



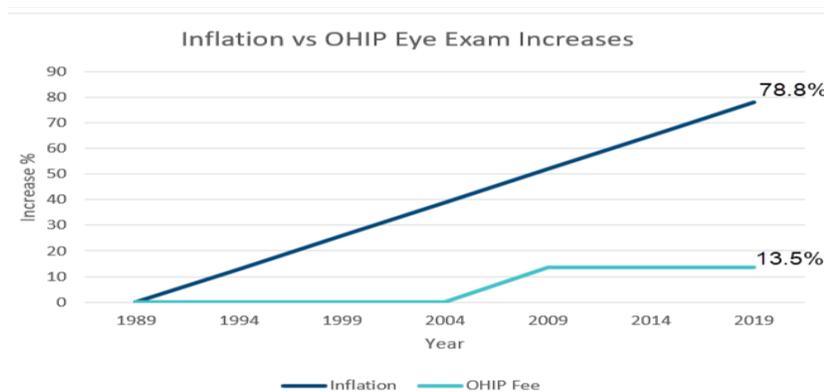
Eye Care is at Risk

September 1st Job Action

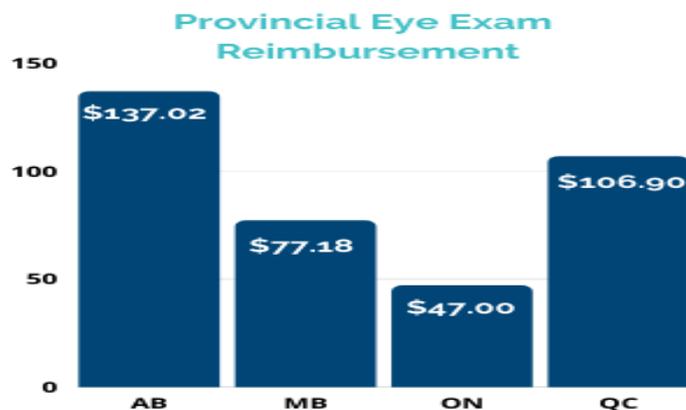
Beginning September 1st, optometrists across Ontario will stop providing OHIP insured eye exams for children, seniors and adults with OHIP covered eye conditions.

Why Job Action?

For over 30 years, successive Ontario governments have ignored optometrists. In 1989 the fee for an OHIP insured eye exam was \$39.15; today, over 32 years later, it is on average \$44.65. This has not kept up with inflation and covers less than half the cost (including rent, staff, utilities, equipment, taxes, and supplies) to provide an eye exam. Every time we perform an OHIP insured eye exam we do so at a loss. This is not sustainable.



Ontario is the Lowest Paid in Canada



Ontario is the lowest paid in Canada. Our fees would have to increase by over 60% to reach the next lowest province. The chart above compares Ontario to other provinces that fully fund eye care.

The Government's Offer

You may have read the government has offered us an 8.48% increase in our fees. For a senior's eye exam that would raise our fee to \$51.00. While that seems generous, it still leaves us more than 30% lower than Manitoba, the next lowest paid province. Unfortunately, with an inflation rate of nearly 80%, an 8.48% increase does not make up for 32 years of neglect.

We need government to prioritize and come up with a method to properly fund eye care allowing it to be sustainable for years to come.

How Does this Affect Me?

If you are a senior (65+), a child (19 and under) or an adult with OHIP covered eye conditions we will not be able to see you. If you have an appointment booked during the upcoming months our team will reach out to you and put you on a priority booking list so we can see you when we return to providing OHIP insured services. You will be contacted the Friday before your appointment in the event your appointment needs to be cancelled. Non OHIP services such as glasses, contact lenses, third party exams such as MTO forms are not affected by this.

If you are between the ages of 20-64 (and do not have an OHIP covered condition) we can still see you for an eye exam.

Regardless of age, if you have an emergency, contact us and we will direct you as to how to get taken care of.

Can I pay for the eye exam?

No. Unfortunately, provincial law prevents anyone from paying for any OHIP insured service, even if you have your own insurance.

Legally optometry can either do the service for what OHIP pays or not do the service. No other options exist for providing care for OHIP patients in the current system.

How Can I Help?

Please visit [SaveEyeCare.ca](https://www.saveeyecare.ca) to sign our online petition and/or contact your MPP.

Grey-Bruce MPP
Bill Walker
Email: bill.walkerco@pc.ola.org
Phone: 519-371-2421

Simcoe-Grey MPP
Jim Wilson
Email: jwilson@ola.org
Phone: 705-446-1090