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Editor-in-Chief

I am writing this editorial in Sydney, Australia as I prepare to fly home from successfully observing the total solar eclipse that occurred over Western Australia on April 20, 2023. Thousands of “eclipse chasers” from all over the world descended on the small community of Exmouth to witness this event. For me, it was the first international travel since the pandemic hit, and seeing many familiar faces watching the eclipse felt very good. Having experienced 30 solar eclipses, of which 20 were total, over the last 60 years, it was also good to see the role our Australian colleagues played in providing reliable eye safety advice to the public. In the month leading up to the eclipse, a special solar eclipse eye safety webpage was posted on their public outreach website [goodvisionforlife.com.au](http://goodvisionforlife.com.au), and a special press release was issued a week prior. Optometry Australia also provided links to the Astronomical Society of Australia who in turn provided advice on safe viewing techniques. I provided much of the background information in the preparations for the 2017 Great American Solar Eclipse with the American Astronomical Society and the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada. Unfortunately, the eclipse webpages of the Western Australia government were not nearly as helpful. This is something that we need to consider for the solar eclipses that will occur in Canadian skies in October 2023 and April 2024. If skies are clear on the afternoon of April 8, 2024, much of Eastern Canada will experience either totality or a deep partial eclipse after school is out, but most of Canada will experience at least a partial solar eclipse during the day too. Canadian optometrists will have an important role in preparing the public to view the eclipse safely with appropriate viewing devices and helping parents to prepare for the event. Close supervision of children viewing the solar eclipse is extremely important.

While traveling, I received the results of the latest quarterly CAO members survey that was conducted at the end of March 2023 which provided useful feedback about *CJO*. I would like to thank concerned CAO members for taking the time to respond to the survey. It was encouraging to know that the majority of respondents like what the *CJO* editorial board is doing and that the current content is most useful and informative. We also have some critical comments that must be addressed, like missing content in some areas of clinical care. We depend on the clinicians and academics of our community to provide and print such content, so we do encourage all our readers and our fellow optometrists to submit papers and case reports to us. For instance, our readers would really appreciate learning about low vision and binocular vision. It would also be good to receive the results of COETF-funded research projects where interpretation of the results in the context of Canadian optometric practice is included. Over the past couple of years, we have also printed articles that touch on regulatory and compensation issues, and we would like to continue to do so.

What this boils down to is getting more Canadian optometrists involved with the Journal. Fourteen respondents expressed interest in writing an article or becoming a peer reviewer, and I will be contacting them accordingly. A common complaint in the comments section of the survey was the lack of time for members to read the *CJO*. The demands of practice, family, community and personal interests often prevent greater engagement, but to have so many offers to help is truly encouraging. Thank you! ●