APPENDIX A

Explanatory Notes Regarding Resolution Concerning OAO – MOH Minutes of Settlement:

The OAO and Ministry of Health have been engaged in negotiations to reform OHIP-insured optometry services since 2021. In February 2022, the OAO and Ministry of Health adopted a phased approach to negotiations focused on modernizing OHIP. The approach included three phases:

Phase 1

- An initial 8.48% increase applied to the Optometry Budget to be allocated by the OAO Working Group within the OHIP Schedule of Benefits for Optometry Services, retroactive to April 1, 2021.

- A payment from the Ministry to eligible optometrists on a one-time basis for a total of $45 million to modernize the delivery of OHIP insured optometry services in August 2022.

Phase 2

- In 2022, the OAO and Ministry engaged in appropriateness-related discussions to explore short-term resolutions to areas of interest, such as aligning insured services with clinical evidence.

- Where the OAO and Ministry reached an evidence-based consensus, they worked together to identify the most appropriate places to make investments in existing or new services.

Phase 3

- Later in 2022 and early 2023, the OAO and Ministry engaged in additional appropriateness-related bilateral work to modernize, restructure, and reinvest in optometry services. Where they reached consensus, they worked together to identify additional investments in existing or new services.

On February 10, 2023, the OAO and Ministry signed "Minutes of Settlement" (the OHIP Agreement) that completed the phased negotiation process. The OHIP Agreement would make numerous appropriateness changes to the OHIP schedule, invest in existing fee codes, and establish new fee codes, based on clinical evidence and best practices. The agreement would cover the period April 1, 2021 – March 31, 2025.

Negotiations for a new agreement would begin on November 1, 2024.

Details of the OHIP Agreement can be found below in Appendix B.

The OHIP Agreement must be approved by the OAO's members to come into force.

The OAO Board of Directors has voted and approved this OHIP Agreement.

The Board of Directors unanimously recommends that OAO members approve this OHIP Agreement.