

## **WestGroupe Celebrates Third Year of Partnership with the University of Waterloo School of Optometry & Vision Science, Supporting Innovation at the Waterloo Eye Institute**

**Montreal, QC – February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2026 – WestGroupe** is proud to mark a significant milestone in the advancement of vision care, celebrating the third year of its collaboration with the **Waterloo Eye Institute (WEI)**. Since the partnership began, WestGroupe has contributed \$65,000 to support the Institute's mission, including a \$30,000 donation in 2025.

This partnership reflects a shared vision for the future of eye care, with WestGroupe's contributions directly supporting the Waterloo Eye Institute's efforts to strengthen clinical training and drive innovation in vision research. These efforts are driven by WestGroupe's dedication to innovation, excellence, and broadening accessibility in optometry.

"We truly value the partnership with WestGroupe and the synergies that exist between our organizations," said Dr. Ben Thompson, Director of the School of Optometry & Vision Science. "WestGroupe's continued support of the Waterloo Eye Institute exemplifies their commitment to advancing eye and vision care in Canada. Together, we are helping people see."

"We're honoured to continue our three-year partnership with the Waterloo Eye Institute and champion its groundbreaking work," said Michael Suliteanu, President of WestGroupe. "Through WEI, we're advancing high-quality eye care and creating a meaningful impact for patients. At WestGroupe, we remain committed to initiatives that improve vision health nationwide."

Looking ahead, the Waterloo Eye Institute is set to welcome patients and students to its newly expanded 68,000-square-foot Waterloo Optometry Clinic later this year. The upgraded facility will feature modernized primary eye care spaces, advanced speciality clinics for services such as vision therapy and low-vision rehabilitation, and dedicated hubs for teleoptometry and vision research. This transformative initiative redefines excellence in clinical practice and student training.

WestGroupe and the Waterloo Eye Institute remain committed to an enduring partnership, working together to advance vision care and clinical education for Canadians.

For more information about WestGroupe and its commitment to advancing eye care, please visit [www.westgroupe.com](http://www.westgroupe.com).

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### **About WestGroupe**

Established in 1961, WestGroupe is family-operated with over 60 years of industry insight. Our mission is to provide unique and superior quality eyewear for the fashion-focused consumer. We are driven by our commitment to excellent customer service and exceptional products.

WestGroupe is dedicated to defining future standards in the optical industry by developing, creating, and supporting innovative products and services that allow our customers to succeed. WestGroupe offers a premium portfolio of proprietary eyewear brands available in over 40 countries worldwide, including FYSH, KLiiK Denmark, EVATIK, Superflex®, and OTP, while also distributing globally recognized brands like AllSaints and Nano Vista in North America.

