



February 16, 2022

Dear Mr. Jamieson and Ms. Jibry,

Thank you for meeting with the Office of the Fairness Commissioner (OFC) on February 8, 2022, to discuss the provisional compliance category that our office originally assigned to the College of Optometrists of Ontario (COO or the College), which was communicated by letter dated August 27, 2021. The assigned provisional compliance category of substantial compliance was based on the non-completion of two outstanding recommendations identified in the OFC's last assessment report, which pertained to the need for:

- new applicants to have obtained their Therapeutic Pharmaceutical Agents (TPA) certification, currently written Therapeutics Prescribing Assessment for Optometry (TPAO). While graduates of Ontario programs will have this qualification, internationally trained graduates would find difficulty to access.
- the objective structured clinical examination (OSCE) delivered in person.

The two outstanding recommendations were reviewed in two meetings with the OFC. In the initial meeting, the College informed us that the TPAO examination is currently a component of the Internationally Graduated Optometrist Evaluating Examination (IGOEE) and is now conducted online as part of the written General Multiple-Choice Question (MCQ) exam (virtual). On this basis, we now consider that the College has fully addressed this recommendation. With respect to the outstanding recommendation concerning the delivery of the OSCE exam in person, the College informed us that the OSCE exam will continue to be delivered in person as no suitable alternative for evaluating the underlying competencies currently exists.



I am pleased to inform you that following further deliberations, we are reassigning the College to the full compliance category. In making this determination, the OFC specifically took the following consideration into account that:

- The College explored the delivery of OSCE exam virtually to provide accessibility to candidates from different geographical areas; however, these attempts were unsuccessful due to significant technical difficulties relating to capacity on the exam-delivery platform.

The OFC is pleased to confirm this decision and will continue to support the College in the implementation of our office's new Risk Informed Compliance Framework. We will communicate the cumulative risk category assigned to your organization prior to April 1, 2021, when the framework fully comes into effect.

Thank you again and let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Mercy Barzallo  
Compliance Analyst at the Office of the Fairness Commissioner