

APPENDIX: KK

The Regulation of Opticians in Canada

Provision	British Columbia	Alberta	Saskatchewan	Manitoba	Quebec	New Brunswick	PEI	Nova Scotia	Newfoundland/Labrador	Northwest Territories/Nunavut	Yukon
Acts	Health Professions Act Opticians Regulation	Opticians Act Health Professions Act Ophthalmic Dispensing Regulation	Dispensing Opticians Act Ophthalmic Dispensers Regulations	The Opticians Act The Optometry Act	Dispensing Opticians Act	Opticians Act (Private Act)	Optometry Act Dispensing Opticians Act	Dispensing Opticians Act Optometry Act.	Dispensing Opticians Act Optometry Act (to be proclaimed)	Optometry Act	Optometrists Act
Regulation of Opticians	Yes (by regulation)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Split License	Yes (by regulation)	Yes (by regulation)	Yes A special register is maintained for contact lens technicians.	No	No	Yes Special certification is required to dispense contact lenses.	Yes A dispensing optician must hold a certificate of special qualification issued by the Board to dispense contact lenses.	Yes A dispensing optician must hold a certificate of special qualification issued by the Board to dispense contact lenses.	Yes	N/A	N/A
Title Protection	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	N/A	N/A

Jurisdiction	British Columbia	Alberta	Saskatchewan	Manitoba	Québec	New Brunswick	PEI	Nova Scotia	Newfoundland/Labrador	Northwest Territories/Nunavut	Yukon
Reserved/ Controlled Acts	Reserved Act No person other than an optician/contact lens fitter may fill a prescription by dispensing eyeglasses/fitting or dispensing contact lenses.	Reserved Act Opticians may dispense ophthalmic appliances based on an optical prescription.	Reserved Act Spectacles or eyeglasses are to be dispensed only according to a prescription of an optometrist or a duly qualified medical practitioner.	Reserved Act The service and appliances relating to opticianry shall be dispensed, furnished, or supplied, to the intended wearer or user thereof only upon prescription.	Reserved Act A dispensing optician shall only perform the acts described in section 8 [the fitting, adjusting, replacement or sale of any ophthalmic lens] upon the prescription of a physician or optometrist.	Reserved Act No optician shall supply or dispense an optical appliance except upon receipt of and in accordance with a prescription of a duly qualified medical practitioner or optometrist.	Reserved Act No dispensing optician shall supply or dispense an optical appliance except upon a prescription of a legally qualified medical practitioner or an optometrist.	Reserved Act No dispensing optician shall supply or dispense an optical appliance except upon a prescription of a legally qualified medical practitioner or an optometrist.	Reserved Act An optical appliance shall only be supplied by a dispensing optician upon and in accordance with a prescription of a licensed medical practitioner or registered optometrist.	N/A	N/A
Requirement for Prescriber Involvement	Not specifically required but part of definition.	Required Opticians practice... based on an optical prescription.	Required See above	Required See above	Required See above	Required See above	Required See above	Required See above	Required See above	N/A	N/A
Scope of Practice	Defined "optician" means a registrant who	Defined "optician" means a person who is	Defined "ophthalmic dispenser" means a person	Defined "optician" means a person who (a)	Defined Every act which has as its object the	Defined "optical dispensing" means the	Defined "dispensing optician" means a person	Defined "dispensing optician" means a person	Defined "dispensing optician" means a	N/A	N/A

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	is authorized to dispense eyeglasses "contact lens fitter" means an optician who is authorized under the bylaws to fill a prescription and to fit and dispense contact lenses	registered as a member of the Association	who provides an ophthalmic dispensing service	prepares and dispenses lenses, including contact lenses	fitting, adjusting, replacement or sale of any ophthalmic lens constitutes the practice of the profession of dispensing optician.	interpreting and filling of a prescription for optical appliances and includes measuring, fitting, adjusting and adapting optical appliances	registered under this Act	registered under this Act	natural person licensed under this Act to practise optical dispensing		
Eye Examinations / Refractions	Limitations on practice No registrant may conduct eye examinations or refractions.	The practice of opticianry... "does not include the measurement of ocular refractive error of an individual through refraction." An ophthalmic dispenser or a member of the Guild who	Except as may be otherwise provided in these regulations, no ophthalmic dispenser shall measure ocular refractive error, determine its correction or diagnose conditions of the eye.	<i>The Optometry Act</i> includes refraction in a list of activities which deem a person to be practicing optometry.	No specific reference.	No specific reference.	No specific reference.	No specific reference.	<i>Optometry Act</i> includes the measurement of refractive conditions in the definition of the practice of optometry.	<i>Optometry Act</i> includes the measurement of refractive conditions in the definition of the practice of optometry.	N/A

