



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
October 18, 2010  
College of Opticians of British Columbia

CONSUMER WARNING: HALLOWEEN CONTACT LENSES CAN SERIOUSLY DAMAGE YOUR EYES

Vancouver – The College of Opticians of British Columbia is warning consumers of eye health concerns related to the use of non-corrective coloured contact lenses (cosmetic lenses) for Halloween.

Cosmetic lenses are used to change eye colour and are sold as over-the-counter Halloween costume accessories at retail outlets and online. While cosmetic lenses are easily accessible and appear harmless, consumers make the mistake of simply considering these lenses as costume related. Improper types of lenses and improper use and care can lead to serious eye health issues including allergic reaction, infection, swelling of the cornea and blindness, even with short term use. Severe eye infections have been reported in as little as 24 hours of wear time.

“Every type of contact lenses requires careful use, proper fitting, and education by a licensed eye health professional. Halloween is fun until someone damages their eyes or loses their sight,” says COBC Chair John Kerns.

The COBC is recommending that consumers ensure that they consult a Licensed Optician whenever they choose an eye product, whether it be contact lenses, eyeglasses or low vision aids. Licensed Opticians are trained to recommend and safely fit a range of devices to improve eyesight. A Licensed Optician can also provide training on contact lens use and instruction on hygiene.

To find a Licensed Optician in your area please visit <http://www.LicensedOptician.ca> or <http://www.cobc.ca/>

-30-

For more information, contact:  
Nick Atkinson  
Registrar, College of Opticians  
(604) 278-7510

To visit a dispensary, contact:  
Lutz Sprecher, Licensed Optician  
Whalley Optical Centre  
Suite #103 – 10706 King George Hwy, Surrey  
(604) 581-1055