



COLLEGE OF OPTICIANS OF ALBERTA

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Alberta College and Association of Opticians divests association role for greater focus and commitment to public protection

EDMONTON, ALBERTA – (January 1, 2022). Today, the Alberta College and Association of Opticians (ACAO) became the College of Opticians of Alberta (COA). This change complies with provincial legislation passed in December 2020 requiring health regulators serving dual mandates of licensing professionals and advocating on their behalf to separate.

“Bill 46 is ground-breaking in the provincial government’s efforts to improve the protection of Albertans,” says Margaret Cayenne, President of the COA, who previously presided over the ACAO Council. “While our relationship with the optician profession will remain strong, we look forward to narrowing our focus to public protection and effective regulatory governance to ensure that opticians continue to provide the very best in quality eye care.”

The COA’s principal mandate will be to set the requirements for entry into the opticianry profession; establish and oversee the Regulations, Standards of Practice, and Code of Ethics governing opticians; and manage robust complaints and discipline processes to hear, investigate, and adjudicate complaints filed by the public against opticians.

“We could not have successfully separated our Association and College without the collaborative efforts of our Council and staff, other health regulators, and opticians across the province,” says Jennifer Bertrand, Chief Executive Officer and Registrar. “This change represents a new era in licensing and professional regulation in Alberta, and we will hold ourselves accountable to the public with enhanced focus, transparency, and openness.”

Alberta’s Bill 46 received Royal Assent in December 2020. More information on the legislation can be found [here](#).

More information about the College of Opticians of Alberta is available [here](#).