



CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF OPTOMETRISTS
ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE DES OPTOMÉTRISTES

The Canadian Association of Optometrists (CAO) is the professional association that represents Doctors of Optometry in Canada. The Association, founded in 1941 and formally incorporated in 1948, currently consists of members from each of the 10 provincial optometric associations. Today, the CAO represents over 8,370 Canadian optometrists, optometry students and Canadian Certified Optometric Assistants. CAO's primary mission is to act as the national voice of optometry and optometrists, and to help strengthen the profession across Canada. Its mission also includes enhancing the quality, availability and accessibility of eye, vision, and related health care, promoting the independent and ethical decision-making of its members, and assisting optometrists in practicing successfully in accordance with the highest standards of patient care. We are currently searching for a qualified professional for the key role of

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Located in Ottawa and reporting to the CEO, the Director of Advocacy and Government Relations is responsible for managing CAO's government relations. This is an opportunity to advance and make an impact on the vision health agenda for all Canadians. The incumbent leads the development, implementation and evaluation of CAO's government relations strategy that sets out clear policy priorities, targets and strategies to optimize CAO's interface with Canada's elected officials and Civil Servants at federal, provincial and territorial levels. The Director works in collaboration with the CEO, other CAO staff and volunteers and GR Consultant (as required) to develop and implement policy instruments that profile CAO's position on policy issues with members, health stakeholders, parliamentarians and relevant decision-makers. The Director is responsible for developing reports, communications and presentations to government, House of Commons and Senate committees and oversees the monitoring of relevant government activities.

The ideal candidate will have demonstrated their strong understanding of political and government processes, the federal policy cycle and current political priorities, especially as they relate to health policy issues. Whether in a proven leadership role from business, government, consulting or an association setting, and leveraging a university degree in a relevant discipline and/or equivalent combination of education and senior level experience, this role will require outstanding people skills and the ability to work effectively with a wide range of constituencies – members, health and industry associations, stakeholders, provincial, national, and international partners, government and the media. Knowledge of health promotion and administration, public administration or political science will be key. Excellent communications skills, both written and spoken, are necessary (bilingualism is highly preferred), as is the ability to develop and coordinate multiple projects and events. A consensus builder and collaborator, the candidate will have superior presentation, influencing and diplomatic skills in leading and managing their portfolio agendas. We invite you to visit the website at www.opto.ca.

Should you wish to learn more about this impactful leadership opportunity, please call (in strictest confidence) Mike Lupiano at 613-862-2999, Nicole Poirier at 613-915-5030, or email your CV and letter of introduction to: Cao.advocacy@lupianosearch.com.

We thank all applicants for their interest, however only those under consideration for the role will be contacted. The Canadian Association of Optometrists (CAO) is committed to being an equal opportunity employer. Please advise in advance if you require any accommodation during the application or selection process. CAO is committed to employment equity and encourages candidates to self-identify as visible minorities; people from culturally diverse backgrounds; people of all gender identities and sexual orientations; Indigenous peoples; and persons with disabilities.

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