

OPTOMETRIC CONTINUING EDUCATION FUND 2018

The Continuing Education Fund (the Fund) has been established by the British Columbia Association of Optometrists with funds received from the provincial government under the agreement between the provincial government and the Association signed December 4, 2015.

Purpose of the Fund

The purpose of the Fund is to encourage optometrists to maintain and enhance their skills through continuing education by financially assisting optometrists with the cost of continuing education. The Fund provides financial assistance for courses and events which have a continuing optometric education purpose and which have been approved by the Association.

Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible to apply for funding support, an optometrist must:

- Be a full registrant of the College of Optometrists of British Columbia in good standing in the year in which the application is made.
- Be enrolled in the Medical Services Plan (MSP); have an active MSP billing number and be receiving payment for services from MSP.

Eligible Education Programs

Educational programs which will qualify for reimbursement are Canadian-based optometric educational courses and events which are accepted by the Association. A Canadian-based optometric education course is defined as an educational program offered by an organization that is located and funded within Canada. Education programs must be approved in accordance with policy established by the College of Optometrists of British Columbia.

Educational programs organized and offered by the Association will be eligible for 100% reimbursement. All other eligible education programs will qualify for 75% reimbursement.

Application Criteria

- Applications for disbursement from the Fund in any calendar year must be received on or before October 31 in each year. Educational programs attended after October 31 will be eligible for the next year.
- There is no carry-over of an optometrist's annual CE Fund eligible amount.
- Optometrists must provide supporting documentation that they have attended and successfully completed the educational program.
- Reimbursement will be paid according to the amount submitted to a maximum of \$400.00. The amount of the Fund reimbursement will be set annually by the Association. Applications received within the year will be processed after October 31st.
- An administration fee of an amount not exceeding 75% of the available annual reimbursement from the Fund will be assessed to optometrists who are not members of the Association to offset the work required by Association staff to verify current registration with the College of Optometrists, enrollment in MSP and payment for services from MSP and the associated costs to establish and maintain records for fund payment.