

Scholarship Opportunity for First Nations, Inuit, and Métis

Application for the 2025-2026 CCOA Program

Through collaboration with the **Canadian Optometric Education Trust Fund (COETF)**, the Canadian Association of Optometrists is pleased to offer funding to support the training of Indigenous people through the Canadian Certified Optometric Assistant program (CCOA).

Mentored by a **CAO member optometrist**, the successful candidate receives on-the-job training tailored to becoming an Optometric Assistant.

Funding includes:

- CCOA Program registration fee (value of \$1999)
- CCOA Workshop registration (value of \$500)
- **Up to \$1000** for travel and accommodations to CCOA Workshop

Eligibility Criteria:

Applicants must be **currently employed by a CAO member optometrist**.

Applicants must identify as Métis, Inuit, or First Nations individuals and submit one of the following:

- Treaty or Status card
- Métis Nation citizenship card
- Inuit Beneficiary card
- Band membership card

CCOA Program start date: September 1, 2025

CCOA Program end date: June 6, 2026

CAO is dedicated to fostering inclusivity and diversity within the field of optometry.

Deadline for
application is

**August 15th,
2025**



opto.ca/ccoa



613-235-7924
888-263-4676



ccoa@opto.ca

Name of Candidate:

Name of Band or Indigenous
Community:

Address:

Name of Sponsoring Optometrist:

Address of Clinic:

CANDIDATE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA: CHECK ALL THAT APPLY

Identify as Métis, Inuit, or First Nations. Proof of identity and residency are required with the application.

Currently employed by a CAO member optometrist.

Legally entitled to work following relevant provincial or territorial laws and regulations.

Not be receiving Employment Insurance (EI) benefits.

SECTION TO BE COMPLETED BY CANDIDATE

How do you envision using this education and skills to positively impact your indigenous community or contribute to indigenous issues and causes?

What are your long-term goals and aspirations, and how do you see this scholarship helping you achieve them?



How do you plan to integrate indigenous perspectives, knowledge, and practices into your role as an optometric assistant?

Candidate Signature:

Date:

SECTION TO BE COMPLETED BY THE SPONSORING OPTOMETRIST:

How will you mentor and provide the OA with the necessary experience to meet the CCOA program criteria successfully?

How will you\do you foster diversity and inclusion in your clinic, ensuring an inclusive environment that values and respects individuals from all backgrounds, promotes equal opportunities, and actively seeks diverse perspectives? equal opportunities, and actively seeks diverse perspectives?

OD Statement of Interest:

I will mentor and provide the OA with all the necessary experience to successfully meet the CCOA program criteria.

Optometrist Signature:

Date: