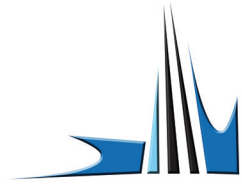


# OBC: Opticians of British Columbia



OBC: Opticians Of British Columbia

## Newsletter

July, 2007

### President's Message

[www.opticians.bc.ca](http://www.opticians.bc.ca)

#### Our Focus Is On YOU

As B.C. opticians ourselves, the OBC: Opticians of British Columbia Executive Committee recognizes that our most important job is recognizing your issues and responding to them in a timely manner. At the top of our commitment to B.C. opticians is providing relevant, innovative contemporary and *very importantly* accessible CE not just in the major centres but throughout the province.

**Partnership** is important and over the past six months the OBC: Opticians of British Columbia has enjoyed the opportunity to team up with the Opticians Association of Canada, Douglas College, Transitions and Eyelogic Systems Inc. to produce some diverse con ed topics using unique formats.

**You have identified some areas of concern regarding regulation** and we have brought those issues to the College of Opticians of British Columbia. As a consequence of the dialogue OBC: Opticians of British Columbia invited the College of Opticians of British Columbia to attend a round table meeting at which opticians could ask those questions.

**Communication** is fundamental to success for B.C. Opticians. The OBC: Opticians of British Columbia is experimenting with several different methods through which you can communicate your ideas and with which we can implement those ideas.

- We are currently engaged in re-designing our website to make it more engaging and interactive.
- We are incorporating a page for study groups and our Study Group Coordinator, Christina Wang, looks forward to hearing from those interested in a particular topic.
- We would like to include your e-mail address in our circulation database. In this way we can alert you to breaking news. E.mail is also an easy and economical way for you to receive your free con ed modules when you renew our membership in the OBC: Opticians of British Columbia.
- Our new mentorship program for students enrolled in the NAIT/OAC training programs is designed to focus on providing resource for both supervisors & students. You can become a mentor by calling us
- We have made submissions to & met with the Ministry of Health

### OBC: Opticians of British Columbia Pilots Web Seminar Event

If you like the idea of settling down at your computer for an hour on a Sunday morning, still wearing your PJ's, sipping a latte and collecting con ed credits for doing it... the OBC: Opticians of British Columbia web seminars are for you. On June 3, 2007 the OBC: Opticians of British Columbia piloted our first live interactive continuing education event featuring our popular seminar "MCE On A

Budget" (our audience participation workshop that explains how to get a study group together). Registrants included opticians from the Kootenays to Gabriola Island via Internet and conference call line. If you're interested in this CE option, visit our website for more information on this event and see how you can become involved in future events.

Visit Our Website For More In Depth Reporting On The Stories Highlighted In This Newsletter:

- Study Groups
- Web Seminars
- Meet n' Greet
- Legislative Updates
- Understanding the National Opticians Groups
- Become an Educational mentor
- Summary of Education Events
- Vision Canada Kelowna

#### Contact Us:

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John Kerns

#### Advisor:

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#### Advisor:

Trish Lazar

## Stay In Touch With The OBC: Opticians of British Columbia

### Legislative Update

**Quebec**—Quebec opticians have filed an appeal in the Quebec Superior Court to challenge a decision that has left them with the inability to use a slit lamp in the process of fitting contact lenses. Quebec optometrists charged that in setting out a requirement that opticians use a slit lamp magnification to observe the cornea and surrounding areas the regulatory body was encouraging opticians to perform activities outside their scope of practice.

**Manitoba**—The Manitoba government is developing umbrella legislation for health professionals using the Alberta and British Columbia models.

**Nova Scotia**—A much awaited Opticians Act was passed in the Nova Scotia legislature.

**Ontario**—The Ontario Regulatory Body (the College of Opticians of Ontario) has circulated its draft Registration Regulation for comment by stakeholders.

**Competition Bureau**—The Competition Bureau has been undertaking a study of restrictions to competition amongst the health professions. Their recent Interim Report on Optometry has been circulated to stakeholders for comment on how the restrictions that Optometry imposes on its members impacts on the allied professions. For a copy of that document feel free to contact the OBC: Opticians of British Columbia at 1-866-920-5911 or via e.mail at info@opticians.bc.ca.

### Upcoming Events

**Meet And Greet** July 25, 2007 7:00 PM Coast Hotel, Abbotsford

OBC: Opticians of British Columbia Directors Cindy Batson and Cindy Koszegi will be hosting opticians in the Fraser Valley to a *Meet and Greet* evening. This event will serve as a launching pad for a local Community Vision Care Event. For further information or to RSVP e.mail Cindy Batson at batson@telus.net

**Vision Canada 2007** Kelowna, B.C. October 12, 13, 14 Details Included With This Newsletter

### Study Groups – Create Your Own MCE Credits

#### WANTED

Study group members for the following subjects: **Pediatric Dispensing Low Vision Office Hygiene**

Group members do not have to reside in the same area of the province.

If you're interested in any of these topics let us know and we'll connect you with others who are interested.

If you have ideas for other topics,  
let us know that too.

### Web Seminars

Feeling left out when it comes to MCE opportunities? Get in touch with us and we'll connect you up with one of our web seminars. OBC: Opticians of British Columbia has an ambitious schedule of con ed events planned for the next twelve months. Find out how you can participate by calling or e.mailing us.

### Want To Get Involved?

The OBC: Opticians of British Columbia

is forming a database of members who want to be part of the action.

If you can alphabetize names, count to about 100, collect CE slips from participants and like having fun,

**WE WANT YOU!**

### The Alphabet Soup Group

Confused about the Alphabet Soup Group? What is NACOR? COBC? OCC? NEC? OEC? OAC? How does the OBC: Opticians of British Columbia fit into the mix? B.C. Opticians are affected by what happens in other provinces. Through our national groups we can communicate with opticians in other provinces. We can leverage the best from all and join together to protect and build our profession. In numbers there is power. See how when you read about the Alphabet Soup Group at our website and turn the 'Alphabet Soup' into 'Clear Consommé'.