Street Lighting

Background

Many streets and roadways in Canada are changing their approach to lighting. Numerous regions are exchanging traditional street lighting in favour of LED technology and fixtures. While the new technology offers lower maintenance costs and reduced energy consumption, LED lighting may negatively impact eye health and vision.

Policy Issue

Most LED lights emit a cool white light that is brighter and more likely to create glare than traditional lighting. LED lights can also emit a large amount of blue light which is known to scatter in the atmosphere and make it harder for the human eye to focus. This glare may be especially debilitating for drivers and pedestrians with less than perfect vision.

Policy Position

As decision-makers consider the cost and the environmental impact of lighting solutions for streets and roadways, the Canadian Association of Optometrists recommends they should also attempt to choose lighting and lighting distribution that reduces light pollution and glare, and limits high energy blue light emissions.

References:

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