



Dr. Pooya Hemami

District 5 – Provincial Electoral District

Bio

Fluently bilingual optometrist practicing in an established primary care-focused clinic in Ottawa, and concurrently also engaged as an equity research analyst and supervisory analyst at Edison Group

Education

- Doctor of Optometry, University of Montreal (1996–2000)
- Master of Business Administration, McGill University (2002–06 part-time)
- Chartered Financial Analyst (2011)

Regulatory-related experience

- President, College of Optometrists of Ontario (2017 – 2019)
- Director, Federation of Optometric Regulatory Authorities of Canada (FORAC) (2017 – 2019)
- Member representative, Optometry Examining Board of Canada (OEBC) (2017 – 2019)
- Vice-President, College of Optometrists of Ontario (2015, 2016)
- Treasurer, College of Optometrists of Ontario (2011 – 2014)
- Representative, Canadian Optometric Evaluation Committee (COEC) of FORAC (2014 – 2017)
- Council Member, College of Optometrists of Ontario (late 2010 – 2019)
- College of Optometrists of Ontario Committee experience:
 - Executive (2013 – 2019; Chairperson in 2017-19)
 - Governance (Chairperson in 2017 and 2018)
 - Registration (2008 – 2012; 2020)
 - Audit Finance and Risk (2019)
 - Inquiries, Complaints and Reports (2015)
 - Quality Assurance (2013 – 2014)
 - Fitness to Practice (2012 – 2014)
 - Clinical Practice Panel (2006 – 2007, 2016)
 - Discipline (late 2010 – 2014, 2016 - 2019)

Practice background and affiliations

- Actively practicing in a primary care-oriented optometric clinic in Ottawa with Dr. JS Nagra since 2005

- Previously worked in other primary care settings and also in refractive surgery co-management
- New Therapeutic Privileges (NPT) Certification in Quebec (2018)
- Member, Ontario Association of Optometrists

If elected to College Council, here is how I propose to ensure public protection.

If elected, I plan to work collaboratively with Council colleagues and key stakeholders (including government, the OAO, Waterloo School of Optometry, other regulators) to make evidence-based decisions focussed on ensuring public protection. Policies I support include: improving access to care by working with government to expand drug prescription privileges and broaden scope of practice (lasers, lab testing, minor procedures) as supported by appropriate training; recognizing optometric specialty designations; ensuring the national entry-to-practice examination appropriately assesses key competencies required for safe and effective care; improving transparency and College communications to raise public awareness and engagement; and enhance responsiveness in addressing inquiries.