



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Opticians Association of Canada

CONSUMER WARNING: HALLOWEEN CONTACT LENSES CAN SERIOUSLY DAMAGE YOUR EYES

The Opticians Association of Canada 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. Cosmetic contact lenses have the same health risks as corrective lenses - they are affixed to the cornea; they can change the shape of the cornea; they can damage the eye if not worn properly or handled safely; they require professional oversight to ensure that the lenses fit the cornea. Severe eye infections have been reported in as little as 24 hours of wear time.

“Every year opticians across Canada report incidences of eye injury due to improper oversight of contact lenses” says Dalie Schellen, President of the OAC.

Opticians’ care about eye health therefore are 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 www.LicensedOptician.ca or www.opticians.ca

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