



# COMMUNIQUE

## EDITOR'S NOTE

This section of *The Canadian Journal of Optometry* is a selection of excerpts, highlights and précis of material which has appeared in *The CAO Communiqué*.

*Communiqué* is a national Bulletin issued by the Ottawa administrative office of the Canadian Association of Optometrists. It is circulated, approximately once every two months, to current members of provincial optometric Association and Society Councils, both Canadian Schools of Optometry and the past national Presidents of CAO.

The opinions quoted in the items which appear here are not necessarily those of either the Canadian Journal of Optometry or the Canadian Association of Optometrists.

CAO members interested in following up on any of the items which appear in this section are invited to contact directly their provincial CAO Councillor.

Cette section de la *Revue Canadienne d'Optométrie* est consacrée à une sélection d'extraits, de points saillants et de résumés des titres ayant paru dans le *Communiqué*.

Le *Communiqué* est un bulletin national provenant du bureau national de l'Association canadienne des optométristes à Ottawa. Il est diffusé, environ tous les deux mois, aux personnes couramment membres des conseils des associations et sociétés d'optométrie des provinces, aux deux écoles d'optométrie du Canada et aux anciens présidents nationaux de l'ACO.

Les opinions exprimées dans les articles reproduits ici ne sont pas nécessairement partagées par la *Revue Canadienne d'Optométrie*, ni par l'Association canadienne des optométristes.

Les membres de l'ACO qui désirent approfondir les sujets traités dans cette section sont priés de communiquer directement avec leur conseiller provincial de l'ACO.

## Competition, Lobbying Under Review

In Ottawa recently, Bill C-91, the Competition Act has been tabled. The Bill, according to Consumer and Corporate Affairs Minister Michel Côté, is designed "to protect the marketplace in order to give consumers the widest selection of goods at the lowest possible price", as well as provide Canadian business "with a fair opportunity to compete".

The Act will affect current legislation governing mergers, specialization agreements and, at the same time, will allow the federal government to step in and end "anti-competitive practices" as may be identified by a Competition Tribunal also to be established under the new Bill.

Meanwhile, the Hon. Michel Côté also tabled recently a discussion paper on lobbying and the mandatory registration of paid lobbyists in an effort to maintain "open channels" between the federal government and business, and between private interest groups and the public. The discussion paper highlights four underlying principles which, according to Côté, form the basis for any proposals to regulate lobbying in Canada: openness, clarity, accessibility and administrative sim-

plicity. The paper also discusses the experience of other countries in this area and examines various registration systems in terms of their applicability to the Canadian circumstance.

## Canada Labour Code Amendments

Changes to the Canada Labour Code designed to combat job-related accidents were finally proclaimed by the federal government on April 1, 1986.

Labour related accidents cost Canada an estimated 1,000 fatalities and \$2.5 billion in compensation claims annually. The new amendments essentially give workers the right to refuse hazardous assignments on the job, as well as making mandatory the establishment of health and safety committees in workplace where there are 20 or more employees. For the first time in Canadian labour history, the amendments also extend the Code and its related protections to Canada's 300,000 federal public servants.

## Increased Funding for University Research

Science and Technology Minister Frank Oberle and Secretary of State Benoit Bouchard announced in a joint news conference that funds available

to the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC), the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) and the Medical Research Council (MRC) will be increased by an estimated \$1 billion to \$3.4 billion over the next five years.

Oberle added that the increased funding would be made available to the country's university granting Councils and includes a formula for a one to one matching by government of private sector investment up to a maximum of 6 per cent of each Council's annual budget (an amount which presently runs to some \$369 million per year in total).

## Schema Research Survey Wrongly Suggests CAO Endorsement

Throughout the month of January, Canadian OD's began receiving a questionnaire from Schema Research Limited. In a cover letter, Schema claimed that each provincial optometric Association had been informed of the survey and that Schema Research adhered to the Code of Ethics as defined by the Professional Marketing Research Society.

On January 30th, CAO contacted the President of Schema to advise him

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of the national Association's policy with respect to surveys, as well as to request a copy of the finished survey. (According to Schema's President, the survey was not being conducted for any one particular client.)

On February 28th, Schema sent another questionnaire to all those Canadian OD's who had not yet returned the first. In a cover letter sent with the second questionnaire, Schema stated, "The Canadian Association of Optometrists has requested the information when the study is completed and your cooperation will help ensure that the data gives a true and accurate representation of trends in Optometry in Canada."

The implied endorsement of, in the first instance, the various provincial optometric Associations and, in the second, CAO, is erroneous. Although CAO has requested a copy of the tabulated results, neither CAO nor the provincial Associations of Optometry have endorsed the Schema survey.

## CAO Pamphlet Sales Top Quarter Million!

In only three short months, sales of CAO's new series of English language pamphlets have topped the quarter million mark, and that in only nine Canadian provinces. (An agreement with l'Association des Optométristes du Québec does not include that province's OD's on the distribution list for the new series, which is a translation of an existing AOQ pamphlet series.)

Ontario OD's lead the way, with a total of just over 95,000 pamphlets ordered, followed by Alberta (45,400); Saskatchewan (23,350); British Columbia (22,600); Manitoba (15,200); Nova Scotia (14,600); New Brunswick (12,100); Newfoundland (10,800) and Prince Edward Island (1,700).

An order form for the eight new pamphlets was included in the March, 1986 issue of *The Canadian Journal of Optometry*.

## CAO Gets Two Video PSA's for the Price of One

Following the January 28th explosion of the NASA shuttle *Challenger*, CAO had to re-evaluate its planned video Public Service Announcement being produced for Save Your Vision Week, 1986.

Originally, a PSA had been planned to include footage taken outside the shuttle on one of the missions involving EVA (Extra Vehicular Activity), reflecting the tie-in to Marc Garneau as Canada's first astronaut and Honorary Chairperson for Save Your Vision Week 1986. The *Challenger* disaster, however, resulted in a suspension of those plans and a fresh script was drawn up incorporating a number of Canadian scenes from across the country.

Viewers who have seen the PSA will not know that this is, in fact, one of two PSA's developed by CAO during the time originally budgeted for the Save Your Vision Week production schedule. It was felt by all concerned that the NASA footage was simply too

beautiful to abandon and a second PSA was produced using it, and the Save Your Vision Week theme, "Life is Worth Seeing!"

Following the next successful shuttle mission, CAO will release the second PSA to Canadian TV stations, in effect a completely new video campaign for the cost of duplicating and mailing.

## RK Report Featured in Latest Communiqué

An eight-page report on Radial Keratotomy, drawn from the US publication *Optometric Management*, was featured in the latest issue of the *CAO Communiqué*.

Unquestionably, the issue of experimental surgery on a healthy organ is a hotly discussed topic in the US, as evidenced by the material in this article. Optometrists appear, for the most part, to be taking the position of learning as much as is known about RK and passing along the facts, as well as the pro and con opinions, to any patients making enquiries.

The US Air Force, meanwhile, is not so ambivalent. Current Air Force regulations expressly prohibit enlistment of anyone who has undergone RK surgery, be it for active duty, reserve or national guard status or admission to the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs. In addition, any current active duty personnel who undergo the surgery will immediately have their flight status revoked.

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