



Agenda Item	Page No.	Action Required	Item Lead	Approx. Time (mins.)
1. Call to Order/Attendance			Hemami, P.	1
2. Adopt the Agenda	1	Decision	Hemami, P.	1
a. Conflict of Interest Declaration				
3. OEBC Modernization Proposal	2	Discussion	Hemami, P.	20
4. Governance		Receive for Information	Hemami, P./ Van Bastelaar J.	15
<small>-Council may go in camera under Section 7(2)(b) of the <i>Health Professions Procedural Code</i>, which is Schedule 2 to the <i>Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991-</i></small>				
5. Dates of Upcoming Council Meetings				
a. Friday September 27, 2019				
b. Friday January 17, 2020				
c. Monday April 20, 2020				
d. Thursday June 25, 2020				
6. Adjournment		Decision	Hemami, P.	1

COUNCIL BRIEFING NOTE

August 2019

Re: OEBC Modernization Proposal

FOR DISCUSSION

Issue:

A proposal has been made to the Optometry Examining Board of Canada (OEBC) regarding the development of a new Entry-to-Practice (ETP) exam that would replace the existing OEBC exam. The new exam would be developed, administered and maintained by Touchstone Institute, but ultimately owned by OEBC. This proposal would result in both a strengthened exam as well as improved oversight by optometric regulatory authorities across the country.

Background:

At its June 24, 2019 meeting, Council decided to have Touchstone Institute proceed with the development of a competency framework. This framework will ensure a consistent definition of optometric competencies across the country and is the first step in developing a new ETP examination. This decision was made because of ongoing concerns with OEBC; for example, with respect to the independent oversight of its exam. It is Council's view that while the existing exam is satisfactory in assessing whether optometrists entering the profession can provide safe and competent care, improvements can be made. Given its resources and expertise in competency assessments, Touchstone Institute is optimally positioned to sustain a national ETP exam in the future.

Considerations:

We believe there is informal support for the proposal from various provincial optometric regulators. It has not, however, been formally considered by the OEBC board or FORAC.

The development of the competency framework is estimated to take approximately six months. Once that step is complete, work could begin on the development of a new ETP exam, which is estimated to take an additional one to two years.

Next Steps:

The OEBC is considering the proposal. Given the OEBC's approval process, it is unclear whether it will be able to provide a formal response prior to the September Council meeting. Updates will be provided to Council as they are received.