

May 14, 2020

Dear new and recent optometry graduates,

The global pandemic caused by COVID-19 has created an unprecedented crisis in all areas of work and life. Its impact on optometry and the public it serves has been felt through the shutdown of routine optometric clinical care, in the delay and cancellation of educational programs and licensing exams and in all business areas of the ophthalmic industry.

As new graduates, we know you been left vulnerable by the uncertainty created by the postponement of the entry-to-practice examination that is a requirement for optometric licensure set by the regulators in Canada.

The *Federation of Optometric Regulatory Authorities of Canada* (FORAC) is working with the *Optometric Examining Board of Canada* (OEBC) to make sure that a reliable and defensible examination can be delivered safely as soon as possible. We are waiting for direction from the Government of Ontario to permit testing facilities to be reopened so that the OEBC entry-to-practice examination can be safely resumed.

The OEBC will reach out as soon as new information is available and provide as much notice as possible about the new exam date so you can make arrangements to attend.

We know this is a very difficult time for you and, as regulators, we are doing all we can to make sure that you will be able to complete the licensing process and begin to practice optometry in Canada.

Yours truly,



Dr. Leland Kolbenson, President