



October 27, 2017

Honourable Marlin Schmidt  
Minister of Advanced Education  
Office of the Minister Advanced Education  
403 Legislature Building  
10800 - 97 Avenue  
Edmonton, AB, T5K 2B6

Dear Minister,

I would like to begin by applauding your efforts to enhance funding to the University of Calgary Faculty of Veterinary Medicine (UCVM). The Alberta Veterinary Medical Association (ABVMA) fully supports UCVM and believes investment in education is a critical part of a broader strategy to address the veterinary profession's existing capacity issues in Alberta. Currently, veterinary services in the province are not able to meet demand, particularly in the areas of mixed and large animal practice.

When the ABVMA lent support to the creation of UCVM, it was contingent on assurances from the province that it would continue to fund seats for Alberta students at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine (WCVN). In the past four years alone, Alberta's investment in 80 available seats at WCVN resulted in 97 veterinarians coming to Alberta, 60% of whom went into mixed and large animal practices. Continued funding of seats at WCVN is an investment in Alberta and a vital part of addressing capacity issues that are, as you know, directly linked to animal care and welfare, food safety and public safety.

The ABVMA is requesting a meeting with you, at your earliest convenience, to discuss this important matter. Thank you for your consideration of this urgent request.

Sincerely,

Margitta Dziwenka, DVM, DABT  
President, Alberta Veterinary Medical Association

cc:

Dr. Baljit Singh, Dean, University of Calgary Faculty of Veterinary Medicine  
Dr. Doug Freeman, Dean, Western College of Veterinary Medicine