

April 28, 2025

Dr. Jill Bryant, OD
Executive Director
National Board of Examiners in Optometry (NBEO)
200 S. College Street, #2010
Charlotte, NC 28202
USA

Delivered By Email

Dear Dr. Bryant,

Re: Response and corrections to the Feb. 5, 2025, letter from the Canadian Association of Optometrists

Thank you for your April 17, 2025, letter from the NBEO Board of Directors.

On behalf of Dr. Eltis, our College President, the Board's invitation to our Council and staff to visit the NBEO office in Charlotte, is much appreciated.

The issues concerning the delegation of the College's mandate of entry to practice competency have been debated at the Registration Committee and Council multiple times in over the last while.

Council's decision on March 7, 2025, associated with the cessation of the NBEO examination was not made lightly or without consultation. Most importantly, I want to be clear that the decision of Council to sunset the use of the NBEO examination was **not** made due to a loss of confidence in the NBEO exam.

The following factors were significant reasons concerning Council's decision:

- the prevailing conditions of the quantity of candidates enrolled only supports one entry-to-practice exam in Canada.
- the availability of a French version of the OEBC exam. There are diverse communities in Ontario that predominantly speak French, who need French-speaking licensed optometrists who can access an entry-to-practice exam in French, and we have obligations under the *French Language Services Act, 1990* to provide such services and accessibility.

I hope that this helps to clarify some of the rationale of the Council decision.

Our Council and staff really appreciate the excellent relationship developed with NBEO over several years.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Joe", is positioned above the typed name.

Joe Jamieson, M.Ed, OCT
Registrar and Chief Executive Officer

CC: Dr. Mark Eltis, College President
Ms. Hanan Jibry, Deputy Registrar