

## Patenaude, Lindsey

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**From:** Patenaude, Lindsey  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 26, 2021 11:56 AM  
**To:** Patenaude, Lindsey  
**Subject:** FW: Sept 1st Deadline for Ontario Government to Save Eye Care  
**Attachments:** Provincial comparison of government exam fees.png

**From:** Stephynie Sargent <[StephynieSargent16@neco.edu](mailto:StephynieSargent16@neco.edu)>  
**Sent:** August 25, 2021 9:15 AM  
**To:** Mayor Shared Mailbox <[mayor@clarington.net](mailto:mayor@clarington.net)>; Hooper, Ron <[rhooper@clarington.net](mailto:rhooper@clarington.net)>; [john.henry@durham.ca](mailto:john.henry@durham.ca)  
**Cc:** [oaopresident@optom.on.ca](mailto:oaopresident@optom.on.ca); Doug Derabbe <[dderabbe@optom.on.ca](mailto:dderabbe@optom.on.ca)>  
**Subject:** Sept 1st Deadline for Ontario Government to Save Eye Care

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### EXTERNAL

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Dear Mayor Adrian Foster & Councillor Ron Hooper  
& Regional Chair John Henry,

Please share this letter with the council and Durham Region. Thank you.

As a local optometrist, I am writing to request that the Clarington Council and Durham Region call on the Ontario Government to address the chronic underfunding of eye care.

For more than 30 years, previous Ontario governments have ignored our requests for a sustainable funding system.

Did you know in 1989 the Ontario government paid \$39.15 for OHIP-insured eye exams? Did you know that today, 32 years later, the government only contributes an average of \$44.65 per exam? That's a 14% increase over three decades! With over four million services performed annually under OHIP, this level of funding is not sustainable.

If the government doesn't act before September 1st, 2021, millions of Ontarians are at risk of losing their access to eye care. I'm concerned about what this will mean for my patients and my community. We know the ones who will be impacted most are children, seniors and adults with diabetes or certain eye diseases. Due to this lack of funding, optometrists are also limited in their ability to invest in their practices and access to eye care in rural areas is especially threatened. This is not acceptable.

As the most populated province in the country, compared to other provinces with publicly funded optometry services, Ontario is by far the lowest funded. For example, the funding for seniors' eye exams would have to increase more than 60% to reach the next lowest-funded province, Manitoba, and by more than 125% to reach the next lowest-funded, Québec. (see attachment)

Although it is the province that needs to fix the issue, the underfunding of eye care affects municipalities too. Optometrists are simply asking for a binding, formal negotiation process and reforms to OHIP that no longer require optometrists to have to pay out of their pocket to see patients. We are focused on creating a solution for sustainable eye care in the future.

Optometrists are located in over 200 communities, making us the most accessible primary eye care professionals in the healthcare system. In many of these locations, we are the **only** providers of comprehensive general eye care. This is why municipalities must stand up for their residents and help protect access to OHIP optometry services.

So far, five municipalities (Town of Oakville, Town of Fort Frances, Town of Rainy River, City of Cambridge, Municipality of North Perth) have passed motions in support of OHIP optometry services. I'm requesting that my municipal and regional council stand up for eye care by asking the provincial government to commit to reforms so that optometrists are compensated fairly compared to their colleagues all across Canada. Please pass such a motion as soon as possible so that residents can continue to access the quality eye care that they deserve.

Should you have any questions, or would like more information, please let me know. My patients and I hope that we can count on your support.

Sincerely,

Dr. Stephynie Sargent – Bowmanville Eye Care & Avis Optometric Centre  
Dr. Duen Wong – Bowmanville Eye Care & Whitby Vision Care  
Dr. Fanny Szutu – Bowmanville Eye Care  
Dr. Amanda Edgar – Bowmanville Eye Care  
Dr. James Stevenson – Bowmanville  
Dr. Anthony Mac – Bowmanville  
Dr. Suhaib Al-Janabi – Bowmanville Eye Centre  
Dr. Briana Baron – Bowmanville Eye Centre  
Dr. Diana Le – Bowmanville Eye Centre & Brooklin Optometric Centre  
Dr. Amy Stoter – Clarington Optometric Centre  
Dr. Pardie Hamboyan – Clarington Optometric Centre  
Dr. Julia Addington – Clarington Optometric Centre  
Dr. Tharshinee Thevabalan – Clarington Optometric Centre  
Dr. Karl Lee – Newcastle Eye Care  
Dr. Nora Teo – Newcastle Eye Care  
Dr. Kevin Anderson – Durham Optometric Clinic  
Dr. Farooq Khan – Durham Optometric Clinic  
Dr. Kimberly Avis – Avis Optometric Centre (Courtice)  
Dr. Heather Lane – Avis Optometric Centre  
Dr. Claudia Lee – Whitby Vision Care  
Dr. Tim Lee – Whitby  
Dr. Seema Korla – Ajax Eye Care  
Dr. Adrian Wan – Oshawa  
Dr. Rebecca Horner – Parkview Optometry (Oshawa)  
Dr. Patricia Campbell – Parkview Optometry  
Dr. Dana Blakholmer – Oshawa Optometry  
Dr. Janice Luk - Oshawa Optometry  
Dr. Ashif Abuani – Oshawa

Dr. Stephynie Sargent  
Associate Optometrist

Bowmanville Eye Care  
Avis Optometric Centre

## Provincial Comparison of Senior's Eye Exam Fees

Ontario Schedule of Benefits Elements	Ontario	Alberta	Manitoba	Quebec	
Relevant history, visual acuity, ocular motility, refraction, advice/instruction	\$47.00 V406	\$80.70 B650	\$45.02 8545	\$54.75 9001	
Ophthalmoscopy				\$4.00 9024	
Slit lamp exam					
Visual field by confrontation field*			\$8.00 9007		
Tonometry*			\$10.89 9726		
Dilated fundus examination*			\$56.32 B900	\$21.27 9728	\$33.15 9020
Supplement for 75 years and up					\$7.00 9021
<b>Total Fee</b>	<b>\$47.00</b>	<b>\$137.02</b>	<b>\$77.18</b>	<b>\$106.90</b>	

\*required in accordance with generally accepted professional standards

## Provincial Comparison of Children's Eye Exam Fees

Ontario Schedule of Benefits Elements	Ontario	Alberta	Manitoba	Quebec	
Relevant history, visual acuity, ocular motility, refraction, advice/instruction	\$42.50 V404	\$56.32 B650	\$45.02 8545	\$54.75 9001	
Ophthalmoscopy				\$4.00 9024	
Slit lamp exam					
Visual field by confrontation field*					
Tonometry*			\$10.89 9726		
Dilated fundus examination*			\$56.32 B900	\$21.27 9728	\$33.15 9020
<b>Total Fee</b>			<b>\$42.50</b>	<b>\$112.64</b>	<b>\$77.18</b>

\*required in accordance with generally accepted professional standards