

For immediate release

IRIS ACQUIRES NEW OPTOMETRY CLINIC IN WEST VANCOUVER

Laval (August 4, 2016) — IRIS the Visual Group, one of the most respected eye care companies in Canada, has purchased West Vancouver optical store, Optix Eyewear. The new acquisition will result in a partnership with founding Optician, Phil Mattes, who will retain a 25% stake.

Optix eyewear started with a merger of Ambleside Contact Lens (which opened in 1979 in the old Hollyburn Medical building) and Douglas Optical Dispensary Ltd. In 1999 Douglas Optical Dispensary purchased an optician-run optical store several blocks away called Optix. After merging and moving both locations into a new building, Douglas Optical Dispensary changed it's name to Optix Eyewear where it has remained ever since.

Phil Mattes became a licensed Optician in 1976 in Manitoba and moved to BC in 1978. In July 1996 he became a dual licensed Contact lens Fitter, working closely with most of the Ophthalmologists on the North Shore doing specialized contact lens fittings. Phil has spent 3 years on the Inquiry Committee for the College of Opticians of BC and was also board member (and chair) of the Advisory Committee at Douglas College.

In the interim, Optix Eyewear will continue to operate under its historical brand, with the goal of full integration into IRIS in the near future.

"This key acquisition in West Vancouver, BC, will advance our unprecedented growth in 2016," explained Dr. Michael Chaiken, CEO of IRIS. "Our acquisition pipeline is robust and includes both optician and optometric practices looking to join a group which unifies all three O's under a brand that continues to stand for high quality eye care"

About IRIS The Visual Group IRIS is Canada's largest network of integrated eye care professionals including optometrists, opticians and ophthalmologists. Thanks to this distinctive concept and commitment to excellence, IRIS continues to provide high quality eye care services including LASIK and intra-ocular surgery to hundreds of thousands of patients every year across Canada.

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