Ministry of Health

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Ontario

May 11, 2026

Dr. Mark Eltis, President, Council of the College of Optometrists of Ontario
College of Optometrists of Ontario
65 St. Clair Avenue, East
Suite 900
Toronto ON M4T 2Y3

Dear Mark Eltis:

In the Plan to Protect Ontario 2025 and the 2023 Your Health: A Plan for Connected and Convenient Care, our government outlined key priorities to strengthen Ontario's health system, including expanding health provider roles to deliver more connected, convenient care, and maximizing workforce capacity by enabling professionals to work to their full scope of practice.

As you are aware, in Fall 2025, the Ministry of Health (ministry) consulted on policy proposals pertaining to the scope of practice of several regulated health professions, including optometrists. I would like to take this opportunity to inform you that the government has reviewed and considered the results of the consultations.

In recognition of the important role that optometrists play in Ontario's health system, I am requesting that the Council of the College of Optometrists of Ontario begin the work that is required to support the following scope of practice expansions to authorize optometrists to:

- Remove superficial foreign bodies from below the surface of the cornea;
- Independently initiate and manage the treatment or therapy of open-angle glaucoma;
- Provide samples and dispense topical medication; and
- Apply soundwaves for diagnostic ultrasound for the performance of corneal pachymetry or ocular ultrasonography.

At this time, the ministry will not be moving forward with changes related to authorizing optometrists to:

- Order and interpret diagnostic tests such as laboratory or blood tests, computed tomography (CT) scans, magnetic resonance imaging (MRIs), and x-rays;
- Perform laser therapy to manage cataracts and glaucoma; and
- Perform minor surgical procedures under local anesthesia.

Ministry staff will be in touch to discuss next steps and timing.

I appreciate the collaborative partnership between the ministry and the College, and I look forward to continuing this partnership, so that the people of Ontario can access care in their communities, where and when they need it.

Sincerely,



Sylvia Jones
Deputy Premier and Minister of Health

CC: Deborah Richardson, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Health
Karima Velji, Chief of Nursing and Professional Practice and Assistant Deputy Minister
Joe Jamieson, Registrar and CEO College of Optometrists of Ontario
Mark Donnison, CEO, Ontario Association of Optometrists