

Candidate: Dr. Thomas Noël



Biography

Dr. Thomas Noël is an accomplished optometrist and has dedicated his career volunteering. He operated his own optometric practice, employing four optometrists and 12 staff members and now works as an associate. His leadership in the field is evident from his role as an elected Provincial Council Member of the College of Optometrists of Ontario in which he played several roles, such as chairing key committees such as the Registration, Quality Assurance, and Discipline Committees, and served as President of the College from 2015 to 2017.

Dr. Noël's commitment to advancing optometry extended to his role as a founder and Co-Chair of the Eye Health Council of Ontario (EHCO), which seeks to enhance eye care delivery in Ontario. From 2016 to 2019, he co-chaired the Health Quality of Ontario's Glaucoma Quality Standard Clinical Expert Advisory Group for the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care.

He has also been an influential voice in shaping provincial eye care policy as a member of the Provincial Vision Task Force and director of the Champlain LHIN Vision Task Force since 2016. From 2018 to 2020, he served as Vice-President of the Ontario Association of

Optometrists (OAO) and represented Ontario on the Canadian Association of Optometrists' Council (CAO).

In 2022, Dr. Noël was honored with the “121^e bâtisseur de l’optométrie” by the University of Montreal's School of Optometry, recognizing his significant contributions to the profession. Outside of his professional life, he enjoys downhill skiing with his family and playing tennis with his two daughters.

Describe an experience where you contributed to protecting the public interest.

Improving collaboration between the 3 professions has played a major role in my career. I started the Eye Health Council of Ontario (EHCO) which groups all three eyecare professions under one organization to help create collaborative models of patient eye care. I helped in the writing and publishing of EHCO guidelines (Diabetes, Macular Degeneration and Glaucoma). I was instrumental in creating the first joint meetings between the Canadian Ophthalmological Society and the Canadian Association of Optometrists. This led to the creation of the first joint statements on the Effects of Electronics Screen on Children’s Vision and Recommendations of Safe use

CV

Dr. Thomas-Alexandre Noël

GENERAL INFORMATION

Languages spoken: French and English

Languages written: French and English

Citizenship: Canadian

EDUCATION

Externship - General Optometry - Department of Ophthalmology, Syracuse Veterans Hospital

University of Montreal – School of Optometry Doctoral program in Optometry

University of Ottawa
Bachelor of Science (Biology)

WORK EXPERIENCE

11/2020 – present: Herzig Eye Institute Ottawa

Staff optometrist

01/2018 – 2022: University of Ottawa Department of Ophthalmology and Vision
Science - Eye Institute Opticians

Staff optometrist

02/2005 – 11/2019: McLeod Optometry Clinic, Ottawa

Founder and Owner.

05/2001 – 07/2013: Focus Eye Centre, Ottawa

Staff optometrists at Focus Eye Centre

In Charge of Post-op Care for Laser Vision Correction Patients

Liaison Officer with Co-managing Optometrists

Presented Several Seminars on Laser Vision Correction

05/2001 – 02/2005: Ottawa Eye Consultants, Ottawa

Associate optometrists at Ottawa Eye Consultants

Worked with Dr. Peter Agapitos, M.D. and

Dr. Donald McCunn, M.D.

Post-op Care for Cataract Patients and Primary Eye Care

05/97-09/97: Research Assistant

University of Montreal – School of Optometry

Research on the “Intra-Subject Variability of Pre-Corneal Tear
Film Rupture Patterns.”

Presentation “Optometry 97”, Montreal QC, 31/10/97

Poster presentation at the A.A.O., San Antonio Texas, 15/12/97

Poster presentation at ARVO, Fort Lauderdale Florida, 12/05/98

Supervisor: Dr. Ety Bitton

05/93-09/96: Canadian Coast Guard Northern Region - Research Assistant

LICENSE

Officer Status at the Canadian Coast Guard College in Sydney, Cape Breton, Nova Scotia. Research project on “Blended Diesel Fuels” for Canadian Ice Breakers. Presentation in 1996.

Fully Licensed Optometrist - College of Optometrists of Ontario.

Fully Licensed Optometrist – College of Optometrists of Quebec.

MEMBERSHIP

Ontario Association of Optometrists

Quebec Association of Optometrists

Canadian Association of Optometrists

RECOGNITION

2022 – March 18: Received from the School of Optometry of the University of Montreal the “121e bâtisseur de l’optométrie” in recognition of his many years of service to the profession of optometry. This is the highest honor bestowed by the School of Optometry of the University of Montreal.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

2018 – present: Member of the Provincial Vision Task Force of Ontario

2017– 2023: Director on the Board of the Ontario Association of Optometrists

2022 – 2023: Chair of the Insurance Working Group Committee of the Ontario Association of Optometrists

2022 – 2023: Member of the Governance Committee of the Ontario Association of Optometrists

2015 – present: Committee Member of the Champlain LHIN Vision Care Network

2015 - present: Executive Member of the Comité Consultatif du programme d’optique du Collège Cité Collégiale

2018 – 2020: Vice-President of the Ontario Association of Optometrists

2018 - 2020: Director on the Council of the Canadian Association of Optometrists representing Ontario

2018-2020: Member of the Treasury Committee of the Canadian Association of Optometrists

2017 – 2020: Member of the Governance Committee of the Ontario Association of Optometrists

2016 – 2022: Co-Chair of the Health Quality of Ontario (HQO) Glaucoma Quality Standard Clinical Expert Advisory Group for MOHLTC (Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care) - publishing report in March of 2019.

2017 – 2019: Member of the Advisory Board of Fyidocitors / Visique

2015 – 2017: President of the College of Optometrists of Ontario

2017 – 2018: Co-Chair of the Quality Assurance Committee of the College of Optometrists of Ontario.

2016 – 2017: Member of the Governance Committee for the College of Optometrists of Ontario

2009 – 2017: Committee Member and then Past-Chair of the Discipline Committee of the College of Optometrists of Ontario

2015 – 2017: Board Director of Ontario at the FORAC (Federation of Optometric Regulatory Authorities of Canada) Council.

2010 – 2016: Co-Chair of the Eye Health Council of Ontario

2014 – present: Member of the Canadian Ophthalmological Society (COS) / Canadian Association of Optometrists (CAO) Leadership Working Group – facilitator for discussions on a National Vision Strategy.

2016 – Feb 8 Panel Member of the Diabetic Retinopathy Project Advisory Committee (PAC) meeting for the Canadian Ophthalmological Society (COS)

2015 – 2016: Member of the Cornea Quality Base Procedures, Clinical Expert Advisory Group for MOHLTC (Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care - Ontario) – published report in May of 2016

2014 – 2015: Member of the Retina Quality Base Procedures, Clinical Expert Advisory Group for MOHLTC (Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care - Ontario) – published report in May of 2015

2012 – 2015: Vice-President of the College of Optometrists of Ontario Committee Member and Chair of the Registration Committee

2009 – 2016: Member of the Board of Directors of the Ottawa South Federal Liberal Association

2008 – 2017: Elected Provincial Council Member of the College of Optometrists of Ontario

2012-2015: Chair of the Registration Committee

2010-2011: Chair of the Discipline Committee

2009– 2010: Committee Member of the Patient Relations Committee

2008 – 2011: Committee Member of Fitness to Practice Committee

2002 – 2007: Examiner at the Canadian Standard Assessment in Optometry (C.S.A.O.) Exams in Optometry, Montreal, Quebec.

2001 – 2004: President of the Ottawa Society of Optometrists, Ottawa, Ontario.

1999 – 2000: Vice-President of the Student Council AÉOUM

PRESENTATION

2019 – Sep 7: 51th Sally Letson Symposium on Glaucoma – Thriving Under Pressure. What is the Optimal Way to Work with Optometry to Care for My Glaucoma Patients?

51th Sally Letson Symposium, Ottawa – Department of Ophthalmology, University of Ottawa Faculty of Medicine Continuing Education and the Canadian Ophthalmological Society.

2016 – Nov 12: Examining Eyes: The Pediatric Eye Exam.

CHEO's 41st Annual Pediatric Refresher Course, Ottawa, ON

University of Ottawa Faculty of Medicine Continuing Education

2016 – Jan 29: Presenter for FORAC (Federation of Optometric Regulatory Authorities of Canada): The regulatory landscape for the dispensing of eyewear and contact lenses in Canada.

Optometric Leaders' Forum (OLF) 2016. Member of the expert panel on e-commerce.

2015 – Oct 24: Performing Age-Appropriate Vision Screening.

CHEO's 40th Annual Pediatric Refresher Course, Ottawa, ON

University of Ottawa Faculty of Medicine Continuing Education

2014 – Oct 28: Helping Children See Their Full Potential.

Keynote Speaker for Parliamentary Breakfast Reception – Parliament of Canada.

2009 – June 22: "Visual Performance & Contrast Sensitivity"

Guest speaker at the 13th Annual Ottawa Society of Optometrists

Bélanger Lecture. Ottawa, ON.

2007 – April 28: "Workshop: The Red Eye in Children & Refractive Errors in Children"

Guest speaker at the 5th Annual Advances in Pediatric Medicine. Ottawa, ON.

2005 – November: "Ins and Outs of Strabismus & Amblyopia"

Guest speaker at C.H.E.O. community outreach program for pediatricians. Ottawa, ON.

PUBLICATION

2015 – March: Eye Health Council of Ontario Guidelines for the Collaborative Management of Patients with AMD – Canadian Journal of Optometry Vol 77 no. 1 March edition 2015 author p.2-11.

2013 – May: Eye Health Council of Ontario Guidelines for the Care of Patients with Glaucoma – Canadian Journal of Optometry Vol 75 no. 2 May edition 2013 author p.35-40.

2011 – Fall: Guidelines for the Collaborative Management of Persons with Diabetes Mellitus by Eye Care Professionals – Canadian Journal of Optometry Vol 73 no. 4 Fall edition 2011 author p.26-35.

I played an important role as a facilitator in convincing the Canadian Ophthalmological Society (COS) and the Canadian Association of Optometrists (CAO) Leadership to work on two joint statements / documents (a first in Canadian History):

1) Frequency Guidelines for Eye Exams for Children under the age of 5 years old (to be published in the Spring of 2021)

2) Canadian Association of Optometrists/Canadian Ophthalmological Society Joint Position Statement: Effects of Electronic Screens on Children’s Vision and Recommendations for Safe Use. (Published on November 5th, 2017).

https://opto.ca/sites/default/files/resources/documents/en_joint_position_electronic_screen_time_under_12_final_november_5_2017.pdf

This was also published in the Today’s Parent Magazine:

2018 - Jan 12: Seeing Smart - Guidelines for Screen Use for Kids

Today's Parent magazine published an article that featured the COS/CAO position statement on electronic screen

OTHER COURSES

2020 WHMIS + AODA Certificate

2020 Level C CPR course Certificate

2021 Crisis Intervention and Unconscious Bias Training – Course La Cité

2021 Leadership and Human Resources 12 hours formation – Certificate

2021 Mental Health in the Workplace Training

2021 Gender and Sexual Diversity Training – La Cité

2021 Development Dimensions International (DDI) Leadership Program - Management

OUTSIDE INTEREST

2015-2019: Member of the Parent Teacher Council of École Catholique Ste-Geneviève primary school.

2016: PADI Deep Water Scuba Diver Certificate

2014: ACUC Open Water Scuba Diver Certificate

2003: Pleasure Craft Operator Card – boats

1993: Radio Operator Certificate

Grade 2 Examination in Rudiments of the Royal Conservatory of Music with First class Honours with Distinction.

Grade 9 piano of the Royal Conservatory of Music with First Class Honours

Ski Instructor Level 1