

From: [Pilon, Janet](#)
To: [Kolar, Loren](#)
Subject: FW: Urgent Request to Save Eye Care for Hamilton Residents
Date: Thursday, August 19, 2021 8:07:47 AM
Importance: High

From: Eisenberger, Fred <Fred.Eisenberger@hamilton.ca>
Sent: Wednesday, August 18, 2021 6:57 PM
To: DL - Council & Support Staff <dlcouncil@hamilton.ca>
Subject: Fwd: Urgent Request to Save Eye Care for Hamilton Residents

FYI. My response to the optometrist email and action we have and are taking.
Cheers Fred

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Eisenberger, Fred" <Fred.Eisenberger@hamilton.ca>
Date: August 18, 2021 at 6:55:05 PM EDT
To: Kathleen Hill and Tyler Brown [REDACTED]
Cc: Ward 1 Office <ward1@hamilton.ca>, "Wilson, Maureen" <Maureen.Wilson@hamilton.ca>, Office of the Mayor <mayor@hamilton.ca>, "Omazic, Drina" <Drina.Omazic@hamilton.ca>, "Cutler, Christopher" <Christopher.Cutler@hamilton.ca>
Subject: Re: Urgent Request to Save Eye Care for Hamilton Residents

Thank you for your email. I have been previously contacted by other optometrists and my staff are preparing to bring the issue to the next board of health meeting for consideration.

I understand that today the province has committed more funding to improve the fee structure and that negotiations are continuing to resolve the stated inequity in the fee structure as you have pointed out.

I will ask my office staff to get back to you with the date of the next public board of health meeting and how you might delegate on this issue.

Sincerely,
Mayor Fred

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 18, 2021, at 6:41 PM, Kathleen Hill and Tyler Brown

 wrote:

August 18, 2021

Dear Maureen Wilson
Councillor - Ward 1
cc: Mayor Fred Eisenberger

On behalf of 70 local optometrists, who are the primary eye care providers for many of your constituents, we are writing to request that the Hamilton Council call on the Ontario Government to immediately enter into formal negotiations and 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.

Although it is the province that needs to fix the issue, the underfunding of eye care affects municipalities too.

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.

We are requesting that our municipal 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 us know. We and our patients hope that we can count on your support.

Sincerely,

Drs. Kathleen Hill & Tyler Brown
**Co-Presidents of the Hamilton District Society of
Optometrists
Ancaster Eye Clinic**

On behalf of the following optometrists:

Dr. Sheldon Salaba
Dr. Kelly Anderson
Dr. Brian Paul
**Advanced Vision Eyewear
Boutique**

Dr. Meet Chande
West Mountain Eye Clinic

Dr. Jennifer Patriquin
Dr. Jan van Wyngaarden
Valleytown Eye Care

Dr. Tracy McMurter
FyiDoctors Ancaster

Dr. Breanne Facey
Dr. Tracy Brodie
Dr. Anjali Pathak
Perspective Vision

Dr. Derrick Shebib

Dr. Raj Devram

Dr. Kevin Ahokas
Dr. Anukool Chadda
Mountain Eye Care

Dr. Daina Sanderson
Dr. Mariam Hermiz
Dr. Laura Thomas
Dr. Betty Johnson
Dr. Katie Mann
Dundas Optometry Clinic

Dr. Unyong Tina Jang &
Associates
Eastgate Eye Clinic

Dr. Gursharn Bering

Dr. Mark Dakak
Stoney Creek Eye Care

Dr. Kristyn Pozzer
Dr. Patricia Fink Optometry

Dr. Todd Ruhl
**Flamborough Family
Eyecare**

Dr. Susana Sebestyen
Sea Best Enterprises Inc.

Dr. Graehem Sayer
Dr. Aynsley Tinkham
LUX Eye Care

Dr. Karen Bochnak

Andy D'Ortenzio
Sam D'Ortenzio
Family Eye Care

Dr. Christine Misener
Dr. Zara Akhter
Dr. Judy Parks
Ancaster Eye Clinic

Dr. Cynthia Bahoshy
Brantford Eye Care

Dr. Marnie Richmond
Dr. Gabrielle Gilbert
Dr. Derrick Thornborrow
Dr. Lyndsey Kay
**Waterdown Optometric
Clinic**

Dr. Aman Dhaliwal
Dr. Dhaliwal & Associates

Dr. Yasamin Al Hashimi
Village Creek Optometry

Dr. Jun Chuong
**Dr. Otto CW Lee &
Associates**

Dr. Bitu Moeinifar
Dr. Richard Combden
Spectrum Eye Care

Dr. George De Rubeis
Dr. Felicia De Rubeis
Dr. Jeffrey McAlear
Dr. Michael Starcevic
Dr. Kristin Person
Dr. Amy Reid
***Optometry Clinic of Stoney
Creek***

Dr. Lorelei Zeiler

Dr. Sam Alfano

Dr. Camilo Garzon
Clarity Optometry

Dr. Jonathan Hepburn
Creative Vision Optical

Dr. Uma Ratnasingam

Dr. Jessie Chu

Dr. Michelle Tai

Dr. Petra Costa

Dr. Vikram Singh
Dr. Priya Maharaj
Dr. Victoria Cadman
Ancaster Family Eyecare

Dr. Jamie Cho
Binbrook Eye Care

Dr. Charlie Alfano
Freelton Eye Care

Dr. Amanda Beck

Dr. Edward V. Eves

Dr. Doris Chow
Dr. Nardone & Associates

Dr. Jasjeet Shinger
Dr. Casthoory Viswanathan
Perception Eyecare

Dr. Phil Vrkljan

Dr. Carolyn Kwiat