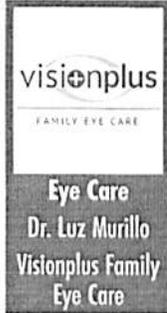


Our Eyes Matter

By Dr. Luz Murillo

Reflecting about Covid and its consequences, I think one of the lessons learned has been to value freedom of transit and close contact with family and friends.



We never realize how important the simple things we do every day are until we lose them. It is the same with our health and especially with our vision. Vision allows us to do most of our daily activities and enjoy everything around us.

When something happens to our eyes, only then do we realize how important they really are.

In 1989, the Ontario government paid \$39.15 for an eye exam. Thirty-two years later, in 2021, the Ontario government pays on average

\$44.65 for an eye exam. That's a 14 per cent increase over three decades even though inflation has risen more than 80 per cent.

In addition, Ontario's ageing population has placed an even bigger strain on a system that has failed to adapt. This shift is a demographic reality that is only going to persist for the foreseeable future.

OHIP's fee does not cover the office expenses such as staff, rent, utilities, equipment, and supplies required to provide an eye exam. It has also become harder for doctors to invest in modern technologies that aid in the early detection of serious eye diseases and other conditions.

If the government doesn't increase funding before September 1, 2021, Ontario's most vulnerable are at risk of losing their eye care coverage. Those who will be impacted the most are our children, seniors and those with existing eye diseases.



Ontario provincial law makes it illegal for optometrists to accept direct payment or alternate health insurance from OHIP-insured patients. As a result, these patients will simply not be able to book an appointment starting September 1.

For more information, please visit visionpluseyecare.ca.



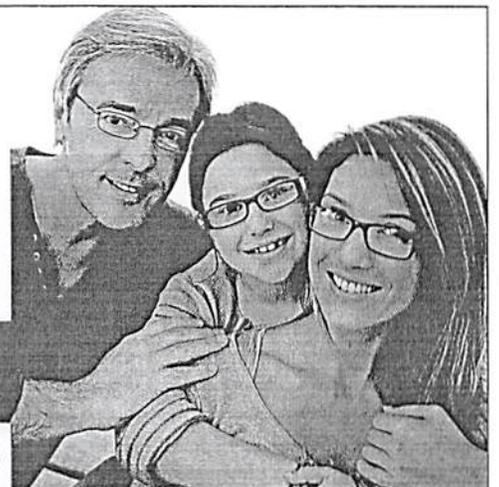
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