

SPOTLIGHT ON ONTARIO

By Lorne Kashin, Optician and OOA Executive Director



Inside Optics 2019

There is quite a bit going on in Ontario in 2019.

Inside Optics 2019 was held in March and was a great success. The close to 1,000 attendees and exhibitors enjoyed a full day of networking and professional development. In collaboration with Inside Optics, the [Opticians Association of Canada](#) (OAC) hosted its Student Night And Job Fair, on the evening before Inside Optics. It was amazing.

Students brought their resumes and were supplied with transportation to the event, an evening of great food, drink, and give-aways. The great turnout on Inside Optics weekend showed that opticians, student opticians, educators and optical industry vendors value the opportunity to come together to celebrate our profession. We are currently busy planning our fall shows, [Professional Learning Ottawa](#) and [Specialty Symposium](#) in Toronto.



Inside Optics 2019

As in a number of provinces, there are changes on the horizon in the oversight of healthcare in Ontario. The Ministry of Health commissioned a report, [Modernizing the Oversight of the Health Workforce in Ontario](#), also known as the McMaster Report, to take a look at how self-regulation is working in Ontario.



OAC's Student Night And Job Fair 2019

The report suggests a number of possible changes with the over-riding theme of more accountability to the public. The report also suggests that there are too many regulatory colleges and recommends that professions with similar or overlapping scopes of practice be amalgamated. The idea of only regulating professions with substantial risk of harm, and others controlled by registration, is also mentioned. College councils would be dominated by appointed public members with the president and chairs of committees being public members. We are seeing some of these types of changes at the Royal College of Dental Surgeons of British Columbia.

The OOA board of directors would like to thank Martin Lebeau, current OAC president, for his three terms serving as OOA president. Martin stepped down from his president's position and remains a director on the Board. After the AGM, held at Inside Optics, a vote was held to elect a new executive committee. The new executive committee is Bill Snelgrove - President, Catherine Rowntree - Vice-President, and Zully Kasmani as Secretary/Treasurer.



The OOA Board of Directors is excited to announce that the CG Group will be providing secretariat services for the OOA. The CG Group has been busy working with the OOA refreshing our logos, website, and adding great new member and industry partner benefits.

Membership in the Ontario Opticians Association are at a record number. In partnership with the Opticians Association of Canada, Ontario opticians enjoy a blended membership between the OOA and the OAC. The OOA continues to partner with the OAC to not only promote Ontario opticians, but all Canadian opticians. **We are stronger together.**