

January 27, 2010

TO: All Optometrists
FROM: Dr. Mark Bourdeau, ACO President

RE: Proposed Changes to the Optometrists Profession Regulation

The Alberta Government has recently circulated proposed changes to the Optometrists Profession Regulation to all stakeholders (other health professions). In order to provide greater clarity and certainty to our membership in the proposed changes, we are including several documents for your perusal:

- a) Proposed Changes to the Optometrists Profession Regulation as circulated by the Government.
- b) Copy of a letter sent to ophthalmology that augments the above document.
- c) Question / Answer covering the major areas.

All of the proposed changes to the Optometrists Profession Regulation are already in existence in other jurisdictions in North America. Nothing in the proposal is considered a precedent setting change. In summary, the proposed changes:

- Were originally drafted over two years ago. A consultation with other health care professions always occurs when any health care profession requests a change to their Regulations, Standards of Practice or Code of Ethics;
- Will allow optometrists to practice to the full extent of their training and competence;
- Will allow patients easier access to primary care services, lower overall health-care costs and improve patient outcomes;
- Will integrate optometry into the “team approach for health care” as promoted by Government and other health care professions; and,
- Are consistent with regulation changes passed in recent years for other health professions that have demonstrated adequate didactic training and clinical experience.

Should you have any further questions or require clarification on any point, please contact Dr. Mark Bourdeau, ACO President or Dr. Gordon Hensel, ACO Registrar.

Sincerely,

Mark Bourdeau
President, ACO