ONTARIO ASSOCIATION OF OPTOMETRISTS

ONTARIO OPTOMETRISTS
Ready to deliver more for patients



NECESSARY

1.2M Canadians currently live with some degree of vision loss, and over 8 million are at risk or already affected by one or more of the four major blinding eye diseases.[5]

128% growth in cataract surgery is projected in the next 25 years in Ontario, further taxing the Ophthalmology workforce.[7]

Access to timely specialist care remains constrained by geographic and system capacity.[6]

AVAILABLE

3000+ Optometrists across the Province are ready to provide quality eyecare



65%
Ontarians have a regular Optometrist



22%
of them have an Ophthalmologist [3]

EFFECTIVE

99% of patients experience enhanced vision and no reported complications after optometrist-performed laser procedures.[1]

12% decrease in vision impairment was observed once optometrists gained access to therapeutic pharmaceutical agents.[2]

In rural FSAs, there are **1.22** Optometrists vs. just **0.01** Ophthalmologists per 10,000 persons.[4]

THE SOLUTION

Modernizing scope of practice for Ontario Optometrists



A. Pharmaceutical Changes

- Change from Drug List Prescribing to Schedule One Drug Prescribing
- Manage all forms of Open-Angle Glaucoma independently
- Prescription Eye Drop Sampling and Retailing



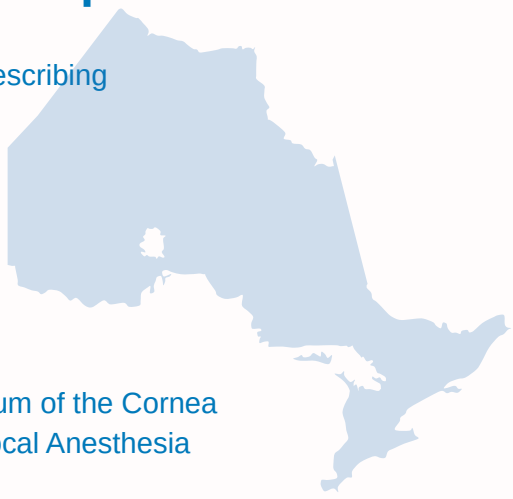
B. Diagnostic Testing

- Use of Diagnostic Ultrasound
- Order Diagnostic Lab Tests
- Order Diagnostic Imaging Tests



C. Minor Surgical Procedures

- Remove Superficial Foreign Bodies From Below The Epithelium of the Cornea
- Perform Minor Eye Lid Lesion Removal Procedures Under Local Anesthesia
- Perform Select Ocular Laser Therapies



1.Lighthizer, Nathan OD, FAAO, et. al. Nd:YAG Laser Capsulotomy: Efficacy and Outcomes Performed by Optometrists. Optometry and Vision Science 100(10):p 665-669, October 2023. | DOI: 10.1097/OPX.0000000000002057

2. Bae K, Timmons E, Nandy P. Seeing is believing: The effects of optometrist scope of practice expansion. Contemporary Economic Policy. 2025;43(1):135-160. doi:10.1111/coep.12645

3. CAO - Survey conducted by Leger

4. CAO-conducted assessment of Optometrist and Ophthalmologist distribution across FSAs (Forward Sortation Allocations) in Ontario

5. Deloitte. The cost of vision loss and blindness in Canada. https://www.fightingblindness.ca/wpcontent/uploads/2021/12/Deloitte-Cost-of-vision-loss-and-blindness-in-Canada-report-May-2021.pdf. 2021

6. Optometrist Scope Expansion. Alberta College of Optometrists. https://collegeofoptometrists.ab.ca/information/optometrist-scope-expansion

7. Hatch WV, Campbell Ede L, Bell CM, El-Defrawy SR, Campbell RJ. Projecting the growth of cataract surgery during the next 25 years. Arch Ophthalmol. 2012 Nov;130(11):1479-81. doi: 10.1001/archophthalmol.2012.838. PMID: 23143457.