



Vision Champion Award Conferred on Waterloo Educator Linda Lemon

OTTAWA, May 25, 2017 – Closing out Vision Health Month activity on a celebratory note, the Canadian Association of Optometrists (CAO) has conferred its annual *Vision Champion Award* on Linda Lemon, a Vision Specialist Teacher with the Waterloo Region District School Board.

The Vision Champion Award was established to recognize an individual or organization outside of the eye health provider community for distinguished service to eye health and vision care that benefits all Canadians.

An educator with 38 years of experience, Ms. Lemon has spent a decade engaging in PhD studies in Vision Anomalies and Academic Potential from the School of Optometry, University of Waterloo. She took what she learned and developed a unique program in partnership the School Board and the School of Optometry to provide a comprehensive vision and binocular vision assessment to select children who might not otherwise have the opportunity.

“I was absolutely elated when I learned that I had won the Vision Champion Award,” said Ms. Lemon. “I am so passionate about my work, because I know that with optometric intervention and the appropriate accommodations within the school environment, children living with binocular vision conditions can succeed to their maximum potential. This has really been my life’s work for the past 20 years, so to have my effort acknowledged in this way is such an honour.”

“We know that 80% of learning is visual, so identifying vision issues early is crucial to ensure a child’s learning potential,” notes Dr. Barry Thienes, President of the Association. “Ms. Lemon’s efforts to educate teachers about the implications of vision issues and recommend how their issues can be resolved are commendable. Her personal and professional commitment and dedication make her such a worthy recipient of our award.”

The Canadian Association of Optometrists advocates for annual comprehensive eye exams for children from the time they are babies.

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About the Canadian Association of Optometrists

The Canadian Association of Optometrists (CAO) is the national voice of optometry, dedicated to collaboratively advancing the highest standard of primary eye care through the promotion of optimal vision and eye health. For more information, go to opto.ca.

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