

Robert, Norman and Karen's eyesight was saved by a BC Optometrist

You may not be so lucky.

On May 1, the BC government plans to become the only jurisdiction in North America to eliminate eye health regulations that are in place to protect the public. BC Health Minister Kevin Falcon says there's no evidence to show that regular eye health exams improve health outcomes.

Robert, Norman and Karen would disagree.

Robert LeBlanc

Vancouver, BC
57 years old at time
of diagnosis

Had no symptoms and no family history of eye disease. During a routine bi-annual eye exam, a BC optometrist identified a pinhole tear in his retina. He was diagnosed with thinning of the retina and was provided with laser treatment by a specialist to rectify the problem.

If not identified early, the retina can detach completely, causing sight loss in the eye.

Norman Ferris

Winfield, BC
64 years old at time
of diagnosis

Wore glasses, had no symptoms and no family history of eye disease. During a routine eye exam, a BC optometrist detected signs of glaucoma.

Glaucoma is the second leading cause of blindness in Canada. The only way to diagnose it is through a comprehensive eye exam.

Karen Terrillon

Sunshine Coast, BC
46 years old at time
of diagnosis

Experienced vision problems and had a sight test by an optician. Told she had astigmatism in both eyes and needed glasses. When she found out a sight test is not a thorough eye exam, she went to a BC optometrist, who detected cataracts and retinal haemorrhaging.

If left untreated, cataracts result in reduced vision and retinal haemorrhaging can lead to blindness.

Eye exams do more than tell if you see well. They are also a vital part of your overall health. Join our Facebook group, **Speak Out for Eye Health**, write your MLA to voice your concern, or to find an optometrist, visit whatcouldbemoreimportant.com



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