Angela Hume;** Director

**Susan Long;** Director

**Marion Ripley;** Director

**Graham Sweett;** Director

**Tanya Wohlsclagel;** Director



Suite 342 Halifax Professional Centre  
5991 Spring Garden Road  
Halifax NS B3H 1Y6  
Tel: 902.425.7928  
Fax: 902.425.0360  
Email: [nscdo@ns.aliantzinc.ca](mailto:nscdo@ns.aliantzinc.ca)  
Website: [www.nscdo.ca](http://www.nscdo.ca)

