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**MUTUAL RECOGNITION AGREEMENT  
AMONG REGULATORS OF OPTOMETRY IN CANADA  
April 22, 2001**

- 1) In consideration of the terms of Chapter 7 of the Agreement on Internal Trade (AIT), this agreement is made between the Regulatory Bodies for Optometry listed below, and remains in force until replaced by further written agreements.
- 2) The intention of this agreement is to remove unnecessary barriers to mobility of qualified optometrists, in compliance with Chapter 7 of AIT and to establish the conditions under which an optometrist registered or licensed in a signatory jurisdiction will have his/her qualifications recognized in another signatory jurisdiction.

The Signatories:

- 3)(a) Agree that the basic scope of practice for optometrists is similar in each jurisdiction represented by the signatories;
  - (b) Require for licensure/registration:
    - i. the Doctor of Optometry degree conferred by a Council on Optometric Education accredited school or an equivalent degree with respect to academic credentials;
    - AND**
    - ii. the passing of the Canadian Standard Assessment in Optometry (CSAO);
  - (c) Have no residency requirements as a condition of licensure/registration;
- 4)(1) Agree to recognize the qualifications of an optometrist and to provide an equivalent or comparable license or certificate of registration to an applicant who:
    - a) is licensed/registered in the jurisdiction of a signatory on July 1, 2001;
    - b) is otherwise eligible for licensure/registration;\*

**AND** meets one of the following two requirements:

- c) (i) is actively practising in a signatory jurisdiction as defined by the signatory jurisdiction to which the individual is applying;  
**OR**
- (ii) demonstrates competence through a practice assessment or quality assurance appraisal which may include an examination as required by the provincial board to which the individual is applying.

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(2) Further, it is agreed to recognize the qualifications of an optometrist who is initially licensed/registered in a signatory jurisdiction after July 1, 2001 and to provide an equivalent or comparable license or certificate of registration to an applicant who:

- a) has attained the academic requirements (Doctor of Optometry degree conferred by a Council on Optometric Education accredited school or an equivalent degree as approved by the regulatory body to which the applicant is applying)
- b) is otherwise eligible for licensure/registration.\*

**AND**

c) meets one of the following 3 requirements:

(i) passed the CSAO within the past 3 years.

**OR**

(ii) is actively practising within a signatory jurisdiction as defined by the jurisdiction to which the individual is applying and has at some point in time passed the CSAO;

**OR**

(iii) demonstrates competence through a practice assessment or quality assurance appraisal which may include an examination as required by the provincial board to which the individual is applying, and has at some point in time passed the CSAO.

\* The requirements referred to as otherwise eligible requirements do not include academic or competency requirements but encompass administrative components such as language fluency, good standing, fees and jurisprudence requirements.

- 5) In recognition of jurisdictional variations in the scopes of practice of Optometry, signatories commit to seek legislative/regulation/by-law changes to permit the inclusion of a restricted or provisional registration/license for individuals applying under this agreement while they obtain the additional necessary qualifications required for full registration within a reasonable and specified period of time.
- 6) It is agreed to review this Agreement on an ad hoc basis or at the request of any signatory.
- 7) If a signatory chooses or is obligated to add or amend a licensure requirement that could impact on this agreement, the signatory agrees to notify other signatories of the proposed change(s) to give them an opportunity to review and comment prior to implementation.

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- 8) In the event that a signatory chooses not to continue to be part of this agreement, that signatory will consult with the jurisdictional LMC and advise the other signatories, in writing, providing its rationale at least six months before the signatory withdraws from the agreement.
- 9) The signatories agree that they will abide by the provisions of this agreement.

**SIGNATORIES**

- \_\_\_\_\_ - Board of Examiners in Optometry of British Columbia
- L. G. L. - Alberta College of Optometrists
- R. J. Peumann - Saskatchewan Association of Optometrists
- Lorne Lyell - Manitoba Association of Optometrists
- A. P. H. - College of Optometrists of Ontario
- André René Clément - Ordre des Optométristes du Québec\*
- K. M. A. - New Brunswick Association of Optometrists
- S. S. P. O. H. I. C. O. - Nova Scotia Association of Optometrists
- A. J. J. - Prince Edward Island College of Optometrists
- \_\_\_\_\_ - Newfoundland Optometric Board
- \_\_\_\_\_ - Yukon/Northwest Territories

Dated 28. 09. 01

\* The Ordre des optométristes du Québec will fulfill the requirements of the Agreement only if it is authorized to do so by the applicable laws and regulations, particularly with respect to the requirement of the passing of the Canadian Standard Assessment in Optometry (CSAO) mentioned at section 3 b) ii) and section 4 2) c) i) of the Agreement.