

# SPOTLIGHT ON PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

By Diana Carver, Director - Opticians Association of Canada

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This year, the Prince Edward Island Dispensing Opticians Association is celebrating 45 years of regulated dispensing. Although the smallest association in the country, started in 1974, it is still going strong today with 40 active members. Their OAC Director Diana Carver, is continually amazed at how the tight knit membership comes together to make a difference in their community. Education events maintain strong attendance which provide valuable time for discussion forums.

Finding volunteers within a small association can be a challenge simply due to numbers to draw from, but there are benefits as well. Having numerous members who have served in any capacity on the Association or the Board creates a real sense of ownership. PEI Opticians are very invested in their association. The association can be taken for granted when things are routine and just continue with the same process and delivery each year, but when changes are proposed, true passion can be found.

Most recently, PEI Opticians have been volunteering their services with the [Special Olympics Opening Eyes program](#) at several events held in the province, providing free prescription eyewear to athletes and last summer, a small crew from Matheson's Eyewear even made their way over to an event in NS. Working alongside Tom Weissberger from Essilor and OAC staff, they spent the day making a difference with big smiles, words of encouragement and tons of high fives!

Our proud members are also looking towards the future of Opticianry on PEI and are exploring political options that will hopefully foster the continued success of regulated dispensing in the province. The birthplace of Confederation may choose a new path, but Island pride in our Profession will always remain.