



September 3, 2024

Premier David Eby premier@gov.bc.ca
Health Minister Adrian Dix HLTH.Minister@gov.bc.ca
Deputy Minister Stephen Brown hlth.dmoffice@gov.bc.ca
Cc John Rustad john.rustad@conservativebc.ca
Dan Levitt info@seniorsadvocatebc.ca

Re: Support for the BC Doctors of Optometry Scope Modernization Proposal

Gentlemen:

I hope this message finds you well. As BC Chief Advocacy & Communications Officer for The Canadian Association of Retired Persons (CARP), I am writing to express our strong support for the BC Doctors of Optometry's recent proposal to modernize their scope of practice.

This proposal aligns with the needs of BC's growing senior population, who increasingly rely on timely and accessible eye care services. Modernizing and optimizing the scope of practice for optometrists will not only improve access to essential care but will also help alleviate the strain on our healthcare system by reducing wait times for eye-related treatments.

Optometrists play a critical role in early detection and management of conditions such as glaucoma, cataracts, and macular degeneration, which disproportionately affect seniors. Allowing optometrists to practice to the full extent of their training ensures that more British Columbians, particularly seniors, receive the care they need when they need it.

I believe that this expansion will lead to better health outcomes, particularly for our senior citizens, and I encourage the government to move forward with this proposal.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ramona Kaptyn". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ramona" being more prominent than the last name "Kaptyn".

Ramona Kaptyn

BC Chief Advocacy and Communications Officer

Canadian Association of Retired Persons, CARP