

## THE SOCIETY OF EYE CARE PROFESSIONALS

### Addendum to Response to submissions dated Dec 8<sup>th</sup>, 2009

#### Emerging Patterns:

#### Corporate and Big Business Influence:

Careful study of submissions made by : College of Opticians of Ontario; Ontario Opticians' Association ; Opticians' Association of Canada and Vision Council of Canada points towards the following factors:

- 1) Easy access to eyeglass prescriptions via Independent Refraction by Opticians and or employing Optometrists.
- 2) Reduce labor cost and increase access to licensed Opticians across the country through Mutual Recognition agreement and labour mobility legislation.

MRA or Mutual recognition agreement signed by Ontario and BC college of Opticians has already resulted in 50 % increase in the issue of Ontario Licenses via the 6 month training program offered in BC.

Intense lobby by COO, OOA and OAC for " Refraction " by Opticians is another means of not only generating prescriptions for commercial gains but also to support the big business of selling automated refracting systems such as the one offered by Eye Logic Inc.

The case of Great Glasses and its non compliance with the RHPA is a proof of this effort. The latest addition in the court challenges is a court case filed by another Hamilton based Optician who is the former chair of the College of Optician of Ontario

Court Case # 09-16459:

Ontario Superior Court of Justice. Application under rule, E 14.05 of the rules of civil procedure Between: 2217758 Ontario Inc and Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Ont. Ministry of the Attorney General of Ontario. Respondents.

This case is being represent by lawyer Heather Divine, who was also the lawyer representing Bruce Bergez in the case of Great Glasses and also touted to be the lawyer for Eye Logic Systems Inc.

Once again, the issue seems to be Refraction by automated refraction systems( Eye Logic Inc) and subsequent rubber stamping of prescriptions by physicians.

It seems that the all Opticianry organizations, governing bodies and associations are batting for the interest of Big business. All these organizations have taken a position that corporate offices and Opticians should be able to employ Optometrists. This will enable them to put pressure on their employed Optometrists to generate prescriptions for the business.

The movement to control the supply of prescriptions is “national” and Ontario is the most lucrative and the largest market in the country. In the interest of Public safety, we recommend that:

- 1) Optometrists should not be allowed to be employed by Opticians and Optical corporations.
- 2) Refraction be included as a “restricted Act” in RHPA.

In the profession of Opticianry, historically, Opticians have never had an independent voice as more than 90 % of the Opticians work for big and small businesses. Hence participation in self governance and professional associations is limited to only those Opticians, who will find time out of their hours of employment and this would mean endorsement from their employer.