

Dr. Pooya Hemami

District 5 – Provincial Electoral District

Bio

I am a 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. I have a longstanding deep interest in professional regulation and in applying multidisciplinary and evidence-based approaches towards advancing policies that serve the public interest and advance the profession.

Education

- Doctor of Optometry, University of Montreal (2000)
- Master of Business Administration, McGill University (2006)
- Chartered Financial Analyst (2011)

Regulatory-related experience

- President, College of Optometrists of Ontario (COO) (2017 – 2019)
- Director, Federation of Optometric Regulatory Authorities of Canada (FORAC) (2017 – 2019)
- Member representative, Optometry Examining Board of Canada (OEEBC) (2017 – 2019)
- Vice-President, COO (2015, 2016)
- Treasurer, COO (2011 – 2014)
- Representative, Canadian Optometric Evaluation Committee (COEC) of FORAC (2014 – 2017)
- Council Member, COO (2010 – 2019)
- COO Committee experience:
 - o Executive (2013 – 2019; Chairperson in 2017-19)
 - o Governance (Chairperson in 2017 and 2018)
 - o Registration (2008 – 2012; 2020 – 2021)
 - o Audit Finance and Risk (2019)
 - o Inquiries, Complaints and Reports (2015)
 - o Quality Assurance (2013 – 2014)
 - o Fitness to Practice (2012 – 2014)
 - o Clinical Practice Panel (2006 – 2007, 2016)
 - o Discipline (late 2010 – 2014, 2016 - 2019)

Practice background and affiliations

- Actively practicing in Ottawa group practice 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.

I plan to work collaboratively with Council colleagues and key stakeholders to advance policies that advance public protection and professional standards while supporting the sustainability of access to care and being mindful of the realities of optometric practice. Positions I intend to advance include: 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; improving transparency and College communications to raise public awareness and member engagement; enhancing responsiveness in addressing inquiries; and ensuring the national entry-to-practice examination appropriately assesses key competencies.