

**TO: SCO Membership**

**FROM: SCO Council**

**DATE: January 30, 2017**

**RE: Harmonized Licensing**

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During the most recent national optician meetings, the matter of harmonized licensing was discussed. Harmonized licenses would mean every optician would be authorised to fit eyeglasses or contact lenses. Most provinces currently have a dual license system like ours, where one is licensed to dispense eyeglasses and carries a separate license to fit and dispense contact lenses.

Some of the members of the National Association of Optical Regulators (NACOR) are proposing to have all provinces adopt a single license format. The intent of this change is to raise the profile and consistency of a licensed optician in Canada. Some feel it will strengthen the voice of opticianry when dealing with the Ministries and that it would make all opticians more valuable to their employers. This leveled playing field could improve the hiring and scheduling decisions for the employers and in some cases will expand the services provided.

No matter how you feel about this, we would like to hear your thoughts on this topic. To have some fun for those that participate, council has decided to enter the name of each respondent into a draw. The winner will receive \$100.00 credit towards their 2017 renewal fees. The draw will be made on April 1, 2017 (not to be confused with an April fools prank, just an amusing co-incidence)

This is your profession, your career, your livelihood, and ultimately, your decision. Please be sure your voice is heard by sending your thoughts to the SCO office at [sk.opticians@sasktel.net](mailto:sk.opticians@sasktel.net). In order to allow your council time to prepare your response for the spring meetings we will accept comments on this topic until March 30, 2017, and react accordingly.