

# **APPENDIX: V**

Ministry of Health  
and Long-Term Care

Ministère de la Santé  
et des Soins de longue durée



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Dear Presidents:

On February 7, 2001 my predecessor wrote to each of your colleges to share the findings of the Health Professions Regulatory Advisory Council regarding refractometry performed by opticians. That letter requested multilateral cooperation by colleges in resolving this issue and I support my predecessor's direction. I am disappointed that no significant progress has been made by the colleges toward fulfillment of the request over the past eight months.

I am concerned with the lack of co-operation and mutual respect by eye care sector partners on a range of issues, including refractometry. A constructive framework for dealing with inter-college issues based on public interest, professional standards, and mutual respect is critical to effective self-regulation under the *Regulated Health Professions Act*. Consequently, establishing a framework that allows for effective discussion and resolution of issues between eye care professions is a priority.

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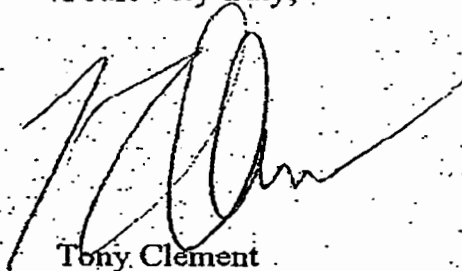
To facilitate this framework, I am requesting that within 60 days the three concerned colleges provide me with a single status update regarding how they will proceed to resolve the issue of refractometry. The status update should include the key questions that will be explored, a critical path to addressing the key questions, the role of all three colleges, and any external assistance they will employ.

I hope that this issue will provide the catalyst to establish a framework for productive discussions between colleges on a broader range of issues. Until this framework is in place and clear progress has been made, I have asked Ministry staff to make refractometry the priority regulatory issue in the area of eye care. I feel this step is necessary to provide focus to the current discussions. As a result, other discussions with eye care colleges or professional associations regarding regulatory issues that do not concern immediate public safety will be delayed until significant progress is achieved.

I have asked Mary Beth Valentine, Director of the Program Policy Branch, to follow through on this request. If you have any questions or wish to discuss potential assistance from the Ministry, please contact her at (416) 327-8636.

Thank you for your efforts and I look forward to your update.

Yours very truly,



Tony Clement  
Minister