



Election Procedures 2011

Electoral District 1 (Lower Mainland)

Deadline for voting: Saturday, December 31, 2011

General

Through this election procedure, registrants of the College of Opticians of BC will elect **two (2)** registrants to the Board of Directors for Electoral District 1 (Lower Mainland). This election procedure is authorized under section 7 of the College bylaws.

Eligibility to vote

All registered Dispensing Opticians, Contact Lens Fitters, Refracting Opticians and Non-Practicing registrants of the College may vote.

Biography of Candidates

The biographies of the candidates are included in this election package for your information.

Please follow the procedures set out below to ensure that your vote will be counted.

Voting procedure

Each registrant should receive the following materials in this election package:

- Ballot
- Ballot envelope
- Verification envelope
- Return envelope
- Biography of Candidates information
- Election Procedures cover letter

- 1) To vote for the candidates of your choice, mark your ballot by writing an **X** next to the candidates' name. **Please do not write your name or make any other marks on your ballot.** If you do, your ballot will not be counted.
- 2) Place your ballot inside the ballot envelope (the small yellow envelope). Seal the envelope and do not make any marks on it.
- 3) Place your sealed ballot envelope inside the verification envelope (the envelope that asks for your name, registration number, signature and date). Complete the requested information and seal the envelope.
- 4) Place the completed verification envelope inside the return envelope (the envelope with the pre-printed College address). Fill in your mailing address in the top left corner. Seal the envelope and mail it to the College. The ballots will be tabulated and certified by the law firm Devlin Jensen.

Deadline for sending in your ballot

Your ballot must be received by the Registrar no later than **11:59 pm on Saturday, December 31, 2011.** Ballots received after the deadline will not be counted.

Notification of Results

Registrants will be notified of the results of the election in January 2012.

Effective Date

Terms for the newly elected Board member take effect on January 1, 2012. The two members from Electoral District 1 (Lower Mainland) will serve three year terms.

Biographies of Candidates: Electoral District 1 (Lower Mainland)

JAMAL, Aly

I graduated from the Douglas College Optician Program. I have practiced as an Optician & Contact Lens Fitter for over 12 years. I have had experience in different settings from being a manager, working for large companies and clinics. I have had the privilege to participate on an eyeglass mission and had the opportunity to be a practicum supervisor for Douglas Colleges' Dispensing Optician students. I have attended leadership team training at the Johnson & Johnson Vision Care Institute in Jacksonville, Florida and eyecare practice management training at the Williams Group in Lincoln, Nebraska. I deliver presentations for Bausch & Lomb. I had the honor to serve on the COBC Board from January - December 2010. I am currently a member of the QAC and PLAR with the COBC and serve as an examiner for NACOR.

The titles of "optician" and "dispensing optician" as well as "contact lens fitter" are reserved for exclusive use by you the registrants. I want to work to always protect what we have all worked for and strive for efficiency in regulating the profession of opticianry in BC. There have been significant changes from technology, business models and legislation. We have the opportunity to continue to better our skills through a continuous process of education. There are many areas that we can specialize in such as low vision, vision screening and much more as there will be more demand for the profession by the public. We all have to ensure that we work in the best interest of the public by providing professional quality care to help people achieve better vision, as we play a very important role in vision care.

With my experience, I believe I can contribute to helping make important decisions for opticianry in BC as new issues arise. I am proud of calling myself a Licensed Optician and would like to be your representative at the board level.

JANSEN, Sharene

The health of our eyes has always been the focus of my career. While that may seem like a well placed pun, there is no other explanation for my long and dedicated years to our profession. As the daughter of an ophthalmologist I learned early that healthy sight is not something we should take for granted. Introduced to the optical forum while attending university confirmed my passion for ophthalmic health care.

Consistent long term locum activity has given me a broad perspective on the various needs of patient care. With over 30 years of dispensing, contact lens fitting and wholesale representation, my skills have been utilized not just in optics, but as a board member on senior's councils, various charitable organizations and public speaking. Attending international optical conferences has enabled me to enhance my overall expertise in the industry.

Our licensing gives us the opportunity to educate and guide the public towards the goal of maintaining good vision. I feel that our relationships with the three "O's" must remain mutually respectful. As an integral part of the health care society, it is our responsibility to continually update our education. Working as a board member I shall strive to improve the standards of vision care in our province while aiding the board in responsible decision making which affects the public health.

LEE, Chris

Age: 61

Educational Background:

Bachelor Degree – Simon Fraser University.

Sales & Marketing Executives Diploma – University of British Columbia.

Refracting Optician – Northern Alberta Institute of Technology.

Work Experience:

1981 to present – Dispensing Optician/Refracting Optician/Contact Lens Fitter – Opticana Eyewear.

There is only one reason why I put myself forward to be your representative at the Board: to work and make the College relevant to us as Opticians. As your representative at the Quality Assurance Committee for the past 3 years, I have gained some insight and experience in how the work of the College relate to us. In the past thirty years, I have seen dramatic changes in the field of opticianry. Changes are challenges, and they keep on coming, especially for owners/opticians. We all have to take on the challenges daily, whether it is products, skills, marketing, finance, or human resources. Challenges that require innovative and dimensional solutions to solve. My belief is that the College is there to help us better our profession and business at the same time not losing sight on the public interest. After all, it is the public that is the ultimate evaluator of how well we do, or should perform, our profession and our business. To bring relevancy is to work closely with all stakeholders to bring about and maintain our high standards, skills, and to solve challenges. I will do my best to perform this task if chosen as your Board representative, and my sincere thanks to all of you to have considered my candidacy.

SAVJA, Raheem

I have been a licensed optician and contact lens fitter for 16 years. I have been in management for 14 years. I am also a refracting optician. I have a Bachelor of Science degree in cell and developmental biology from the University of British Columbia.

I am currently chair and elected board member of the College of Opticians of British Columbia and treasurer and vice president of the Opticians of British Columbia. I am also an examiner for the National Association of Canadian Optician Regulators. I have attended several national Opticians Council of Canada meetings. Due to my above involvements I have a thorough knowledge of requirements for licensing in the profession not only provincially but also nationally. I am fully aware of related issues Canada wide. I already have relationships with national and provincial opticianry boards, associations and accredited schools. The College of Opticians of British Columbia engineered the national exam and the national Licensed Optician campaign. British Columbia and Alberta have made important licensing registration and mobility decisions in the profession which have been and are being adapted by the rest of Canada. As chair of the Registration Committee I have been instrumental in this process. I am also chair of the Committee for Succession Planning, Experience and Diversity at the College of Opticians.

I think the next few years are going to be very crucial for licensed opticians in British Columbia. For this reason we need a very strong Board. I believe my credentials and experience qualify me to represent you on the Board. I think that broadening the scope of opticians has contributed to overall

better eye care for the consumer. This will also lead to better partnerships between eye care professionals.

WIENS, Steve

Prior to my career in opticianry I was a Mechanical Engineer doing sawmill design work. Sometime in 1998 the world wide wood chip prices crashed forcing me into another line of work. So myself, along with my brother and my mom started our company in early 1999.

Our industry has changed dramatically from then until now.

With the onset of Sight Testing we have finally found something that gives an optician a chance for survival. I believe we have to fight to keep this right as it gives us some remaining faucet of legitimacy now with our regulation changes.

I have never worked at an optometric office but I have worked closely with optometry in our practice as we work closely with them in all four of our offices. I believe that optometry and opticianry has to work closely together to ensure the patient gets the best possible service and advice available to them. I feel that opticianry has gone the way of your average shoe store in the last few years and I think we need to try and change this. I think we have to focus on education and staff training in order to prove our worth to the everyday patient. I can only imagine what will happen to our industry if we don't work together to initiate some form of control on who sell eyewear. Can you imagine if every clothing store in the mall was selling prescription eyewear to match different coloured outfits?

The internet is a great challenge for all of us in this field as well. If a patient can get glasses by measuring their own pupil distances, then we all have a limited time in our profession if we do not affect positive change now.

Currently I am the President of Crystal Vision & Hearing Centre. I manage our 6 full time locations from our head office in Abbotsford. I have never sat on a government board of any kind before. I think I can bring an element of fresh and positive thinking to our profession that is greatly needed.

Vote for me and I promise to try my very best to make opticianry professional and long standing in British Columbia.

| SUMMARY OF CANDIDATE PROFILES: ELECTORAL DISTRICT 1 (LOWER MAINLAND) (NOTE: information provided only from original profiles received by the College from each candidate) | | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|--|--|
| | Aly Jamal | Sharene Jansen | Chris Lee | Raheem Savja | Steve Wiens |
| Education & Training | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Douglas College Dispensing Optician and Contact Lens Fitter Program • Leadership team training at the Johnson & Johnson Vision Care Institute • Eyecare practice management training at the Williams Group | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduced to the optical forum while attending my university confirmed my passion for ophthalmic health care. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dispensing Optician, Contact Lens Fitter & Refracting Optician programs from NAIT • Bachelor Degree from SFU • Sales & Marketing Executive Diploma from UBC | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bachelor of Science in Cell and Developmental Biology from UBC • Master of Science in cancer cell research • I have been a licensed optician and contact lens fitter for 16 years. • I am also a refracting optician | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mechanical Engineer doing sawmill design work |
| Years of Experience in Opticianry | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over 12 years | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over 30 years | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30 years | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 16 years | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 years |
| Work Experience | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manager, working for large companies and clinics • Eyeglass mission • Practicum supervisor for Douglas Colleges' Dispensing Optician students • Deliver presentations for Bausch & Lomb • COBC Board from January - December 2010 • Committee member of the COBC Quality Assurance Committee and PLAR interview team • Examiner for NACOR | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With over 30 years of dispensing, contact lens fitting and wholesale representation, my skills have been utilized not just in optics, but as a board member on senior's councils, various charitable organizations and public speaking. • Attending international optical conferences has enabled me to enhance my overall expertise in the industry. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Owner of Opticana Eyewear • Representative at the Quality Assurance Committee for the past 3 years | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I have been in management for 14 years • Chair and elected board member of the College of Opticians of British Columbia • Treasurer and Vice President of the Opticians of British Columbia • Examiner for the National Association of Canadian Optician Regulators • National Opticians Council of Canada meeting attendee • Chair of the COBC Registration Committee • Chair of the COBC Committee for Succession Planning, Experience and Diversity | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently I am the President of Crystal Vision & Hearing Centre. • I manage our 6 full time locations from our head office in Abbotsford. • I have never sat on a government board of any kind before. I think I can bring an element of fresh and positive thinking to our profession that is greatly needed. |

| Reason for wishing to be elected to the Board | Aly Jamal | Sharene Jansen | Chris Lee | Raheem Savja | Steve Wiens |
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| | <p>The titles of “optician” and “dispensing optician” as well as “contact lens fitter” are reserved for exclusive use by you the registrants. I want to work to always protect what we have all worked for and strive for efficiency in regulating the profession of opticianry in BC.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There have been significant changes from technology, business models and legislation. We have the opportunity to continue to better our skills through a continuous process of education. There are many areas that we can specialize in such as low vision, vision screening and much more as there will be more demand for the profession by the public. We all have to ensure that we work in the best interest of the public by providing professional quality care to help people achieve better vision, as we play a very important role in vision care. With my experience, I believe I can contribute to helping make important decisions for opticianry in BC as new issues arise. 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