



## 2018 Vision Champion Award Conferred on Senator Percy Downe

**OTTAWA, May 8, 2018** – The Canadian Association of Optometrists (CAO) has conferred its annual *Vision Champion Award* on Prince Edward Island Senator Percy Downe, a longtime supporter of efforts to improve eye health and vision care for Canadians coast to coast to coast.

The CAO created the award 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.

Appointed to the Senate in 2003, Senator Downe is currently a member of the National Security and Intelligence Committee of Parliamentarians, the Vice-Chair of the Canada-Europe Parliamentary Association, and former Vice-Chair of the Standing Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade. He has served on a number of Senate Committees with a focus on trade, finance and even parliamentary procedure. Despite not ever having had an assigned responsibility to advance health care issues, Senator Downe has been a committed supporter of eye health and vision care for Canadians for more than a decade.

“I am honoured that the Canadian Association of Optometrists has conferred upon me the 2018 Vision Champion Award,” said Senator Downe. “It is a privilege to support efforts that put the patient at the center of integrated care delivery, which is something the Association does for Canadians’ eye health. I have been quite happy to lend my support and thank the Association for the acknowledgement of that support.”

“Vision loss can be treated or prevented in 75% of cases,” notes Dr. Michael Dennis, President of the Canadian Association of Optometrists. “Senator Downe understands that this is a good news story and provides a tremendous opportunity for all stakeholders to work collaboratively to reduce Canada’s emerging crisis in eye health. His generous support of the Association’s efforts for better vision care for all Canadians makes him a worthy recipient of our award.”

The Canadian Association of Optometrists advocates for a strong federal presence that will make eye health, vision care and rehabilitation services a population health priority.

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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 eye health and vision care. For more information, go to [opto.ca](http://opto.ca).

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