

## List of Acronyms Used by the College of Optometrists of Ontario

| Acronym | Name   | Description  |
|---------|--|--|
| AAO     | American Academy of Optometry                  | Organization whose goal is to maintain and enhance excellence in optometric practice   |
| ACO     | Alberta College of Optometrists                | Regulates optometrists in Alberta  |
| ACOE    | Accreditation Council on Optometric Education  | A division of AOA Accredits optometry schools in US and Canada Graduates of these schools may register in Ontario without additional education         |
| ADR     | Alternative Dispute Resolution                 | An alternate process that may be used, where appropriate, to resolve some complaints   |
| AGRE    | Advisory Group for Regulatory Excellence       | A group of six colleges (medicine, dentistry, nursing, physiotherapy, pharmacy and optometry) that provides leadership in regulatory matters           |
| AIT     | Agreement on Internal Trade                    | Federal/Provincial/Territorial agreement intended to foster mobility of workers  |
| AOA     | American Optometric Association                | Main professional association for optometrists in the US   |
| ARBO    | Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry  | Association of optometric regulators including, US, Canada, Australia and New Zealand  |
| BV      | Binocular Vision                               | The assessment of the relationship and coordination of the two eyes  |
| CACO    | Canadian Assessment of Competency in Optometry | Canadian entry-to-practice examination for optometry-administered by CEO-ECO to 2017   |
| CAG     | Citizen's Advisory Group                       | A forum for patients and health-care practitioners to discuss issues of mutual concern   |
| CAO     | Canadian Association of Optometrists           | Represents the profession of optometry in Canada; its mission is to advance the quality, availability, and accessibility of eye and vision health care |
| CAOS    | Canadian Association of Optometry Students     | The Canadian optometry student association with chapters in both Waterloo and Montreal   |
| CE      | Continuing Education                           | Courses, programs, or organized learning experiences usually taken after a degree is obtained to enhance personal or professional goals                |
| CEO-ECO | Canadian Examiners in Optometry                | Former name of OEBC; administered the CACO exam on behalf of the provincial and territorial optometric regulators (see OEBC)                           |
| CJO     | Canadian Journal of Optometry                  | Journal published by CAO whose mandate is to help optometrists build and manage a successful practice  |

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| CLEAR   | Council on Licensure Evaluation and Regulation            | International body of regulatory boards – mainly US and Canadian members   |
| CMPA    | Canadian Medical Protective Association                   | Professional liability insurer for physicians  |
| CNAR    | Canadian Network of Agencies for Regulation               |  |
| CNCA    | <i>Canada Not-for-profit Corporation Corporations Act</i> |  |
| CNIB    | Canadian National Institute for the Blind                 | A voluntary, non-profit rehabilitation agency that provides services for people who are blind, visually impaired and deaf-blind                            |
| CNO     | College of Nurses of Ontario                              | Regulates nurses in Ontario  |
| COBC    | College of Optometrists of British Columbia               | Regulates optometrists in British Columbia   |
| COEC    | Canadian Optometric Evaluation Committee                  | Committee of FORAC that assesses the credentials of internationally educated optometrists who wish to practice in Canada                                   |
| COI     | Conflict of Interest                                      | Situation in which someone in a position of trust has competing professional and personal interests  |
| COO     | College of Opticians of Ontario                           | A self-governing college that registers and regulates opticians in Ontario<br><b>Note:</b> the College of Optometrists of Ontario does not have an acronym |
| COPE    | Council on Optometric Practitioner Education              | Accredits continuing education on behalf of optometric regulatory boards   |
| COS     | Canadian Ophthalmological Society                         | Society whose mission is to assure the provision of optimal eye care to Canadians  |
| CPD     | Continuing Professional Development                       | A quality assurance program  |
| CPP     | Clinical Practice Panel                                   | A panel of the Quality Assurance Committee that considers issues of clinical practice and updates the OPR  |
| CPSO    | College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario             | A self-governing college as defined by the <i>Regulated Health Professions Act</i>   |
| CRA     | Complete Record Assessment                                | A component of the College's practice assessment process of the Quality Assurance program  |
| DAC     | Diabetes Action Canada                                    |  |
| DFE     | Dilated Fundus Examination                                | Eye health exam conducted after dilating pupils with drops   |

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| DPA         | Diagnostic Pharmaceutical Agents                          | Drugs used by optometrists in practice to evaluate systems of the eye and vision  |
| EEOC        | Evaluating Exam Oversight Committee                       | Committee that oversees the Internationally Graduated Optometrists Evaluating Exam (IGOEE) administered by Touchstone Institute   |
| EHCO        | Eye Health Council of Ontario                             | A group made up of optometrists and ophthalmologists who collaborate on issues of mutual interest   |
| ÉOUM        | École d'optométrie-Université de Montréal                 | School of optometry at the University of Montreal-teaches optometry in French Accredited by ACOE  |
| EPSO        | Eye Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario                    | OMA Section of Ophthalmology  |
| ETP         | Entry-to-Practice   | Describes the level of competency necessary for registration to practise the profession   |
| FAAO        | Fellow of the American Academy of Optometry               | Designation issued by AAO following evaluation against standards of professional competence   |
| FHRCO       | Federation of Health Regulatory Colleges of Ontario       | Comprises of the 26 health regulatory colleges in Ontario   |
| FORAC-FAROC | Federation of Optometric Regulatory Authorities of Canada | Comprised of 10 national optometric regulators Formerly knowns as CORA  |
| HPARB       | Health Professions Appeal and Review Board                | Tribunal whose main responsibility is to review decisions made by College ICRC or registration committees when an appeal is made by either the complainant or member, or applicant in the case of a registration appeal |
| HPPC        | Health Professions Procedural Code                        | Schedule 2 to the <i>Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991</i>   |
| HPRAC       | Health Professions Regulatory Advisory Council            | Provides independent policy advice to the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care on matters related to the regulation of health professions in Ontario   |
| HSARB       | Health Services Appeal and Review Board                   | Created by the <i>Ministry of Health Appeal and Review Boards Act, 1998</i> , decisions of the ORC are heard here   |
| HSPTA       | <i>The Health Sector Payment Transparency Act, 2017</i>   | An Act that requires industry to disclose transfers of value to health care professionals   |
| ICRC        | Inquiries Complaints and Reports Committee                | The ICRC is the statutory committee responsible for the investigation and disposition of reports and complaints filed with the College about the conduct of an optometrist  |

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| IOBP            | International Optometric Bridging Program             | A program to assist international graduates in meeting the academic equivalency requirement for registration and housed at the University of Waterloo |
| IGOEE           | Internationally Graduated Optometrist Evaluating Exam | Developed and administered by Touchstone Institute on behalf of FORAC   |
| IOG             | International Optometry Graduates                     | Optometry graduates who have received their education outside North America   |
| MOHLTC (or MOH) | Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care                 | Responsible for administering the health care system and providing services to the Ontario public   |
| MOU             | Memorandum of Understanding                           |   |
| NBAO            | New Brunswick Association and College of Optometrists | New Brunswick Association and College of Optometrists   |
| NBEO            | National Board of Examiners in Optometry              | Entry to practice examination for all US states Also accepted in BC and QC  |
| NCP             | National Competency Profile                           | Articulates the requirements established by the profession upon which the blueprint for the OEBC exam is based  |
| NLCO            | Newfoundland and Labrador College of Optometrists     | Regulates optometrists in Newfoundland and Labrador   |
| NSCO            | Nova Scotia College of Optometrists                   | Regulates optometrists in Nova Scotia   |
| OAO             | Ontario Association of Optometrists                   | The association that looks after the interests of optometrists in Ontario   |
| OCP             | Ontario College of Pharmacists                        | Regulates pharmacists, pharmacies and pharmacy technicians in Ontario   |
| OD              | Doctor of Optometry Degree                            | Optometrists' professional degree in North America  |
| ODSP            | Ontario Disability Support Program                    | Offers financial assistance to Ontarians with disabilities who qualify  |
| OEBC-BEOC       | Optometry Examining Board of Canada                   | Administers the national standards assessment exam on behalf of the provincial and territorial optometric regulators                                  |
| OFC             | Office of the Fairness Commissioner of Ontario        | The OFC ensures that certain regulated professions in Ontario have registration practices that are transparent, objective, impartial and fair         |
| OLF             | Optometric Leaders' Forum                             | Annual meeting of CAO, provincial associations and regulators   |
| OMA             | Ontario Medical Association                           | The association that looks after the interests of medical practitioners   |

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| OOQ      | Ordre des optométristes du Québec                       | Regulates optometrists in Quebec  |
| OPR      | Optometric Practice Reference                           | A College document provided to members and available to the public providing principles of Standards of Practice and Clinical Guidelines in two separate documents  |
| OSCE     | Objective Structured Clinical Examination               | An objective clinical exam; part of the OEBC exam   |
| PEICO    | PEI College of Optometrists                             | The optometric regulatory college in Prince Edward Island   |
| PHIPA    | <i>Personal Health Information Protection Act</i>       | Provincial act that keeps personal health information of patients private, confidential and secure by imposing rules relating to its collection, use and disclosure   |
| PLA      | Prior learning assessment                               | Formerly part of the IOBP to ascertain the candidate's current knowledge in optometry; replaced by IOGEE in 2015  |
| PRC      | Patient Relations Committee                             | Promotes awareness among members and the public of expectations placed upon optometrists regarding sexual abuse of patients; also deals with issues of a broader nature relating to members' interactions with patients |
| QA (QAC) | Quality Assurance Committee                             | A statutory committee charged with the role of proactively improving the quality of care by regulated health professionals  |
| RCDSO    | Royal College of Dental Surgeons                        | Regulates dentists in Ontario   |
| RHPA     | <i>Regulated Health Professions Act</i>                 | An act administered by the Minister of Health, ensuring that professions are regulated and coordinated in the public interest by developing and maintaining appropriate standards of practice                           |
| SAO      | Saskatchewan Association of Optometrists                | Also functions as the regulatory College in Saskatchewan  |
| SCERP    | Specified Continuing Educational or Remediation Program | A direction to an optometrist by the ICRC to complete remediation following a complaint or report   |
| SRA      | Short Record Assessment                                 | A component of the College's practice assessment process of the Quality Assurance program   |
| SOP      | Standards of Practice                                   | Defined by the profession based on peer review, evidence, scientific knowledge, social expectations, expert opinion and court decision  |
| TPA      | Therapeutic Pharmaceutical Agent                        | Drug Generally this term is used when describing drugs that may be prescribed by optometrists for the treatment of conditions of the eye and vision system  |

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| VIC     | Vision Institute of Canada                                    | A non-profit institute functioning as a secondary referral center for optometric services located in Toronto   |
| VCC     | Vision Council of Canada                                      | A non-profit association representing the retail optical industry in Canada, with members operating in all Canadian provinces and US states                            |
| WCO     | World Council of Optometry                                    | International advocacy organization for world optometry – assists optometrists in becoming regulated where they are not  |
| WOVS    | University of Waterloo School of Optometry and Vision Science | The only school of optometry in Canada that provides education in English<br>Accredited by ACOE; graduates are granted an OD degree; also has Masters and PhD programs |

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