



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 3, 2017

College of Opticians of British Columbia

### **Court Orders William Lougheed to Stop Illegal Practice**

Vancouver – The College of Opticians of British Columbia (the “College”) is advising past patients of William Lougheed at Imperial Optical in Kelowna to seek an eye health examination. A College investigation provided evidence that William Lougheed misled patients to believe that he was an optician. William Lougheed is not registered with the College.

William Lougheed was found to have breached a previous consent order that was issued in 2015 by the Discipline Committee of the College. In July 2017, the Supreme Court of British Columbia declared that William Lougheed is prohibited from:

- Operating the business Imperial Optical, or work in an optical store and;
- Leading patients to believe he is an optician or providing services that only an optician can provide, such as assessing vision or conducting contact lens fittings.

Some facts about automated refractions:

- Opticians certified by the College to conduct automated refractions can assess vision for healthy patients between the ages of 19 and 64.
- Automated refracting opticians receive advanced education and are trained to recognize eye health issues that should be treated by an optometrist or ophthalmologist.
- Following a screening process and client notice, an optician is required to advise patients the difference between an automated refraction and eye health examination before assessing vision.
- Opticians have been safely conducting automated refractions in B.C since 1997 and there are now more than 300 automated refracting opticians in the province.

The College is the regulatory body that protects the public by ensuring B.C opticians are competent professionals who are ethical, accountable and practice a standard of care. You can find out more about the College at [www.cobc.ca](http://www.cobc.ca).

Media contact:  
Connie Chong  
Registrar  
604-278-7510  
[cchong@cobc.ca](mailto:cchong@cobc.ca)