

Optometry Inaugurates Save Your Vision Week in Canada

Save Your Vision Week was officially inaugurated in Canada with a noontime reception, Friday, March 1, 1985 in the nation's capital. The event was attended by the Minister of National Health and Welfare, the Hon. Jake Epp, the Honorary Chairperson for Save Your Vision Week 1985, Linda Thom, the President and Council of the Canadian Association of Optometrists and several Outaouais region optometrists.

Arranged as an informal reception and luncheon at the Ottawa Convention Centre, the event did include two brief formal presentations. One, to the Minister, was a plaque commemorating the inauguration of Save Your Vision Week in Canada. The second, to Linda Thom, included a similar commemorative plaque and a CAO cheque for \$700.00 to the Shooting Federation of Canada's Ed Kelly Fund. The Fund, named after Linda Thom's long-time personal coach, who died of cancer in April, 1984, was set up by the Federation to assist in the development of Canadian competitive shooters, coaches and officials.

In acknowledging their respective presentations, both Mr. Epp and Mrs. Thom paid tribute to the work that was done by the profession of Optometry in

creating and promoting the concept of preventive vision care through Save Your Vision Week in Canada. Citing Linda Thom's accomplishment as Canada's first gold medalist (in the women's sport pistol competition) at the 1984 summer Olympic Games in Los Angeles, Mr. Epp said that she was an ideal representative of the relationship between good vision and achievement.

Mrs. Thom also expressed the hope that Optometry and the Shooting Federation could work towards meeting the vision care needs of the 1988 Canadian Olympic team as well.

CAO President Dr. Ralph Rosere expressed his personal thanks, and those of the Association, to the Minister, to the Honorary Chairperson, to the three other Federal MP's present and to the Outaouais region optometrists who were able to attend. He said that he was delighted to see the inauguration of Save Your Vision Week in Canada, particularly with its sports focus in 1985. (Members interested in developing Sports Vision as a Section of CAO should note that Dr. Rosere will be undertaking the formal establishment of such a section at the 1985 Biennial Congress.)

MJ DiCola



Photos: Top (l-r): CAO President Dr. Ralph Rosere, SYVW Honorary Chairperson Linda Thom and Federal Health Minister the Hon. Jake Epp, following presentation of commemorative plaques.

Bottom: The Hon. Jake Epp (l) shares a lighter moment with CAO Executive Director Gérard Lambert during the reception.



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