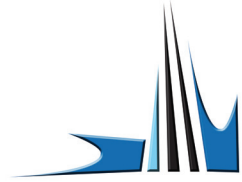


# OBC: Opticians of British Columbia



OBC: Opticians Of British Columbia

## Newsletter

April 2008

[President's message](#)

[info@opticians.bc.ca](mailto:info@opticians.bc.ca)

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

### Education Day March 2, 2008

Sunday March 2nd was another fabulous day for B.C. Opticians who turned out in large numbers to attend a full day of education hosted by the OBC: Opticians of British Columbia. We thank those members of the College of Opticians of British Columbia who volunteered to be facilitators at our round table sessions. Kudos also to the administrative staff of the COBC who helped at the welcome desk and throughout the day with logistics.

The COBC supplied coffee and muffins to get things started with a smile and you had to smile at the crowd that showed up at 8:00 on a Sunday morning. Throughout the morning Opticians rotated through the three lectures that ran simultaneously. Our post-event survey indicates that there was a high approval rate for our presenters and for their material. Notes from the lectures given by Brian Lorimer and by Stephen Sanger are posted on our website.

Luncheon was supplied courtesy of our sponsors, Essilor, Transitions and EyeLogic. It is important for Opticians to acknowledge the collaborative spirit of these suppliers to the industry. It is through their financial contributions that we are able to offer a free service to BC Opticians.

After the lunch break Marcia Zaganas from the CNIB offered an overview of the challenges of coping with vision loss and the services offered by the CNIB

The afternoon events were divided into two tracks. The leadership track offered two different workshops. The theme of both was directed at reminding Opticians that it is important to participate in giving the profession direction either by taking on a leadership role or by casting an informed vote. The first workshop was focused on how to identify leadership qualities in yourself and others. The second workshop was all about the important roles played by members of a leadership group. The second track was a mini-trade show with demonstrations from the CNIB, Pacific Medical, Essilor, Germstar, AMO and the OBC: Opticians of British Columbia.

Attendees had an additional opportunity to collect 1.5 CE credits by participating in an online questionnaire. In order to access the questionnaire Opticians filled out an entry form to win an iPod Nano and had to include their e-mail address. A significant number of the e-mail addresses were unable to be read due to confusing handwriting. If you filled out an entry form but have not yet received the web address for the questionnaire it is quite possible that we simply could not decipher your e-mail address. If that is the case please e-mail us at

[info@opticians.bc.ca](mailto:info@opticians.bc.ca)

Our planning committee has several education opportunities planned for the coming months. Although our continuing education cycle is over at the end of March, don't leave it until the last minute. Start collecting your credits for the next cycle now. That way you won't be in a panic as the day of reckoning looms closer.

### Douglas College Event Well Received

In a repeat of the success of last year's collaborative education evening, the OBC: Optician of British Columbia once again partnered with Douglas College to offer 2 hours of contact lens lectures dedicated to RGO fitting. Ted Littlewood and Tony Viani took on the topic of "Analyzing Corneal Topography and Its Relationship to Keratometry" while Rikke Dootjes' topics covered RGP's vs Soft contacts, RGP bifocals, Rose K Kerataconus lenses, History and evolution of contact lenses and fitting & problem solving.

Fitting of RGP lenses is a real challenge for contact lens fitters but for many clients they are the best vision care solution. With today's advanced measuring technology, lens materials and lens designs, the challenge is a little less formidable.

### Survey Results:

**The results of the Opticians Survey have now been posted on our website at [www.opticians.bc.ca](http://www.opticians.bc.ca). The survey was originally limited to OAC members for whom we had e-mail addresses. In order to validate the results the OAC has now posted the survey on its website and opened it to all Canadian Opticians. The survey can be found at [www.opticians.ca](http://www.opticians.ca). We encourage you to participate. We know that Opticians are particularly interested in wage statistics but to be valid we need significant numbers of responses.**

#### President:

Cindy Koszegi

#### Vice President:

Sara Moshurshak

#### Study Group Chair:

Christina Wang

#### Website Chair:

Cindy Batson

#### Education Chair

Kyle Holmgren

#### Advisor:

John Kerns

#### Advisor:

Scott Kling

#### Advisor:

Jamie Aspinall

#### Advisor:

Raj Mann

#### Advisor:

Susan Ferron

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

## Legislative Update

**British Columbia**—The BC Opticians Regulation that will allow Opticians to provide automated sight tests is still waiting implementation. The good news is the recently released report of the government's Conversation on Health describes principles that continue to support endorsement of this regulation. The College of Opticians of British Columbia has initiated legal action against an Internet seller of contact lenses—Coastal Contacts. The case was to be heard near the end of March but has been rescheduled to April.

**Alberta**—The Alberta regulatory body, The Alberta Opticians Association, posted a draft Standard of Practice in December. It awaits implementation. The AOA will hold its annual convention in May 24th & 25th at the Delta Calgary South.

**Ontario**—The College of Opticians of Ontario Quality Assurance Committee has recently revised its definitions and requirements. Of note, it now allows continuing education credits awarded to members of study groups.

HPRAC—the Ontario Health Professions Regulatory Advisory Council has invited stakeholders to comment on collaborative models of professional regulation. It is the thought of the Ministry that common Standards of Practice where Scopes of Practice overlap would be of benefit to public expectation of service. For more information on this issue e-mail us at [info@opticians.bc.ca](mailto:info@opticians.bc.ca).

**Nova Scotia**—With the passage of the new Opticians Act in Nova Scotia the regulatory body now becomes the Nova Scotia College of Opticians. As well, Nova Scotia opticians will now be required to maintain liability insurance.

**Ontario Optometrists Challenge the College of Optometrists of Ontario**—Ontario optometrists are split in their views about freedom of association with opticians. Currently the Ontario regulation prevents optometrists from hiring opticians or working for opticians. The bi-weekly newsletter Capsule Dot Clip has been running a very interesting electronic conversation amongst several optometrists who have weighed in on the issue. Here's an example, "Ontario has been holding back Optometry in Canada for decades. Free association, open advertising, employment... its the way things are going. Look South of the border; look west and you will see it. Our patients will benefit with greater access to care. It may be that Optometry will go down the same path of Pharmacy." It would be worth your time to visit the Capsule Dot Clip site and follow along as the debate continues.

<http://www.infoclip.ca/cgi-bin/portail.pl>

**Cosmetic Contact Lenses**—The OAC along with the Canadian Association of Optometrists (CAO) and the Canadian Ophthalmological Society (COS) have for several years met with Health Canada in an effort to remove plano coloured contact lenses from their 'cosmetic' category to the same category as all other contact lenses—'medical devices'. When those discussions failed the three 'O's decided to work legislatively. The CAO volunteered its PR firm to guide us through the process and finally the announcement was made that Motion M-409 was passed on the floor of the house on March 10, 2008. But there are still steps to be taken. This gives direction to government for a specific action and the need for a regulatory change either thru the Hazardous Product Act or Food and Drug Act.

## Upcoming Events

### April 21, Prince George

**Place: The Days Inn 600 Quebec Street Prince George**

**Lecture: "Take Your Patients to a Healthier Place"**

**Speaker: Trina McGee AMO 1.5 CL credits**

**Lecture: "Demystifying Advanced Lens Designs"**

**Speaker: Sherry Lieutard HOYA 1.5 EG credits**

**Start Time: 7:00 P.M.**

**Co-sponsors: OBC: Opticians of British Columbia, AMO, HOYA**

### June 10, Vancouver, B.C.

**Place & Time: To Be announced**

**Lecture: - Low Level Vision – High Level Solutions**

**Speaker: Robert Auger OPTELEC**

**Lecture: The Ethical Challenges of a Retail Dispensary**

**Speaker: Cindy Koszegi OBC: Opticians of British Columbia**

**Cosponsors: OBC: Opticians of British Columbia, Optelec**

### June 11, Victoria, B.C.

**Place & Time: To Be announced**

**Lecture: - Low Level Vision – High Level Solutions**

**Speaker: Robert Auger OPTELEC**

**Lecture: The Ethical Challenges of a Retail Dispensary**

**Speaker: Cindy Koszegi OBC: Opticians of British Columbia**

**Cosponsors: OBC: Opticians of British Columbia, Optelec**