

REPORT

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Fazal Khan, Registrar, CEO

DATE: February 22, 2021

SUBJECT: Registrar's Report

Highlights

- 2021 Renewals
- Registration Exams
- Remote Operations
- Government Relations
- External Relations
 - Collaboration with other Regulators
- Discussion with Allison Henry
- Seneca Program Advisory Committee (PAC)
- Ongoing Work
 - 2022 Fees Bylaw updates
 - Posting timelines exploration

2021 Renewal Season

The College had an encouraging renewal season with 2906 registrants renewing, approximately 95% renewal. 87 opticians are yet to renew and 109 have indicated that they are not renewing. Of those not renewing:

Leave of absence - 31.2%
Retirement- 28.4%
Medical leave- 11.9%
Parental leave - 11%
Change of profession - 9.2%
Moving to another province/country-8.3%

Registration Examinations:

The College hosted its first French language registration exams January 22-24th. Approximately 17 candidates were processed, and we received very positive feedback from the team, examiners and candidates.

Remote Operations:

The College continues to operate remotely with no impediment to timelines or workflow. Under the updated provincial restrictions, staff are only attending the office for necessary functions.

Government Relations:

Internal bi-weekly update meetings are being held with Counsel Government Relations. Counsel is actively following up on long pending regulation updates as well as monitoring the landscape for possible governance and regulatory model changes. Counsel has been extremely responsive when contacted for assistance with government announcements and pending policy announcements including COVID19 related updates.

External Relations:*Collaboration with Regulators and Other Stakeholders:*

The College staff continue to participate in regular board meetings of HPRO - Health Professions Regulators of Ontario (formerly FHRCO) with the current focus on the pandemic and coordinating with the Ministry of Health.

With impending submission of the first College Performance Measurements Framework (CPMF) report to be submitted to the Ministry, the College is working with a working group of approximately 10 other colleges to collaborate on addressing areas that are unclear in the reporting requirements. The draft report is to be reviewed at this board meeting.

Discussion with Allison Henry

An update meeting was held with Allison Henry on January 29/21. Updates were given regarding the updates to the Delegation Standard of Practice and specifically refraction by opticians working under the direct supervision of an optometrist or medical doctor. Assurances were given to expedite outstanding regulations sitting with the Ministry.

Seneca Program Advisory Committee

The COO met with the Seneca Advisory committee on February 5, 2021. The COO gave updates around policy accommodations as well as updates to the Standards of Practice and temporary modifications made to the registration exam to accommodate for pandemic restrictions. Seneca updated the group regarding its expected delays in graduation of students and reduced numbers of graduates. This will have an impact on expected new applications during 2021/22.

Ongoing Work

2021-2026 Registration Fees

The College's fees bylaw table requires updating for 2022-2026 as the current bylaw stipulates fees until 2021. We have been working with our accounting firm for the past year on an analysis project to assist us with a model that factors incoming applicants and the impact of attrition. That said, the pandemic has significantly impacted the predictions of this model including a significant reduction in reserves to offset the fee reduction for 2021. Further information will be brought to the finance committee this spring to assist in making recommendations for the registration fees for 2022-2026.

Board Meeting Posting Deadlines

A board member had requested exploring whether it would be possible to post board meeting materials sooner than the stipulated 1-week period preceding a board meeting. Administration will bring this issue to the Governance Committee in the coming weeks and will report back at the May Board meeting.

Respectfully submitted by:

Fazal Khan, RO
Registrar, CEO