

Candidate Profile #2: Mark Eltis



Biography

Dr. Eltis is the current president of the College of Optometrists of Ontario. With 20 years of experience, he has practised optometry in New York, California and Toronto. Dr. Eltis is a graduate of the University of Waterloo School of Optometry and Vision Science and has taught there for over 14 years. He is a Fellow of the American Academy of Optometry and a Diplomate of the American Board of Optometry. Dr. Eltis is the first Canadian Ambassador for the American Board of Optometry and is faculty at the Academy of Ophthalmic Education. He has presented and published internationally and has been sought as an expert for national television and print. Dr. Eltis was honoured as a member of the Optometric Glaucoma Society for having “demonstrated excellence in the care of patients with glaucoma through professional education and scientific investigation.” He has been an examiner for national licensing assessments (in both Canada and the US) and is a team chair for residency site evaluations (ACOE). Dr. Eltis has served on the College’s AFR (Audit/Finance/Risk) Committee, Patient Relations Committee, Discipline Committee, as a College Coach (remediation program) and as chair of the Quality Assurance Committee. Dr. Eltis sits on the Tripartite Group, which brings together the College, University of Waterloo School of Optometry and Vision Science and the OAO (Ontario Association of Optometrists) in discussions on scope expansion. His other roles as president include chair of the Executive Committee and the vice-chair of the Research Steering Group.

An experience where you contributed to protecting the public interest

As your current president, I believe optometrists should perceive the College as a resource rather than an institution to be feared. I have championed “Right Touch Regulation”: the application of minimum regulatory force to achieve the maximum positive outcome. The quality assurance program is also undergoing modernization allowing optometrists to focus their energy on patients rather than paperwork. I have led the College to revive dialogue with the OAO and UW (Tripartite Group) to move forward on scope expansion and give the public the eyecare they need. I humbly request your continued support to implement policy for the better.

CV

Please see my linkedIn profile: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/markeltis/>