

Withdrawal of Optometry OHIP Services EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 1, 2021

August 31, 2021

Dear London and Surrounding Area Ophthalmologists, Family Physicians and Nurse Practitioners,

As Optometrists, we know how fortunate we are here in London and in the surrounding area to have such a great interprofessional and collaborative relationship with the Ophthalmologists, Family Physicians and Nurse Practitioners in our region. Each day, as healthcare practitioners across Ontario, we take pride in caring for our patients. We also take pride in knowing we are part of an extensive network working together to improve the overall health and well-being of our communities.

Optometrists in Ontario have reached a breaking point in our ability to continue to support our patients with the quality of care that they deserve. The Ontario government has consistently refused to close the growing gap between inflation and OHIP-insured primary care services. For over 32 years the Government of Ontario has ignored our requests to negotiate OHIP fees, which has forced Optometrists to subsidize OHIP insured services. We are now at a point that we need to confront the MOH. Continued government neglect is not an option. The current funding structure is not sustainable and needs to be challenged to ensure that our most vulnerable patients continue to have access to eye care.

As part of our job action, on September 1st, London and Area Optometrists will stop seeing OHIP-insured exams including routine care for children 19 and under and seniors 65 and older. **As most of our ophthalmological colleagues are aware we currently provide follow up care to many of their surgical patients and share in the care of our diabetic, glaucoma and other patients with ongoing pathology. Unfortunately, this will become difficult during our upcoming job action.** We will do our best to triage patients away from the hospital ER and ensure that our mutual patients have access to the care they require. While we are aware of the inconvenience this may cause, this government has left us with no other choice. It saddens us to have to take this action, but we are committed to minimizing any risk to patients' health and vision.

We ask that you consider showing your support by writing to your MPP, the Minister of Health, and the Premier of Ontario at www.SaveEyeCare.ca. Over 130,000 Ontarians have already done so.

Thank you for your understanding and support.

Sincerely,

Dr. Harry Van Ymeren
President, London and Area Association of Optometrists

Dr. Josephine Pepe
Vice-President, Board of Directors of the Ontario Association of Optometrists

Dr. Pasquale Vecchio
London and Area Ambassador for the Ontario Association of Optometrists

On behalf of (please note some doctors are listed twice as they work at more than one practice):

Adelaide Optometric Centre

Dr. Gregory Millar

Dr. Allan Bernardi Optometry

Dr. Allan Bernardi

Byron Optometry

Dr. Ryan Bohnert

Dr. Shilpa Patil

Dr. Susan Buxton (1 of 2)

Dr. Pasquale Vecchio

Dr. Trisha Leis (1 of 2)

Dr. Jason Hutchinson

Campus Vision

Dr. Chris Markham

Dr. Trisha Leis (2 of 2)

Central Optometry

Dr. Wes McCann (1 of 2)

Dr. Richard Traczuk

Dr. Kathryn Boulton (1 of 2)

Dr. Heather Sangster (1 of 2)

Dr. Cheryl Letheren & Associates

Dr. Cheryl Letheren

CustomEYES Optometry

Dr. Gary Nelles

Dr. Katrina Rohrer

Dr. Dar Lenarcik & Associates

Dr. Dar Lenarcik

Dr. Karolina Priak

Dr. Tunde Agoston

Dr. Roma Pushka

Dorchester Optometry

Dr. Katherine Jones

Dr. Kathryn Boulton (2 of 2)

Dr. Heather Sangster (2 of 2)

East London Optometry

Dr. Jeff Drexler
Dr. Lisa Pray
Dr. Danielle McPhee
Dr. Raewyn Leech
Dr. Allison Binnie

First Optometry

Dr. Ibrahim Oozeer
Dr. Stephanie Millar

Foresight Optometry

Dr. Laurie Canham Kilby

FYi Doctors St. Thomas

Dr. Kim Shuit
Dr. Paula Brokenshire (1 of 2)
Dr. Jason Tang

FYi Doctors Sunningdale

Dr. Murray McLeod (1 of 2)
Dr. Catherine Walden
Dr. Michael Luu

FYi Doctors Wharnccliffe

Dr. Thomas Psutka
Dr. Murray McLeod (2 of 2)
Dr. Emily Finlayson

Dr. Greg Cook Optometrist

Dr. Greg Cook

Highbury Huron Optometry

Dr. Gary Curik
Dr. Deborah Delany
Dr. Riyadh Khamis (1 of 2)

Huron Optometric Services

Dr. Dean Nisbett
Dr. Paul Padfield
Dr. David Weaver
Dr. Simon Taylor
Dr. Kelly Kuiper
Dr. Erin Brunk

Ingersoll Optometry

Dr. Stephen Tait
Dr. Nestor Bayona (1 of 2)

Dr. Johan Gall and Associate

Dr. Johan Gall

Dr. Marcia LaFrance

Komoka Optometry

Dr. Christina Chan (1 of 2)

Dr. Stephanie McLellan (1 of 2)

Lifetime Vision Care

Dr. Shannon Glitz

Dr. Felicia Yong

Dr. Keren Prince

Dr. Nestor Bayona (2 of 2)

London Vision Development Centre

Dr. Riyadh Khamis (2 of 2)

London Vision Training Clinic

Dr. Maciej Suwala

Dr. Susan Buxton (2 of 2)

McGugan Optometry Centre

Dr. Janet McGugan

New Vista Optometry

Dr. Marisa Rossini

Old North Optometry

Dr. Josephine Pepe

Dr. Marina Bobanovic

Old South Optometry

Dr. Eric Chevalier

Dr. Christina Schropp

Dr. Beverly Dodge

Optometrists on Broadway

Dr. Dale Springer

Dr. Emily Manning

Dr. Courtney Fan

Dr. Matthew Michniewicz

Optometrists on Colborne

Dr. Harry Van Ymeren

Dr. Stacey Townshend

Dr. David Lawrence

Dr. Suzanne Moore

Dr. Christina Copeman

Dr. Desirée Istifan

Dr. Vanessa

Dr. Shelly Ling

Optometry on Hyde Park

Dr. Kara Peterson

Romeo Optometry

Dr. Linda Bathe

Dr. Kelley Jacobs

Dr. Heather Blain (1 of 2)

Dr. Kirsten Carter

St. Mary's Optometry

Dr. Carol Venn

Dr. Erica Gagnon

Sharpe Optometry

Dr. Robert Sharpe

Dr. Heather Blain (2 of 2)

Teeple Optometry

Dr. Ralph Teeple

Dr. Tina Morowat

Dr. William Teeple

Upper Richmond Optometry

Dr. Wes McCann (2 of 2)

Dr. Christina Chan (2 of 2)

Dr. Stephanie McLellan (2 of 2)

Victoria Park Optometry

Dr. Sinclair Shuit

Westmount Optometrists

Dr. Paul Coates

Dr. David White

Dr. Tim Wilbee

Dr. Emma Rickert

West London Optometry

Dr. Erin Maruscak

Dr. Paula Brokenshire (2 of 2)

Dr. Jacquelyn Fleming

Dr. Rachel Hurst

And:

Dr. Jonathan Arnel
Dr. Queendy Cheung
Dr. Husam Elkassem
Dr. Shirley Kovacs
Dr. Justice Oyemike
Dr. Renzo Pierazzo
Dr. Alex Polczynski
Dr. Marja Salminen
Dr. Shruti Sharma
Dr. Carrah Templeman
Dr. Bertha Wolf