



**THE OPTICIANS ASSOCIATION OF CANADA ANNOUNCES THE FOLLOWING MOTION TO REGULATE, WHICH WAS PASSED IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS IN OTTAWA ON MARCH 10, 2008. THIS MOTION AFFECTS THE SALE OF NON-CORRECTIVE COSMETIC CONTACT LENSES.**

**M-409** — November 21, 2007 — Mrs. Davidson (Sarnia—Lambton) — *That, in the opinion of the House, the Minister of Health should regulate non-corrective, cosmetic contact lenses as medical devices under the Hazardous Product Act or the Food and Drugs Act.*

**Ottawa, ON, March 10, 2008 - MOTION M-409 APPROVED IN PARLIAMENT – TO REGULATE NON-CORRECTIVE, COSMETIC CONTACT LENSES**

**Background**

Several years ago Health Canada decided to classify non-corrective coloured contact lenses as cosmetic devices rather than including them as medical devices with all other contact lenses. This classification enabled the sale of these lenses by non-regulated individuals. The Opticians Association of Canada (OAC) began a dialogue with Health Canada officials. After a full year with no movement by Health Canada the OAC sought a partnership with the Canadian Association of Optometrists (CAO) and the Canadian Ophthalmological Society (COS).

The OAC in collaboration with the CAO and the COS met as a group with Health Canada officials in Ottawa on several occasions with a request that Health Canada put non-corrective coloured contact lenses where they belong – in the medical devices category. In spite of our best efforts Health Canada believed it was unable to comply.

**Moving Forward**

The CAO volunteered to have its public relations company inquire on behalf of the three 'O's if a legislative approach would work. The successful motion is the result of the sponsorship of MP Pat Davidson as well as support from Health Department officials and other MPs. However the change doesn't automatically take place. The motion gives direction to government for a specific action and the need for a regulatory change either thru the Hazardous Product Act or Food and

Drug Act. It is our understanding that the appropriate language has been added to the Food and Drug Act and that it should be passed this Spring.

We thank the CAO for sharing their public relations resource with the OAC and the COS and all Canadian Vision Care Professionals.