

January 23, 2019

To: Members and Stakeholders of the College of Optometrists of Ontario

From: Dr. Pooya Hemami, President

Re: Approval of National Board of Examiners in Optometry (NBEO) Exam

The College would like to thank the many members and stakeholders who took the time to provide their submissions to the College's consultation on this matter. We received 73 responses from individual members, and 21 responses from stakeholders. The College also heard from optometrists in other jurisdictions as well as optometric students. The College received submissions both opposed to and in support of the motion to approve NBEO. The College appreciates many of the potential concerns that were raised in the submissions opposed to the motion.

Council members received and reviewed all submissions in preparation for the January 18, 2019 Council meeting. Following a fulsome discussion, Council voted to approve the NBEO as an alternate standards assessment examination for registration. It believes that the NBEO exam is valid, reliable and defensible and that it adequately assesses entry level competencies to provide assurance that applicants who have successfully challenged the exam will provide safe, quality optometric care to the Ontario public.

The College is committed to ensuring that a standards assessment examination that is offered in both official languages and may be taken, in its entirety, in Canada, is available for candidates to challenge. The Optometry Examining Board of Canada (OEBC) examination meets such criteria and continues to be accepted by the College as a standards assessment examination required for registration in Ontario. Applicants to the College who successfully challenge either the NBEO exam or OEBC exam will meet the requirement for registration.

For more information, please visit the College's website at: www.collegeoptom.on.ca