

## MOTION

No. 30

### Social assistance vision care

Hannah Bell (Charlottetown-Belvedere) gives notice that she will move, seconded by Trish Altass (Tyne Valley-Sherbrooke), the following Motion:

**WHEREAS** Social Assistance clients are entitled to essential vision assessments and eye care;

**AND WHEREAS** corrected eyesight is integral to daily life and health;

**AND WHEREAS** the Social Assistance policy that sets the rates and conditions for support has not been updated since November 2007;

**AND WHEREAS** the rates currently covered are \$54 for an eye exam and \$115 for frames and lenses, which is not sufficient to meet the actual costs incurred;

**AND WHEREAS** social assistance clients would be unable to pay additional costs, and as a consequence may not be able to afford eye care to correct their vision;

**AND WHEREAS** uncorrected vision can then lead to follow-on issues including falls, for example, which have their own costs to the individual and healthcare system both;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that this House urge government to review this policy and increase the fee paid for visual assessment to align with the current average fee;

**AND THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this House further urge government to increase the coverage for basic frames and lenses or contact lenses to reflect current average cost;

**AND THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that these increases be done in consultation with the PEI College of Optometrists.

Signed by: Hannah Bell

Signed by: Trish Altass

Date: March 12, 2021