

Dr. Gordon Hensel

Dr. Gordon Hensel was born and raised in Edmonton, Alberta. After completing a BSc in Biochemistry at the University of Alberta, he went on to graduate from the University of Waterloo, School of Optometry in 1980. After graduation, he practised for one year in Calgary with a group of ophthalmologists and then returned back to Edmonton to start his own private practice, Millcreek Optometry Centre. The practice grew considerably over the years and has recently added Dr. Wesley Prince as a partner.

Dr. Hensel immediately became involved in the profession by being elected to the Council of the Alberta Association of Optometrists (AAO) at his first Annual General Meeting. Gord went on to serve as the youngest President of the AAO from 1985-1986 and achieved his Fellowship in the American Academy of Optometry that same year. Following his reign as AAO President, he served as the Chairman of the Practice Review Board from 1990-2002 and was Chairman of the TPA Committee that organized the didactic and clinical certification for Alberta and Saskatchewan optometrists when they were granted pharmaceutical prescribing privileges in 1996.

He currently serves as the CEO and Registrar of the Alberta College of Optometrists, a position he has held since 2002. In recent years, Dr. Hensel has also served as Chair of the Canadian Optometry Regulatory Authorities (CORA) and during this time has done much to bring this organization to its potential by formalizing processes to strengthen the mandate and effectiveness of the group. His efforts have helped ensure cohesiveness and collective cooperation amongst our national regulatory bodies to ensure the betterment of the profession of optometry.

Gordon is one of the original founding members of Canada's Doctor's of Optometry, a purchasing and marketing group that eventually became Doctor's Eyecare Network. He is also a co-founding member of the Canadian Vision Care charity, an organization that has been operating eye care missions to Third World countries since 1981. CVC is a grass roots initiative that he and some of his classmates began just after graduation that is responsible for improving vision and eye disease in developing countries, providing care to those in need. Optometrists, ophthalmologists and opticians from all over Canada have taken part in these important missions over the years.

Dr. Hensel is also involved in many other organizations, serving on the Cataract Clinical Guideline Committee for the Alberta Medical Association, Past-President of the Edmonton (Host) Lions Club and was a previous board member of the Alberta Agency for International Development. Gord has nurtured relationships with leaders in medicine, pharmacy, dentistry, nursing and ophthalmology while being politically active with bureaucrats and legislators to ensure the positive visibility and advancement of the profession of optometry.

Gord is married to Lorna (Reichenbach) and together are raising three boys, Keith, Michael and Jamie.