



# JOHN FRASER, MPP / DÉPUTÉ

Ottawa South / Ottawa-sud

Hon. Christine Elliott, MPP  
Minister of Health  
5th Floor, 777 Bay St.  
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3

Re: Eye Care in Ontario

Wednesday, July 8, 2020.

Dear Minister Elliott,

I'm writing to you on behalf of Ontario's optometrists, many of whom are constituents in my riding, who are advocating for additional provincial funding for vision care.

As you are aware, the Ontario Association of Optometrists (OAO) recently initiated job action by rendering patient-initiated partial eye exams to alternate providers, affecting optometrists, patients, ophthalmology and disrupting the delivery of cost-effective eye care in Ontario.

Additionally, the COVID-19 pandemic has put additional strain on these health professionals, many of whom are small business owners. Physical distancing measures, while a necessary measure at this time, means that optometrists are seeing fewer patients and are only allowed to operate at 50 per cent capacity than before the pandemic. Understandably, many practices are struggling to re-open or remain open.

I urge you to support Ontario's optometrists and work with the OAO to provide the necessary financial support to prevent optometrists from closing their clinics, reducing vitally important access to vision care across the province.

Sincerely,

John Fraser, MPP  
Ottawa South

CC: Doug Derabbie, Director, Government and Public Affairs,  
Ontario Association of Optometrists  
Dr. Shawn Charland, Optometrist & Partner, eyeDOCS Ottawa & Westboro  
Dr. Patrick Monaghan, Optometrist, Barrhaven Optometric Centre