

Dr. Natalija Ilic

District 5 – Provincial Electoral District

Bio

For the last six years, I have been practising in Ottawa and have had the opportunity to experience a variety of settings, including private practice, side by side and optical approaches to optometric care. The experience has revealed that similar concerns tie all optometrists together regardless of their practice approach.

Over the last three years I have been a part of two different committees within the College of Optometrists of Ontario. First, with the Patient Relations Committee and, currently, I am on my second year with the Quality Assurance Committee. Through this, I gained a deeper understanding of the College and how it enacts its mandate and have also been able to see where gaps exist and where there is room for improvement. I have, in particular, appreciated the team-based approach that is a part of every College committee and would like to see more of this perspective reflected in College decisions. This background, as well as my work as an Inter-professional Liaison during optometry school, has highlighted that a collaborative and inter-professional lens is essential to tackle the unique issues that are faced by all health care professions. This approach would allow the College to have a breadth in perspective, which in turn would be reflected in the policies that are communicated to the membership. As is fitting of someone who has a bachelor's degree in science, as well as research experience, I believe College policies should have an evidence-based backing that is available to the membership.

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

As has been evident during the pandemic, we are all affected by the variables around us and this includes what public protection means from a College perspective in a pandemic. Safe care also means well funded care. Those responsible for decisions that affect the profession must utilize all the information available to create an environment that respects the mandate of the College while it faces the above unique challenges. My stance is to reflect on the past as I focus on improving the future within the mandate of public protection. Thank you for your consideration.