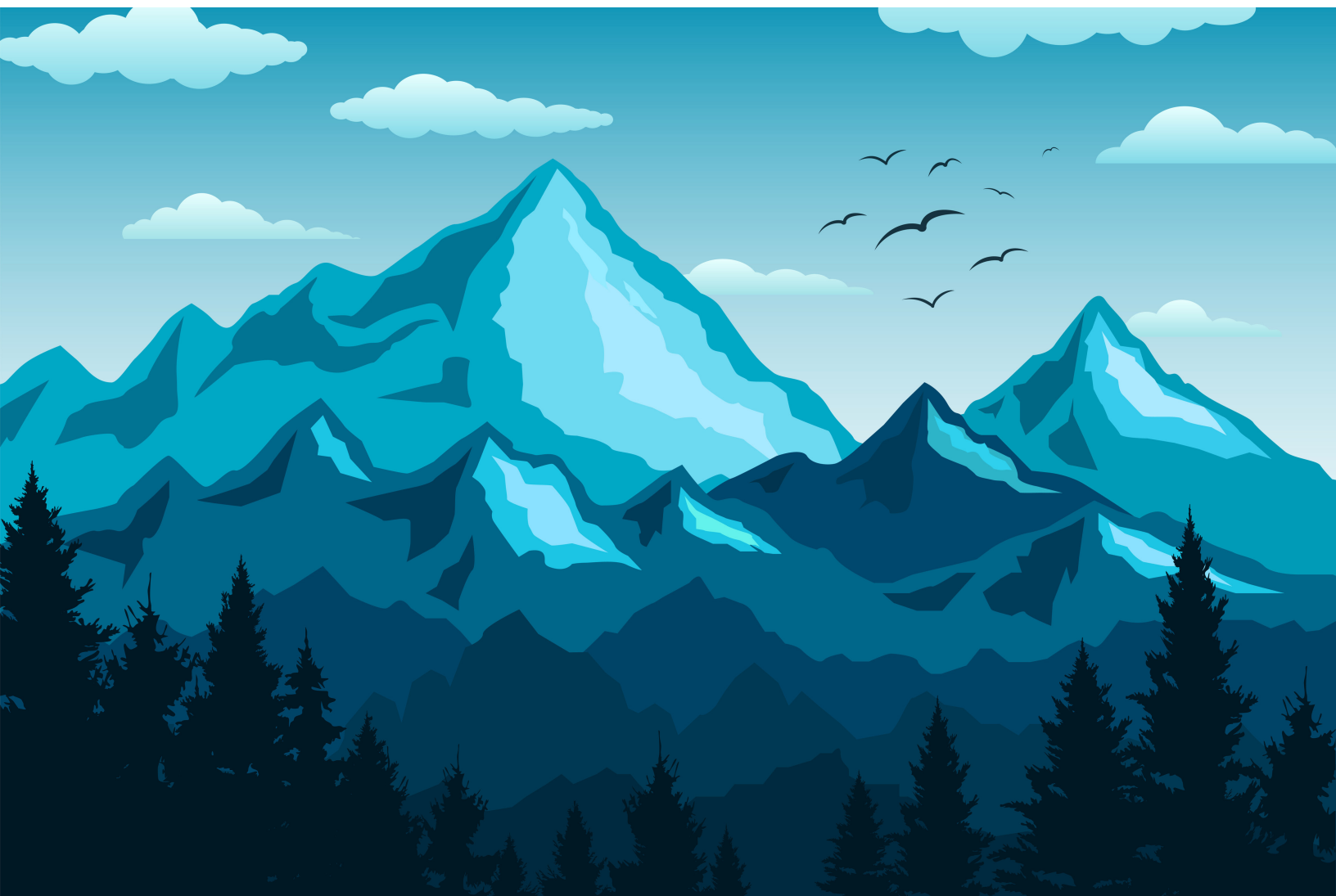


COBC ANNUAL REPORT

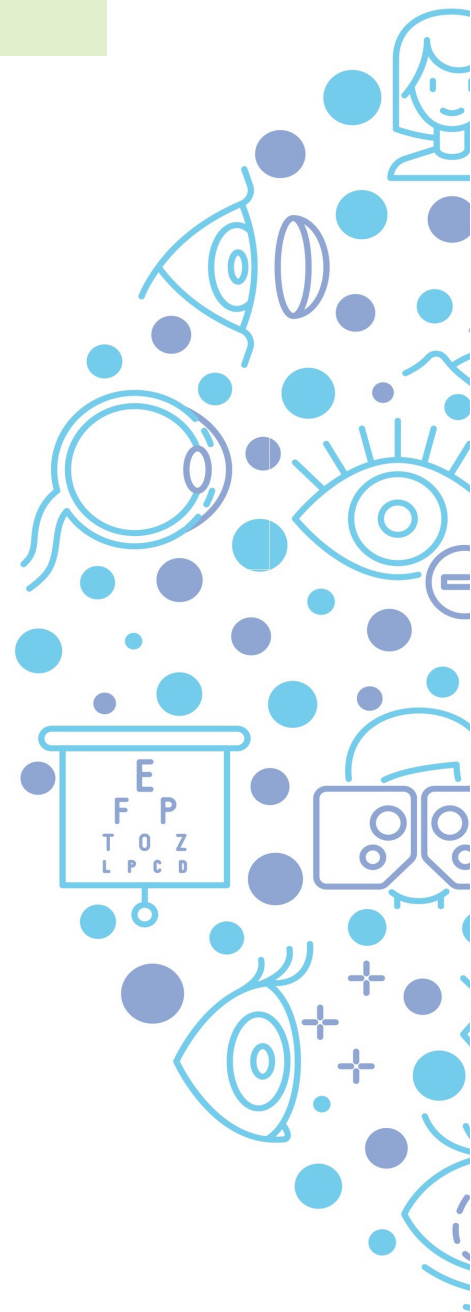
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COLLEGE OF OPTICIANS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

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COLLEGE *of* OPTICIANS
OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
a B.C. Health Regulator

WHO WE ARE

ABOUT THE COBC

The College of Opticians of British Columbia (COBC) is the regulatory body established to govern the practice of opticianry in the province of British Columbia. COBC's core function is to protect the public by ensuring that opticians are registered and qualified to practice, and that they are consistently providing safe and ethical care to their patients. COBC also sets and enforces standards of practice and addresses complaints about opticians not following the standards and regulations.

ABOUT THIS REPORT

The 2021/2022 Annual Report covers highlights of the COBC's initiatives for the fiscal year of April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022. This report contains the accomplishments of the COBC Board and its statutory committees. In addition, key initiatives of the COBC are included. These accomplishments are the product of collaborative work among Board members, committee members, staff and volunteers who dedicated their time and expertise to fulfill the mandate of the COBC to protect the public.

TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT





COBC operates on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the Coast Salish peoples – Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), Stó:lō and Səlílwətaʔ/Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) and xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) Nations.

We recognize that reconciliation, decolonization, and anti-racism are ongoing processes. We are committed to providing an inclusive and welcoming environment that is free from prejudice and discrimination for the public, registrants, volunteers, staff, and other stakeholders.

STRATEGIC PLAN 2021-2024

OUR MANDATE

Our mandate is to protect the public. We:

-  Promote trust in opticianry as a regulated health profession.
-  Establish, monitor, and enforce professional standards and ethics.
-  Ensure professional rigour among opticians through continuing competency programs.
-  Manage, investigate, and resolve complaints to improve quality of care and ensure public safety.

OUR VISION

Safe, quality, accessible vision care for all.

OUR MISSION

Serving the public through excellence in the regulation of opticians as health care professionals.

OUR VALUES

Integrity
Accountability
Ethics & Fairness
Collaboration
Transparency
Innovation

OUR GOALS

-  **COLLABORATION**
Engage in constructive collaboration to meet the vision care needs of the public.
-  **CULTURAL SAFETY**
Model cultural safety and patient-centred care.
-  **REGISTRANT ENGAGEMENT**
Foster reciprocal engagement with registrants to strengthen professionalism and quality of care.
-  **OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY**
Develop and refine streamlined, consistent, and automated processes and systems.
-  **PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY**
Increase public trust and recognition of the regulated profession.

BOARD MEMBERS



GOVERNANCE

As the regulator of a self-regulating profession, the COBC is governed by a Board of Directors composed of elected and appointed members. Of the nine Board members, six are elected from the profession and three are public members appointed by government. Each Board member typically serves a three-year term starting at the beginning of the calendar year.

Board members also serve on statutory committees of the COBC: Inquiry, Registration, Quality Assurance, Discipline, and Patient Relations. In addition, they actively participate in guiding the work of any ad hoc committees of the COBC. This currently includes a Governance Working Group, which was created in 2021.

The primary duty of the COBC Board is ensuring that the vision needs of the public of this province are met by B.C. opticians safely and ethically. In the course of performing its duties and exercising its powers under the *Health Professions Act* and other enactments, the Board defines the strategic goals and objectives of the COBC based on current and emerging vision care needs of the public.

Before taking office, a person elected or appointed as a member of a Board for a college must take and sign, by oath or solemn affirmation, an Oath of Office.

BOARD 2022



Peter Luongo, Chair
(Public Appointee)



Martin Semaniuk, Vice-Chair
(Registrant)



Kim McEachern, Finance Officer
(Registrant)



Barbara Larkin
(Public Appointee)



Raheem Savja
(Registrant)



Piotr Majkowski
(Public Appointee)



Sue Randhawa
(Registrant)



Karl Chua
(Registrant)



Crystal Pollard
(Registrant)



MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

2021 / 2022

Let me begin by expressing my gratitude for the opportunity to have served as a member on the COBC Board for 3 full terms. It has truly been a privilege to have worked with dedicated staff, caring fellow public appointees, and outstanding members of the opticianry profession. I am grateful for the experiences gained as I held various positions and participated on numerous committees. It has been an honour to serve the public and I have been enriched by people I have met and the work that we have done together.

On behalf of the Board and the public whom we serve I would also like to extend thanks to the registrants of the College of Opticians for your ongoing professionalism and commitment to provide quality service to the public. This has been especially evident since March 2020 but despite changing regulations, concerns about personal safety, and the significant challenges related to keeping your doors open and services available to the public, you have persevered. Our registrants are to be applauded for the professionalism shown as you worked to overcome these challenges!

With that said, on behalf of the staff and Board of the College of Opticians of B.C., we are pleased to present our 2021/2022 Annual Report. This report will highlight our progress and the challenges faced in our task of regulating opticians as health professionals in B.C. during this past year.

Thanks to the registrants of the COBC for your ongoing professionalism and commitment to provide quality service to the public.

NEW STRATEGIC PLAN

The COBC was pleased to have developed and approved a new [3-year strategic plan](#) in 2021. The plan updates, adds to, and builds on the work done previously. You will note that it supports our commitment to Indigenous cultural safety and humility. There is a continued focus on collaboration with opticianry regulators across Canada and other important stakeholders. We have also committed to assisting in the preparation for the MLA Steering Committee's proposal to modernize the regulation of health professionals in B.C. Indeed, the COBC looks forward to continuing the modernization work with our fellow regulators and the provincial government to build an effective regulatory framework to serve the people of B.C.

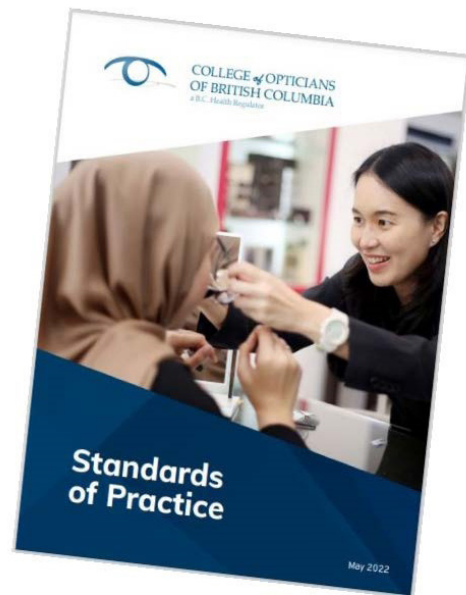
FOCUS ON GOVERNANCE

The COBC Board formed a Governance Working Group in the spring of 2021 and over the past year this group has made a number of recommendations to the Board. We are pleased to report that COBC now has an approved, formal process and policy for the annual review of the Registrar. We have also conducted and reviewed the annual Board and committee evaluation survey. We have also started work on a new Board manual and updated policies. These tools will allow the Board to put procedures in place that ensure we are employing best practices and constantly monitoring and improving our effectiveness as we work with our registrants and serve the public.

STANDARDS OF PRACTICE

During this past year we were pleased to move forward with the full implementation of the new [Standards of Practice](#) for opticians. During 2021, COBC worked with Pivotal Research to develop new Standards of Practice for opticians in B.C. This process included consultation with opticians in B.C., and other stakeholders across Canada to determine the best practices.

The new standards went into effect June 1, 2022 and are available on the COBC website. Staff will be highlighting one standard each month in the newsletter, along with resources such as case studies to provide guidance and support opticians in their implementation. The updated standards will allow opticians the opportunity to monitor and participate in professional growth and development.



We were pleased to move forward with the full implementation of the new Standards of Practice, which went into effect June 1, 2022.

COVID-19 PANDEMIC

As a regulator, public safety is the heart of our work. Opticians in B.C. continue to demonstrate their ability to adapt and respond to the ever-changing public health orders and expectations to provide safe care.

This is COBC's third annual report while under the public health emergency of COVID-19. Despite the challenges that the pandemic has presented, COBC has continued to meet our mandate, and we have continued to work on several initiatives to support better regulation, which will you find in this report.

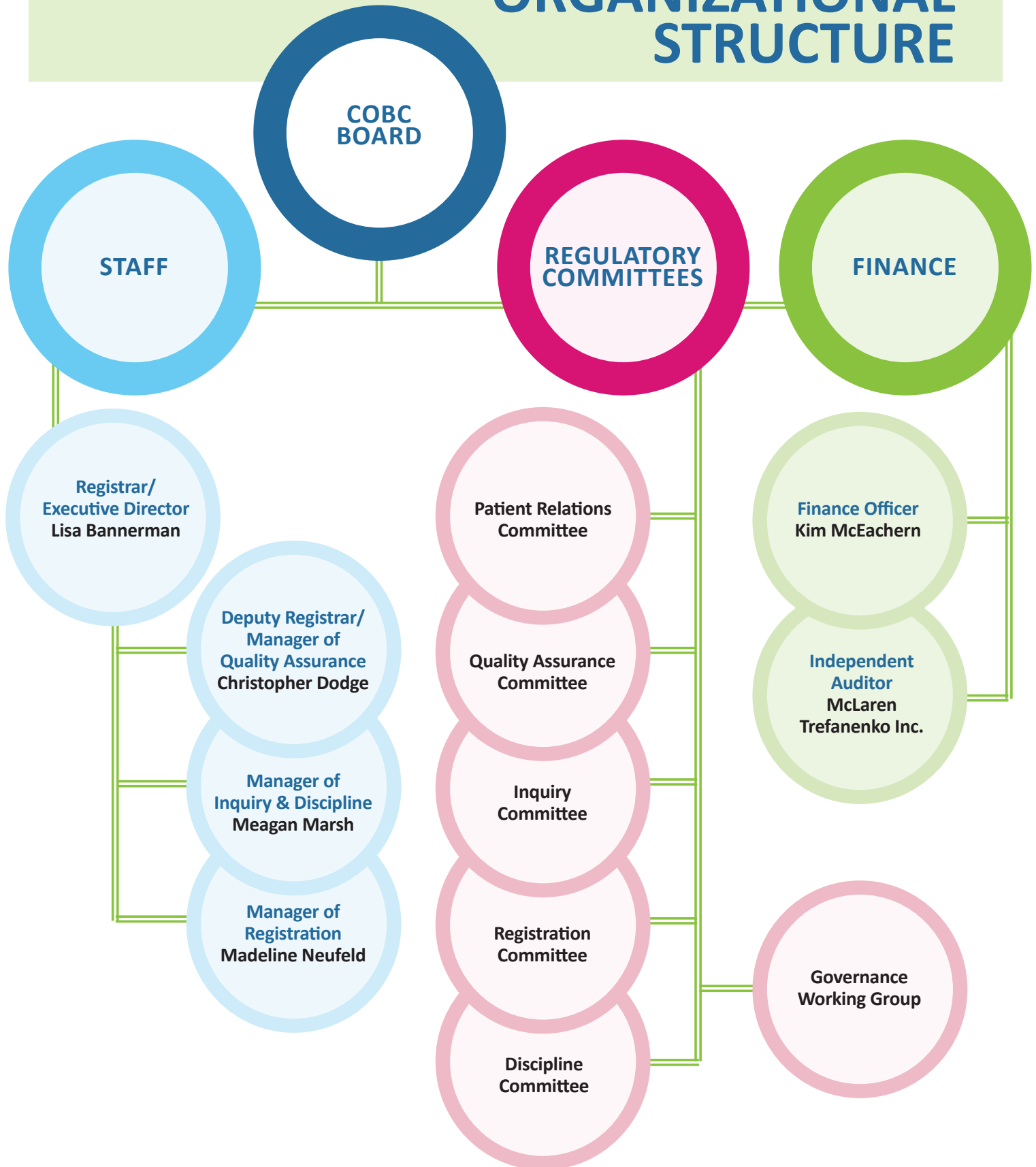
In 2021, we worked with B.C.'s Provincial Health Officer and the Ministry of Health to help roll out the province's COVID-19 vaccination program. This included early access for opticians, as regulated health professionals, who were providing direct patient care. While most opticians in B.C. were pleased to be prioritized for COVID-19 vaccinations and did get vaccinated, the divided public opinion about vaccines, vaccine passports, and public health orders has resulted in new concerns from the public and registrants, which we continue to work through.

The Board of COBC looks forward to seeing our registrants at the Opticians Association of Canada's fall education session in October 2022. Until then, wishing you all a safe, enjoyable summer!

Sincerely,


Peter Luongo
Board Chair
College of Opticians of B.C.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE





INDIGENOUS CULTURAL SAFETY & HUMILITY

A REMINDER OF OUR COMMITMENT

On March 1, 2017, COBC—along with 22 other B.C. health regulatory colleges—committed to making the B.C. health care system more culturally safe for Indigenous peoples by signing the [Declaration of Commitment to Cultural Safety and Humility in the Regulation of Health Professionals Serving First Nations and Aboriginal People in British Columbia](#).

Our signature on the Declaration of Commitment reflects the priority we've placed on advancing Indigenous cultural safety and humility among opticians. We continue to raise our standards and deepen our commitment to culturally safe practice across all areas of B.C. opticianry.

Cultural safety exists when an optician approaches their client with respect, understanding, and openness. The “power imbalance” that exists between provider and client is stripped away when the client feels empowered by the relationship. In an environment free of racism and discrimination, people feel safe and supported to access, receive, and make informed decisions about their health care.

Cultural humility is integral to the achievement of cultural safety. It involves reflecting on one's own privileges and biases and creating space for others to speak and to be heard. Importantly, cultural humility is a personal responsibility that each of us must choose to take on. For opticians—and health care providers in general—a necessary first step is setting aside ego and acknowledging the client as the expert on their own health.

To achieve cultural safety and humility in health care, we must dismantle discrimination. This process demands commitment, empathy, and an acknowledgment of the lasting impacts that colonization has on Indigenous peoples' interactions with the health care system. The practice of opticianry, unique though it is among B.C.'s regulated health professions, is not immune to these impacts. On the contrary: Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond's [In Plain Sight report](#) highlights the discriminatory attitudes and practices that permeate every aspect of our health care system—opticianry included.

We recognize that our system is broken and that we must be part of rebuilding it. From here, the work begins.

OUR WORK IN 2021

+ APOLOGY CEREMONY

On July 27, 2021, COBC joined 10 other B.C. health regulatory colleges, an Indigenous leader, a knowledge carrier, and several witnesses in [an intimate, traditional ceremony](#) to mark our commitment, action, and sincerity in being better allies to Indigenous peoples. On September 9, 2021, the same group of colleges released a joint written [apology](#) for our role in perpetuating Indigenous-specific racism in the health care system.



Photo of COBC Registrar, Lisa Bannerman, signing the statement. Photo by Michael Sean Lee.

Under recommendation #1 of the In Plain Sight report, colleges were encouraged to issue an apology statement to illustrate our intent to be part of the change.

+ STRATEGIC PLAN

In creating its [2021–2024 Strategic Plan](#), the COBC Board chose Cultural Safety as one of its five high-level goals. Over the course of the three-year period, Board members, committee members, and staff will contribute to projects and initiatives that link directly back to this goal, gradually developing our collective cultural humility and building resources and guidance that will support opticians province-wide as they work to build culturally safe practices.

+ INDIGENOUS CULTURAL SAFETY TRAINING

All COBC Board members, committee members, and staff are required to complete either the [San'Yas Indigenous Cultural Safety Training Program](#) or the [Indigenous Canada course](#) offered by the University of Alberta to build a foundational understanding of the topic. We continue to encourage registrants to create Indigenous cultural safety-related learning goals as part of their continuing education.

DECOLONIZING COBC'S COMPLAINTS SYSTEMS

In early 2022, COBC's Inquiry Committee began the process of decolonizing and indigenizing its complaints system to support greater access for Indigenous peoples. This work is largely driven by the *In Plain Sight* report, which provides evidence that the majority of complaints about health professionals lodged by Indigenous complainants involve experiences of discrimination and racism (2020, p. 114).

The report also indicates that Indigenous peoples may choose not to come forward with legitimate complaints because they perceive the health care system—including health regulatory colleges—to be incapable of resolving their complaints in a relevant and safe manner. This perception creates not only a barrier to access but also a risk to public safety. Regulators like COBC rely on complaints-based systems and public input to identify and address unsafe practice—and, ultimately, to prevent harm.

With the help of a cultural safety consultant, COBC has engaged in a comprehensive review of our complaints system and created an action plan for developing a new system centred on cultural safety.

WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT FROM US IN 2022

NEW STANDARD FOR REGISTRANTS

In the fall of 2022, COBC will release a new practice standard: Indigenous Cultural Safety, Cultural Humility, and Anti-Racism. COBC's standard will apply an opticianry-specific lens to the practice standard operationalized by the British Columbia College of Nurses and Midwives (BCCNM) and the College of Physicians and Surgeons of British Columbia (CPSBC) earlier in the year.

The groundwork laid by BCCNM and CPSBC includes:

- Initial consultation with Indigenous patients and families, undertaken through the Patient Voices Network.
- Initial consultation with registrants, Indigenous Health Offices, and the First Nations Health Authority.
- Follow-up consultation with all partners on the first draft of the standard.
- A comprehensive literature review.

BC PUBLIC ADVISORY NETWORK

COBC is one of 10 health regulatory colleges that has partnered on a program called the BC Public Advisory Network (BC-PAN). The goal of the BC-PAN is to gather feedback from members of the public to encourage more comprehensive and meaningful engagement on important issues related to health care regulation in the province.

BC-PAN was formed in 2019, and brings a necessary voice and perspective to the multiple health regulators in the province. The public advisors of BC-PAN are patients and caregivers with different experiences in the health care system, selected to reflect the diversity of the province's population. Currently, there are 16 public advisors involved with the BC-PAN, who represent a broad range of backgrounds, abilities, identities, and geographic locations.

College partners use the BC-PAN's input to update standards, policies, and processes. The feedback also helps to inform strategic decisions made by the colleges, and influences further research and related projects.

Last year, BC-PAN embarked on three public engagements with the 16-member group. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the sessions were broken into half-day virtual meetings. Members provided their perspectives and thoughts on the following topics:

- Virtual care
- Cultural safety, health equity, and discrimination in health care
- Registrants' use of social media
- Making a complaint about a registrant
- Codes of ethics
- Public registries

The input from each of the meetings was shared with the participating colleges to reflect and consider how best to incorporate these viewpoints. COBC is committed to integrating public feedback into our work, and we're excited to continue our relationship with this important network and to learn more from our public advisors.

More information about BC-PAN can be found on its website: <https://bcpa.ca/>



OUR REGISTRANTS

All opticians must meet the same entry-to-practice standards to be licensed in British Columbia, regardless of their background.

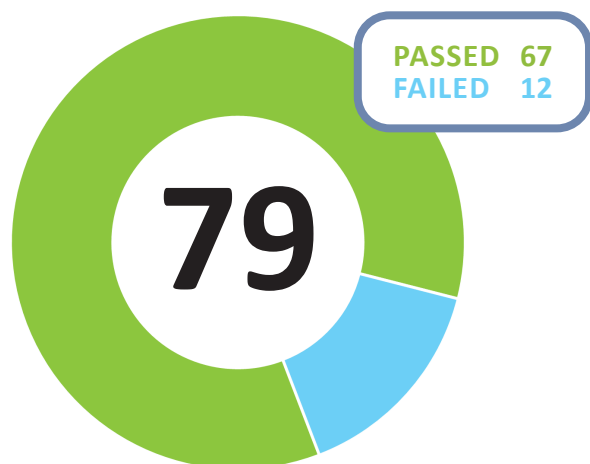
EXAMINATIONS

The National Alliance of Canadian Optician Regulators (NACOR) examinations are used as the national licensing examination for nine provincial opticianry regulatory bodies in Canada. By using the same entry-to-practice assessment, the colleges maintain a shared standard across most Canadian jurisdictions. Candidates can complete the NACOR examinations in any province where they are administered and be considered for registration in participating provinces. This enhances both the accessibility of the examinations and the labour mobility opportunities for Canadian opticians.

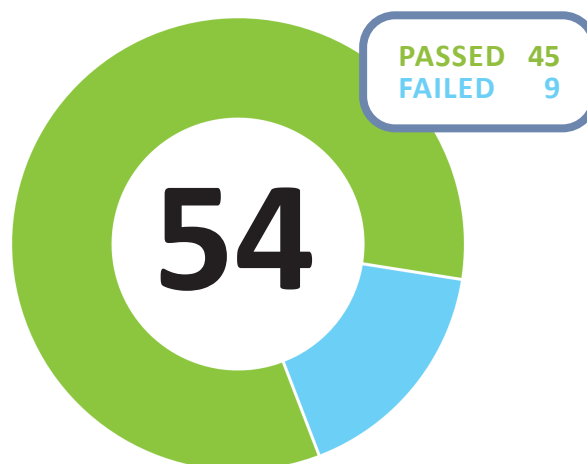
For several years, COBC has provided administrative support for the NACOR examinations conducted in British Columbia twice per year. On exam day, the NACOR Examination Moderator has ensured the consistent application of exam procedures, while the Chief Examiner (contracted by COBC) has coordinated a team of experienced examiners. The examinations administered in B.C. in June 2021 and March 2022 were the last to follow this administration model. Beginning in the summer of 2022, COBC will no longer play a role in the administration of NACOR's exams—a decision resulting from much consultation and discussion amongst stakeholders. By taking a step back, COBC hopes to promote increased consistency in the examination process, which will now be managed entirely by NACOR.

COBC is deeply grateful for the hard work of all examiners—particularly Debra Szteina, who has served as Chief Examiner for several years.

EYEGASSES EXAM 2021/2022



CONTACT LENS EXAM 2021/2022



LABOUR MOBILITY

Opticians and contact lens fitters from other Canadian jurisdictions may also apply to be registered in British Columbia. The Mutual Recognition Agreement enables labour mobility for licensed, practicing registrants of participating Canadian provinces so that they can register in British Columbia without additional examination or training.



14

14 registrants joined the COBC after moving to B.C. from another province

PROVINCE OF ORIGIN & NUMBER OF APPLICANTS

ALBERTA	4
SASKATCHEWAN	2
MANITOBA	2
ONTARIO	5
QUEBEC	1

PLAR

The Registration Committee reviews applications for registration from graduates of accredited institutions as well as applicants with industry experience and/or international training. Applicants who have not graduated from an accredited institution must complete the Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR) process. PLAR enables the committee to assess whether an applicant’s knowledge and skills satisfy the entry-to-practice standards outlined in the [National Competencies for Canadian Opticians](#), which all opticians must meet.

10

COBC welcomed 10 new registrants that completed the full Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition process

REINSTATEMENT

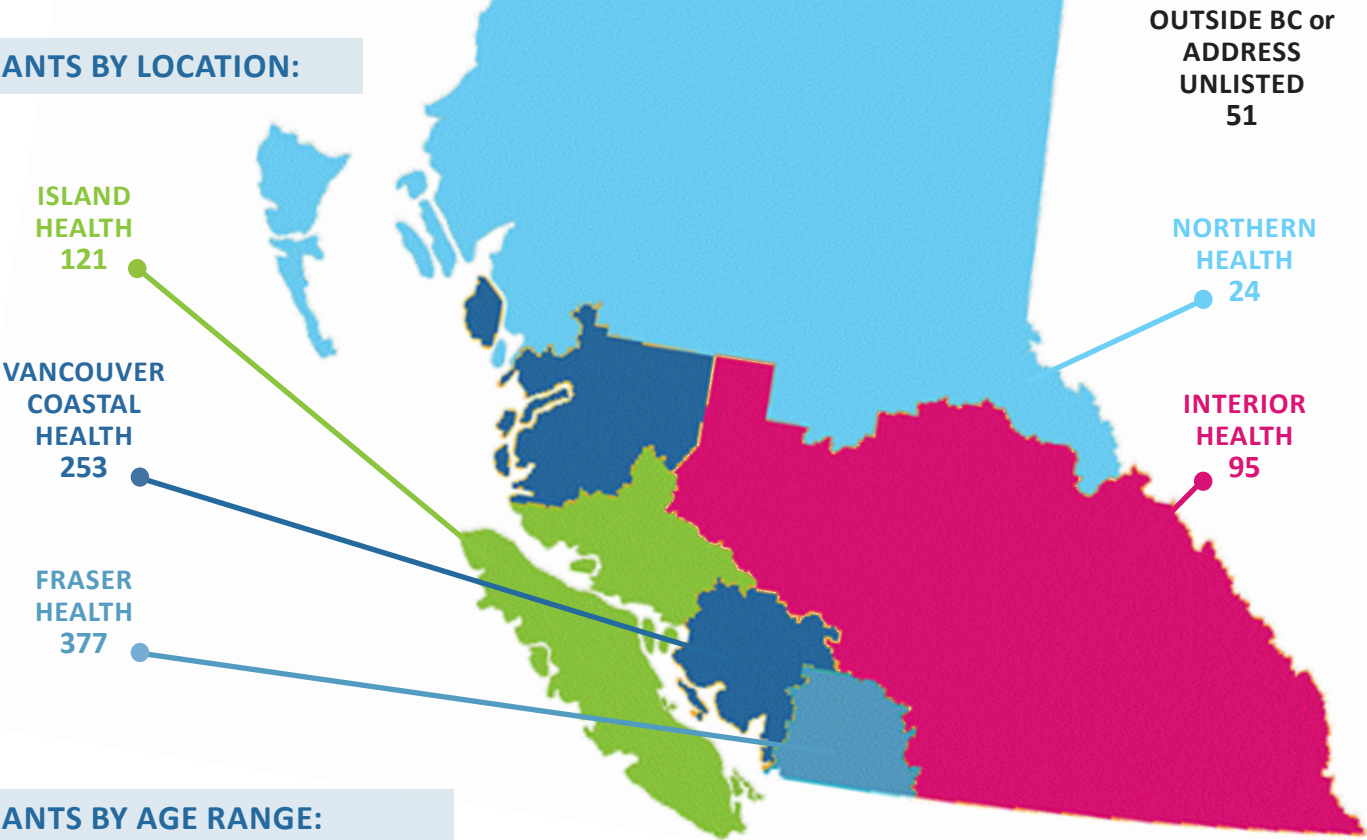
COBC welcomed a total of 24 registrants back to the profession through our reinstatement process

24

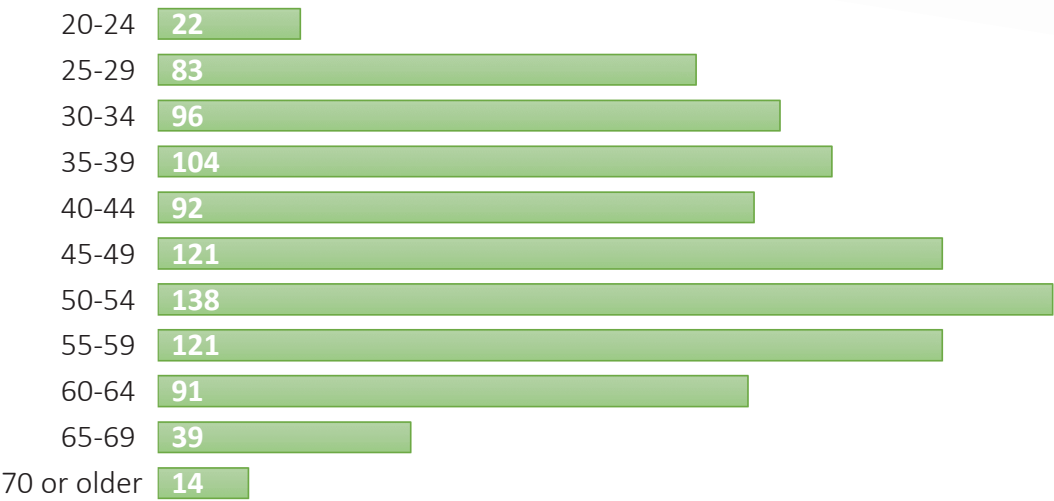
DEMOGRAPHICS

Primary employment by health region and age of COBC registrants as of March 31, 2022.

REGISTRANTS BY LOCATION:



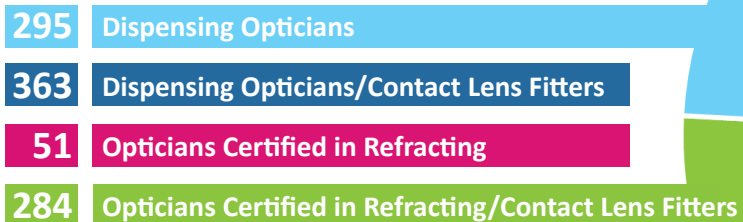
REGISTRANTS BY AGE RANGE:



REGISTRATION STATISTICS

TOTAL NUMBER OF REGISTRANTS:

As of May 3, 2022, subsequent to annual renewal and suspensions.

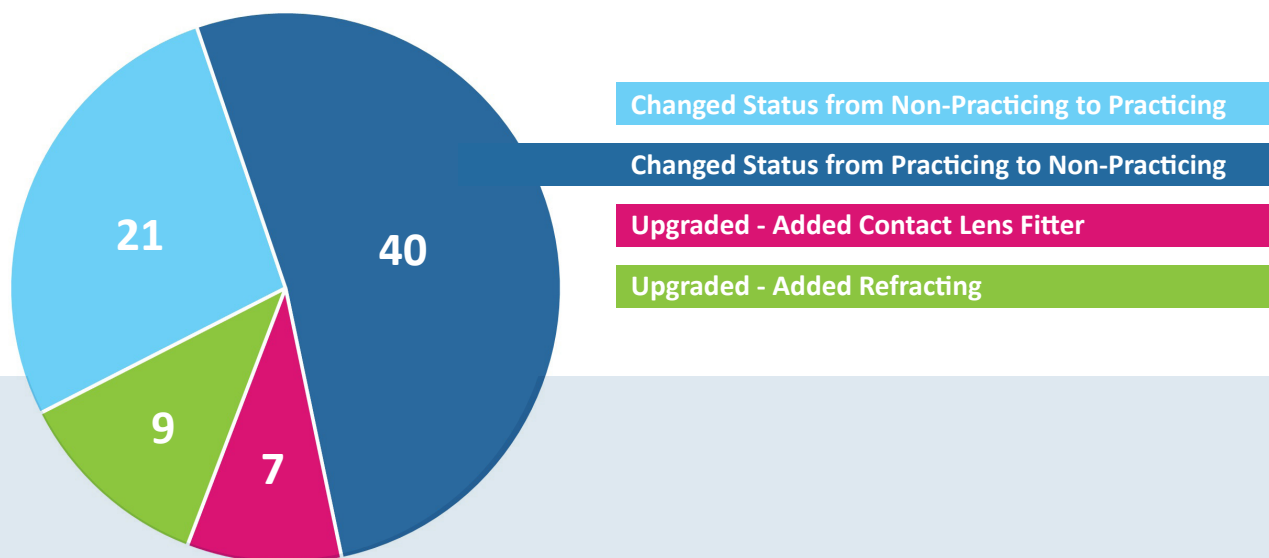


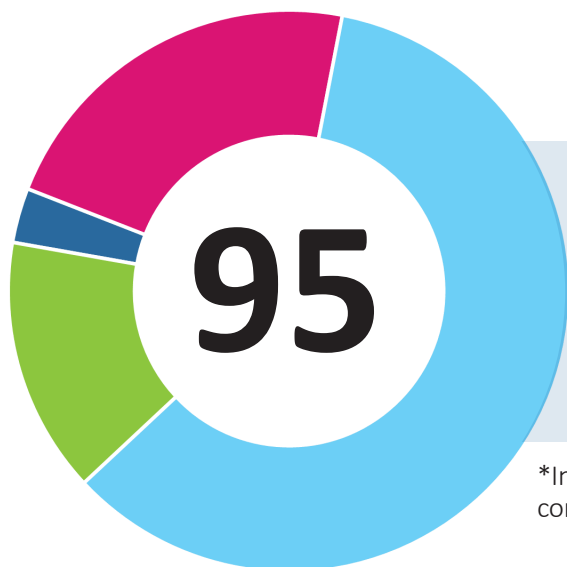
**Total
993**

Of the total, 82 registrants are registered as Non-Practicing

82

TOTAL NUMBER OF STATUS CHANGES:

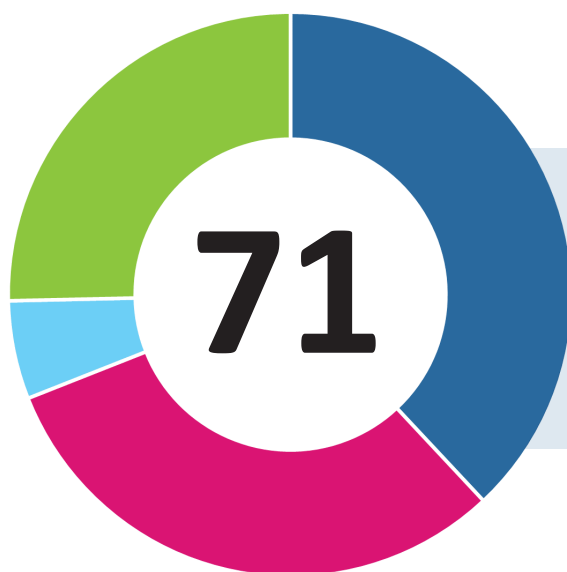




REGISTRATION APPLICATIONS:

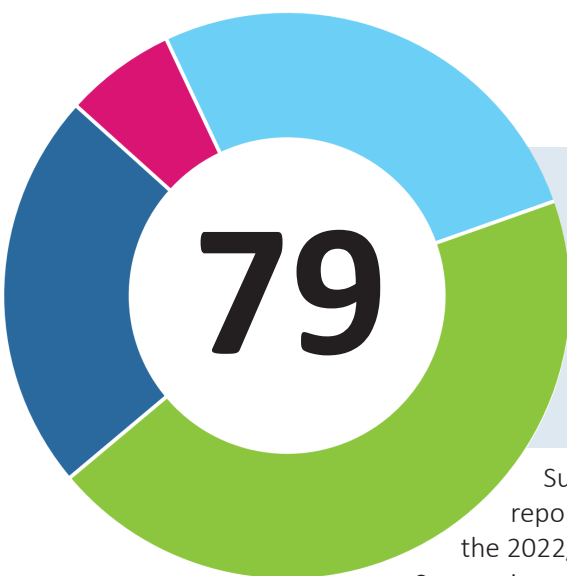
- 57** First time Applicants*
- 14** Labour Mobility Applicants
- 21** Reinstatement Applicants- Suspended less than 3 years
- 3** Reinstatement Applicants- Suspended more than 3 years

*Includes graduates from accredited programs and applicants who completed PLAR.



NEW REGISTRANTS:

- 27** Dispensing Opticians
- 22** Dispensing Opticians/Contact Lens Fitters
- 4** Opticians Certified in Refracting
- 18** Opticians Certified in Refracting/Contact Lens Fitters



SUSPENSIONS:

- 35** Non-Renewal
- 5** Left the Province
- 18** Retired
- 21** Failed to Meet Continuing Education Requirements

Suspensions occur after March 31, annually. The suspension statistics reported reflect those who did not renew their licences to practice during the 2022/2023 renewal period between February 15, 2022 and April 30, 2022. Suspensions are issued beginning of May, annually.

RESPONDING TO COMPLAINTS

6

For fiscal year 2021/2022, the Inquiry Committee resolved 6 complaints. There was one committee decision appealed to the Health Professions Review Board.

An evaluation of the current complaint system began in 2022 and further work and actions to create culturally safe complaints systems for Indigenous peoples will continue into 2023.

COMPLAINT STATISTICS

TYPES OF ALLEGATIONS

This chart reflects the closing issues from the complaints investigation process between April 1, 2021 and March 31, 2022. Many complaint files deal with multiple issues.

CLINICAL

7

Record Keeping

2

Independent Automated Refractions

2

Dispensing Eyeglasses

3

CONDUCT

6

Non-completion of Criminal Record Check

4

Billing

1

Privacy

1

RIGHT TO TITLE RECTIFIED BY COBC

3

When a non-registrant uses the title “optician”, “dispensing optician”, “contact lens fitter” or any variation of those titles COBC takes action to protect the use of title. Title use is reserved for registrants of COBC (*Opticians Regulation*).

TYPES OF RESOLUTIONS

All complaint resolutions are made pursuant to section 33 of the *Health Professions Act* (HPA).

RESOLVED BY SIGNED UNDERTAKING

6*

An undertaking is an agreement made between the Inquiry Committee and the registrant to resolve a complaint (section 36 of the HPA).

Terms included an apology to the complainant

1

Terms included completing a Criminal Record Re-Check

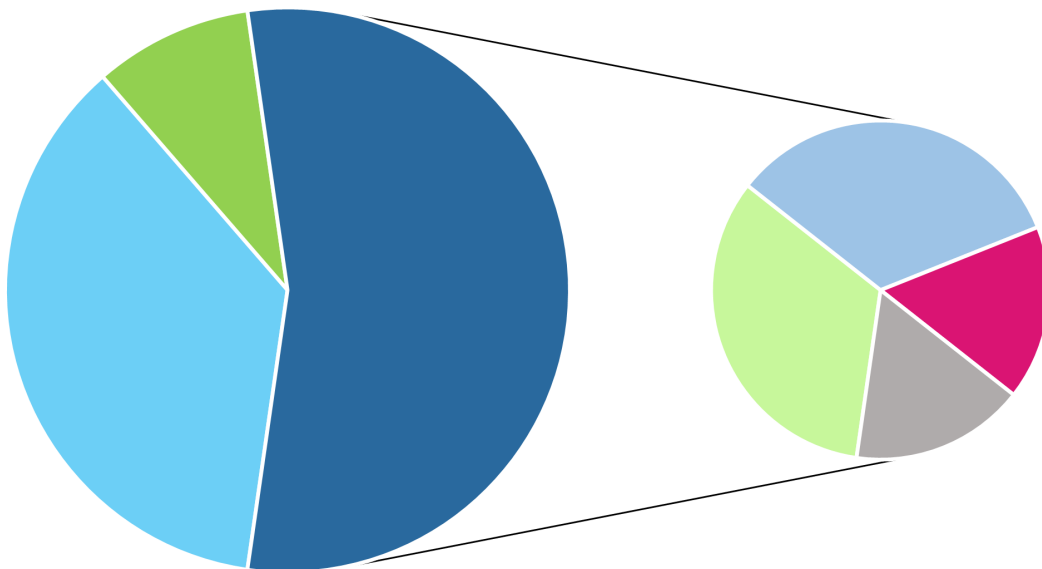
1

Terms included follow-up record inspection

2

Terms included education

2



RESOLVED BY DIRECTION FROM THE COMMITTEE

The committee may take any action it considers appropriate to resolve a complaint (section 33(6)(b) of the HPA).

Issued a warning letter

1

NO ACTION TAKEN

The committee may take no action if the investigation finds the conduct or competence of the registrant was satisfactory or if the complaint was frivolous (section 33(6) of the HPA).

No action taken after committee investigation

4

*Multiple resolutions for the same complaint

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Committees are integral to the work of the COBC, as they provide guidance and direction in the different areas that the College is mandated to focus on.

Committee members are Licensed Opticians or members of the public who are passionate about the profession and want to ensure safe and effective vision care to the public. Members of the public make up one-third of each committee, with all committee members appointed by application to the Board.

Members listed are as of May 5, 2022.

PATIENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE

The Patient Relations Committee works to improve interactions between registrants and health care consumers. COBC serves the public interest through this committee by providing additional resources to registrants, including tools, guidelines, and support on vital topics, such as professional boundaries, effective communication and cultural sensitivity.






MEMBERS

- | | |
|---|--|
|  Sue Randhawa, Chair
(Registrant) |  Karl Chua
(Registrant) |
|  Crystal Pollard
(Registrant) |  Gissou Bozkaya
(Registrant) |
|  Peter Luongo
(Public Appointee) | |

QUALITY ASSURANCE COMMITTEE

The Quality Assurance Committee develops and evaluates the quality assurance program for the COBC, which is the Continuing Competency Program (CCP), launched in 2018. The committee also develops and recommends policies and programs to the Board to maintain the safe and competent practice of registrants.

MEMBERS

- | | |
|--|--|
|  Marty Semaniuk, Chair
(Registrant) |  Avin Kishore
(Registrant) |
|  Piotr Majkowski
(Public Appointee) |  Clara Tam
(Registrant) |
|  Janine Santiago
(Registrant) | |

REGISTRATION COMMITTEE

The Registration Committee is committed to serving the public through upholding registration standards that support quality care, competence, and professionalism. The committee sets policy to ensure each applicant is qualified to practice opticianry in the province according to provincially and nationally recognized standards. Based on this policy, the committee assesses applications for registration, reinstatement, and changes of status.






MEMBERS

- | | |
|---|--|
|  Raheem Savja, Chair
(Registrant) |  Pam Saeidi
(Registrant) |
|  Barbara Larkin
(Public Appointee) |  Clara Tam
(Registrant) |
|  Laila Noorie
(Registrant) | |



INQUIRY COMMITTEE

The Inquiry Committee accepts, investigates and resolves or otherwise disposes of complaints against registrants in accordance with the *Health Professions Act*. COBC receives complaints from members of the public, health professionals, and others. The committee evaluates all complaints and may direct a citation (formal notice of a hearing that lists the allegations) when the investigation of a complaint identifies a serious problem, or when the complaint cannot be resolved through alternative dispute mechanisms or remediation.

MEMBERS

- | | |
|---|--|
|  Piotr Majkowski, Chair
(Public Appointee) |  Courtnay Poole
(Registrant) |
|  Kim McEachern
(Registrant) |  Sharon Lee
(Registrant) |
| |  Polly Lee
(Registrant) |






PUBLIC ADVISORS

- | | |
|---|--|
|  Peter Luongo |  Jim Cessford |
|---|--|

DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE

The Discipline Committee's role is to hold hearings regarding the conduct or competence of a registrant, when a complaint to the COBC cannot be resolved through alternative dispute mechanisms or remediation. Panels of the Discipline Committee conduct hearings, make findings, determine appropriate penalties if the findings are adverse, and issue written reasons for decisions.

MEMBERS

- | | |
|--|--|
|  Stephanie Weir, Chair
(Registrant) | |
|  Barbara Larkin,
(Public Appointee) |  Erik Bucaneg
(Registrant) |
|  Marty Semaniuk,
(Registrant) |  Alan Cheng
(Registrant) |

FINANCIAL REPORT



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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Members of College of Opticians of British Columbia

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of College of Opticians of British Columbia (the College), which comprise the balance sheet as at March 31, 2022, and the statements of operations and changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the College as at March 31, 2022, and the results of its operations and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations (ASNPO).

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are independent of the College in accordance with ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Canada, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Other Information

Management is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with ASNPO, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the College's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the College or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the College's financial reporting process.

(continues)

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the College's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the College's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the College to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

New Westminster, BC
July 20, 2022

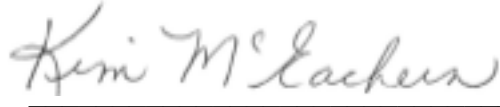

Chartered Professional Accountants

COLLEGE OF OPTICIANS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
Balance Sheet
March 31, 2022

	2022	2021
ASSETS		
CURRENT		
Cash	\$ 577,385	\$ 569,744
Accounts receivable	6,410	3,500
Grants receivable	59,000	5,000
Prepaid expenses	12,581	2,117
	655,376	580,361
CAPITAL ASSETS (Note 3)	786	1,961
INVESTMENTS (Note 4)	435,083	410,903
	\$ 1,091,245	\$ 993,225
LIABILITIES		
CURRENT		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities (Note 5)	\$ 68,744	\$ 60,568
Deferred registration fees	597,265	595,520
	666,009	656,088
NET ASSETS		
Invested in capital assets	786	1,961
Unrestricted	424,450	335,176
	425,236	337,137
	\$ 1,091,245	\$ 993,225
COMMITMENTS (Note 7)		

APPROVED ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD


 Director


 Director

COLLEGE OF OPTICIANS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
Statement of Operations and Changes in Net Assets
Year Ended March 31, 2022

	2022	2021
REVENUES		
Registration fees	\$ 666,023	\$ 603,410
Examination fees	50,750	35,350
Administrative and other fees	26,355	34,580
Interest income	2,776	7,085
Grant revenue (Note 6)	59,000	156,005
	804,904	836,430
EXPENSES		
Accounting and audit	13,767	13,504
Amortization	1,167	1,815
Bank and credit card charges	22,584	20,522
Board and committee meetings	3,206	2,594
Contractors (Note 6)	63,742	169,443
Dues, licenses, and insurance	33,630	21,235
Examinations	30,719	38,602
Legal fees (Note 8)	100,478	53,411
Office expenses	36,264	44,913
Per diems (Note 6)	18,150	52,085
Professional development - Directors	4,960	2,361
Professional development - Staff	602	8,309
Public awareness and promotion	2,729	5,528
Rental (Note 7)	45,764	63,359
Salaries and wages	338,141	335,980
Travel	894	2,014
	716,797	835,675
INCOME FROM OPERATIONS	88,107	755
OTHER INCOME		
Emergency Business Account Loan forgiven	-	10,000
Temporary Wage Subsidy	-	6,875
Loss on disposal of capital assets	(8)	(561)
	(8)	16,314
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES	88,099	17,069
NET ASSETS - BEGINNING OF YEAR	337,137	320,068
NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR	\$ 425,236	\$ 337,137

COLLEGE OF OPTICIANS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
Statement of Cash Flows
Year Ended March 31, 2022

	2022	2021
OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Excess of revenues over expenses	\$ 88,099	\$ 17,069
Items not affecting cash:		
Amortization of capital assets	1,167	1,815
Loss on disposal of capital assets	8	561
Grant revenue recognized (Note 6)	(59,000)	(156,005)
	30,274	(136,560)
Changes in non-cash working capital:		
Accounts receivable	(2,910)	1,392
Accounts for accrued interest	2,844	2,442
Grants receivable	(54,000)	(5,000)
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	8,176	23,040
Deferred registration fees	1,745	97,220
Prepaid expenses	(10,464)	4,512
	(54,609)	123,606
Cash flow used by operating activities	(24,335)	(12,954)
FINANCING ACTIVITY		
Grant contributions (Note 6)	59,000	50,050
INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Proceeds from investments	690,936	842,215
Purchase of investments	(717,960)	(781,339)
Purchase of capital assets	-	(2,141)
Cash flow from (used by) investing activities	(27,024)	58,735
INCREASE IN CASH FLOW	7,641	95,831
Cash - beginning of year	569,744	473,913
CASH - END OF YEAR	\$ 577,385	\$ 569,744
CASH CONSISTS OF:		
Cash	\$ 577,385	\$ 569,744

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements

COLLEGE OF OPTICIANS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Notes to Financial Statements

Year Ended March 31, 2022

1. GENERAL

The College of Opticians of British Columbia (the "College") was established under the Health Professions Act of B.C. in December 1994. The mandate of the College is to serve and protect the public by regulating the practice of opticianry in British Columbia in Accordance with the Health Professions Act, Opticians Regulation and By-Laws.

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of presentation

The financial statements were prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations (ASNPO).

Revenue recognition

College of Opticians of British Columbia follows the deferral method of accounting for contributions.

Restricted contributions are recognized as revenue in the year in which the related expenses are incurred or when the deliverables required by the grant providers are achieved. Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue when received or receivable if the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured. Endowment contributions are recognized as direct increases in net assets.

Revenue from registration fees, administration fees and all other fees are recognized as revenue over the period of licensure, accreditation, or service provided when collection is reasonably assured. Revenue from examination fees is recognized when the examinations are provided and collection is reasonably assured. Investment income is recorded as revenue when the investment income is earned and reasonable assurance exists regarding measurement and collectability. Amounts received or receivable that relate to the period following the College's year-end are recorded as deferred revenue.

Financial instruments

The College initially measures its financial assets and liabilities at fair value, except for certain non-arm's length transactions. The College subsequently measures all its financial assets and liabilities at amortized cost. Financial assets measured at amortized cost include cash and cash equivalents, accounts receivable, and guaranteed investment certificate. Financial liabilities measured at amortized cost include accounts payable and accrued liabilities.

Financial assets measured at cost are tested for impairment when there are indicators of impairment. The amount of the write-down is recognized in the statement of operations. The previously recognized impairment loss may be reversed to the extent of the improvement, directly or by adjusting the allowance account, provided it is no greater than the amount that would have been reported at the date of the reversal had the impairment not been recognized previously. The amount of the reversal is recognized in the statement of operations.

The College recognizes its transaction costs in the statement of operations in the period incurred. However, financial instruments that will not be subsequently measured at fair value are adjusted by the transaction costs that are directly attributable to their origination, issuance or assumption.

(continues)

COLLEGE OF OPTICIANS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
Notes to Financial Statements
Year Ended March 31, 2022

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (*continued*)

Capital assets

Capital assets are stated at cost or deemed cost less accumulated amortization and are amortized over their estimated useful lives on a straight-line basis at the following rates and methods:

Computer equipment	36 months from the month of purchase
--------------------	---

The College regularly reviews its capital assets to eliminate obsolete items. Government grants are treated as a reduction of capital assets cost.

Capital assets acquired during the year but not placed into use are not amortized until they are placed into use.

Contributed services

The operations of the organization depend on both the contribution of time by volunteers and donated materials from various sources. The fair value of donated materials and services cannot be reasonably determined and are therefore not reflected in these financial statements.

Use of Estimate

The preparation of financial statements in conformance with ASNPO requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities and disclosures of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the periods. Actual results could differ from these estimates. Significant estimates include accounts receivable, useful lives of capital assets, accrued interest and accrued liabilities. These estimates are reviewed periodically, and as adjustments become necessary, they are reported in the statement of operations in the period which they become known.

Income taxes

Income taxes are not reflected in these financial statements as the College is a regulatory body established for the health profession of opticianry.

3. CAPITAL ASSETS

	Cost	Accumulated amortization	2022 Net book value	2021 Net book value
Computer equipment	\$ 5,313	\$ 4,527	\$ 786	\$ 1,961

COLLEGE OF OPTICIANS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Notes to Financial Statements

Year Ended March 31, 2022

4. INVESTMENTS

	2022	2021
Guaranteed Investment Certificates	\$ 433,362	\$ 406,339
Accrued interest	1,721	4,564
	\$ 435,083	\$ 410,903

The above guaranteed investment certificates have terms of one year.

5. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE AND ACCRUED LIABILITIES

	2022	2021
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 63,332	\$ 55,338
Vacation accrual	5,412	5,230
	\$ 68,744	\$ 60,568

6. GRANT REVENUE

The BC Ministry of Municipal Affairs provided a grant, not exceeding \$146,900, for updating pre-arrival readiness tools that aid internationally trained applicants who intend on gaining certification through the Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR) process. This grant project commenced on March 11, 2022 and ends on March 10, 2023. The BC Ministry of Municipal Affairs will provide grant contributions on three milestones, March 30, 2022, September 30, 2022, and February 28, 2023. Grant contributions are recognized into revenue when the College completes the milestone deliverables and activities per the agreement.

	Opening Balance	Contributions	Recognized as Revenue	Ending Balance
PLAR Readiness Tool Improvements	\$ -	\$ 59,000	\$ (59,000)	\$ -

The previous PLAR Improvement Project with the BC Ministry of Jobs, Trade and Technology was completed in the prior fiscal year.

Expenses related to grant projects are included in the "Contractors" and "Per diems" expenses. These expenses will vary based on the progress of the grant projects.

COLLEGE OF OPTICIANS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Notes to Financial Statements

Year Ended March 31, 2022

7. COMMITMENTS

Office Lease

The College has an agreement with the British Columbia College of Nurses and Midwives (BCCNM) for its lease premise, allowing them to share perspectives, networks, and resources. The College has renewed their agreement for a term of three years ending August 31, 2024. The office space is 282 sq. ft. (604 sq. ft. in the prior agreement), saving approximately \$10,000 on minimum net rent payments each year.

Minimum net rent payments required are as follows:

2023	\$	9,236
2024		9,447
2025		4,024
		<hr/>
Total minimum rent payments	\$	<u>22,707</u>

In addition to the minimum net rent, the College is required to pay a portion of operating costs, design costs and common services. These costs will vary year-to-year.

Information Technology Services

The College has a comprehensive IT service agreement with BCCNM. The initial term was extended to September 3, 2022. The agreement automatically renews for successive terms of one year unless either party decides otherwise. Pursuant to the terms of the agreement, estimated annual fees are \$3,100 per user. Fee increases will not exceed 15% per year.

Bookkeeping Services

The College has an bookkeeping service agreement with BCCNM effective July 1, 2022 through to June 30, 2025. Fees are \$2,000 per quarter, or a total of \$8,000 per calendar year plus applicable tax. Fees can be increased with written notice.

Cultural Safety Project Contractor

The College has entered into an agreement with Robin Adams as a consultant for cultural safety initiatives. The agreement is effective from February 7, 2022 to December 31, 2022. Monthly fees cannot exceed \$1,700 per the agreement.

8. MEMBER REGISTRANT COMPLIANCE MATTERS

Legal costs vary from year-to-year based on the College's administrative needs and complaints from the public about the conduct of registrants. There was an increase in legal fees in the current year due to legal services related to investigation and disciplinary matters of four registrants.

9. CREDIT FACILITY

The College has a credit facility with CIBC consisting of an approved operating line that can be drawn upon to a maximum of \$35,000, which bears interest at prime plus 4%, and a Corporate credit card with a limit of \$25,000. Borrowings are secured by a charge over all present and future assets of the College. As at March 31, 2022, there was no amount outstanding on the operating line of credit.

COLLEGE OF OPTICIANS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Notes to Financial Statements

Year Ended March 31, 2022

10. IMPACT OF COVID-19

In March 2020, the World Health Organization declared a global pandemic due to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). The situation is constantly evolving, and the measures put in place have had multiple impacts on local, provincial, national, and global economies.

The College's operations have begun to recover from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Registration fee revenue increased as more registrants returned to practicing status. Examination fees increased due to a 44% increase over the prior year in the number of candidates writing the examinations. There was also an increase in the number of applications for registration. Interest rates on GIC investments continued to fall, resulting in lower income from the College's investments. However, rates began to rise shortly before year-end to help control inflation.

The College's staff continue to primarily work remotely. This has allowed them to reduce their office space on lease renewal, resulting in lower rents. Board and committee meetings also remained virtual during the year, allowing for savings that were applied to strategic projects.

In March 2022, the Provincial Health Officer (PHO) issued an Order requiring all BC health professional colleges to collect and report healthcare professionals' COVID-19 vaccination status to the Ministry of Health. As significant staff time was required to respond to the PHO Order, the College hired another part-time staff member post-year-end to assist with capacity. A privacy complaint related to the PHO Order was also filed on behalf of the registrants of the health professional colleges of BC, resulting in additional dues to BC Health Regulators. The PHO Order will continue to impact the College, but management cannot quantify or estimate the overall financial effect and legal implications at this time.

11. REGULATORY REFORM

The BC Ministry of Health is moving ahead with a major reform of the system for regulating health professionals. The plan involves merging several regulatory Colleges, reducing their number from 19 to six. The College is excited about the changes ahead and is working closely with other healthcare regulatory colleges in BC and the Ministry of Health to implement the reform recommendations efficiently and effectively. There are currently no changes to the College's operations, and there are presently no details for the timeline or the process. Management cannot quantify or estimate the overall financial effect at this time.

COLLEGE OF OPTICIANS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Notes to Financial Statements

Year Ended March 31, 2022

12. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The College is exposed to various risks through its financial instruments and has a comprehensive risk management framework to monitor, evaluate and manage these risks. The following analysis provides information about the College's risk exposure and concentration as of March 31, 2022.

(a) Credit risk

Credit risk arises from the potential that a counterparty will fail to perform its obligations. The College is exposed to credit risk on its cash, cash equivalents, accounts receivable, and investments in guaranteed investment certificates. The College does not have significant accounts receivable exposure to any individual organization and cash, cash equivalents, and investments are held with reputable Canadian financial institutions. There is no significant increase in risk exposure from the prior year.

(b) Interest rate risk

Interest rate risk is the risk that the value of a financial instrument might be adversely affected by a change in the interest rates. The College is exposed to interest rate risk on its investment in guaranteed investment certificates. The College does not use derivative instruments to reduce its exposure to fluctuations in market interest rates. Although interest rates have decreased due to economic conditions arising from COVID-19, the College is not subject to significant variations in interest rates as it invests for terms of at least one year.

Unless otherwise noted, it is management's opinion that the College is not exposed to significant other price risks arising from these financial instruments.

13. COMPARATIVE FIGURES

Some of the comparative figures have been reclassified to conform to the current year's presentation.



COLLEGE *of* OPTICIANS
OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
a B.C. Health Regulator

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