

## PRESS RELEASE

### **OPTICIANS COUNCIL OF CANADA WARNS AGAINST PURCHASING CONTACT LENSES FROM A NON-REGULATED PROVIDER**

When it comes to Halloween safety, parents may consider their kids' costumes and whether to attach reflectors, checking candy is appropriately wrapped and safe to eat, but what about their eyes? All consumers should know that an increase of eye injuries has been reported around Halloween.

To help ensure a safe holiday, the Opticians Council of Canada is warning consumers of health concerns related to the use of non-corrective coloured contact lenses (cosmetic lenses), including blindness. Cosmetic contacts are lenses used to change eye colour or to create an affect such as `vampire eyes`.

The use of cosmetic lenses can lead to serious eye health issues. Ill-fitting lenses and improper care can lead to significant risks including allergic reaction, infection, swelling of the cornea and blindness, even with short term use. Cosmetic lenses are sold in a variety of retail outlets and are gaining in popularity for Halloween costume use.

The OCC is recommending that consumers consult a registered optician whenever they choose an eye product, whether it be contact lenses, eyeglasses or low vision aids. Registered opticians are trained to recommend and safely fit a range of devices to improve eyesight. An optician can also provide training on contact lens use and instruction on hygiene.