

**DR. SHAFIQ QAADRI, M.P.P.**  
**Member of Provincial Parliament**  
**ETOBICOKE NORTH**



April 26, 2007

Hon. George Smitherman  
Minister of Health and Long-Term Care  
80 Grosvenor St.  
Hepburn Block, 10<sup>th</sup> floor  
Toronto, ON M7A 2C4

**RE: Support for optician refracting**

Min. Smitherman:

Recently I met with Ali Badreddine, director of the Ontario Opticians Association, to discuss the issue of refracting and the new curriculum set out by the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities for opticians.

As Ontario's opticians can now receive a college diploma including refracting accredited by the Province, they are obviously qualified to provide site testing to the public.

I was impressed that opticianry students have 302 hours of refracting training and are required to perform 50 refractions under the supervision of an Optometrist or Ophthalmologist before graduation.

I was also impressed by the information they presented on the study by the Canadian Ophthalmological Society that indicated that the prevalence of disease in the population under the age of 65 is low and considered "low risk", thus there is a limited benefit of excessive periodic eye examinations.

I am delighted that the Association has worked with the College of Opticians to define your scope of practice to include refracting.

Therefore, Minister I am asking that you review the status of this year's first class of 52 graduates from Georgian and Seneca Colleges and previous graduates from out of province colleges by once again allowing opticians to practice refraction and thus, allowing for better public access to this important and oft-needed service. I believe that it would be both a fair and practical measure.

I appreciate the contributions the OOA and Ontario opticians have made to Ontario's healthcare system and would like to be kept informed of any progress made towards the Ministry of Health and Long-term Care taking a "second look" at the issue of refraction.

Sincerely,  
(Original Signed)

S. Qaadri, MD MPP  
Etobicoke North  
Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Health Promotion  
Government of Ontario