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# 2017 ANNUAL REPORT



# Table of Contents

<b>President’s Message</b>	<b>4-5</b>
<b>Registrar’s Message</b>	<b>6-7</b>
<b>2017 ABVMA Council</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Public Members’ Message</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Association Report</b>	<b>10-50</b>
Complaints and Discipline .....	10-18
Governance.....	20-22
2017 ABVMA Leadership Weekend.....	23
Registration .....	24-27
Practice Inspection and Practice Standards (PIPS) Committee .....	28
Member Wellness Program.....	29
Advisory Committees.....	30-31
Continuing Education - CanWest.....	32-33
Communication.....	37
Projects.....	38
Provincial and National Affiliations.....	40-45
Building the Profession .....	46-50
<b>Independent Auditor’s Report .....</b>	<b>51-66</b>



# President's Message



**Margitta Dziwenka,  
DVM, DABT**

President, Alberta Veterinary  
Medical Association

**MY YEAR AS PRESIDENT STARTED OFF** on a very high note. I was very proud that during the first Council meeting I chaired, the RVTs on Council were in attendance as full voting members! This has been a long time coming and thank you to all of those who worked hard and persevered to have this change come about.

In April, the annual ABVMA strategic planning session was held at the ABVMA office to review the 2016 strategic priorities and either affirm them or identify new priorities. The previous strategic directions were confirmed and remained the same as in 2016 with minor edits and adjustments. These strategic priorities are to:

1. Prepare Alberta veterinarians, registered veterinary technologists and veterinary teams for increased veterinary oversight of antimicrobials.
2. Provide leadership in animal welfare issues.
3. Enhance the public's affinity to the veterinary profession.
4. Assist Alberta veterinary practices in sustainability, and excellence in economics and management.

Preparing ABVMA members for the changes in antimicrobial stewardship which came into effect in December 2017 has occupied a significant amount of the ABVMA staff and Council's time this past year. ABVMA staff have been personally involved in several committees, sessions, conference calls and meetings, and I am very proud of the leadership role the ABVMA has taken with the other veterinary associations across Canada on this topic. This priority is far from over even though some of the changes initiated by Health Canada have come into effect. As of December 1, 2017, Health Canada has moved all medically important antimicrobials used in food production to the Prescription Drug List. This next year will be a transition year and the ABVMA staff are ready to assist members with questions or concerns on this important topic.

An initiative undertaken by Council as part of the second strategic priority is to review the *Animal Protection Act*, in anticipation that the Government of Alberta will be looking for input on this legislation. For this, a task force has been working on reviewing the legislation and gathering input from outside authorities as required.

In October, Council approved a market research survey to determine the public's perception of the veterinary profession. The populations to be surveyed are ABVMA members, pet owners, livestock owners, animal welfare organizations and rescue groups. The survey to the ABVMA members has been completed and the remaining surveys are scheduled for early 2018. The results of these surveys will be interesting and will be utilized by Council and staff in future strategic planning.

In October, ABVMA Council was excited to hear the announcement that the Alberta government was increasing its support to the University of Calgary, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine program by increasing the number of students from 30/year to 50/year. This commitment will ensure the viability of the veterinary medicine program at the University of Calgary as well as the veterinary profession in Alberta. On the heels of this announcement came the news that the Alberta government had decided to withdraw from the 54-year-long interprovincial funding agreement with the Western College of Veterinary Medicine (WCVM). This announcement causes the association concern due to the loss of capacity to train a sufficient number of veterinary students to meet current and future demands, as well as the potential

loss of the many partnerships Alberta has enjoyed with the WCVM.

A significant amount of time in early December was focused on the introduction of Bill 31: *A Better Deal for Consumers and Businesses Act*, specifically Part 5.1 "Fees, Authorization for Veterinary Medicine." This bill has passed third reading and the ABVMA will now be working with the Minister of Labour to draft the required regulations.

During this past year, a review of the ABVMA Bylaws and the Practice Inspection Practice Standards (PIPS) Bylaw was initiated. Two separate task forces have been struck and both have been hard at work. The updated ABVMA Bylaws are up for review on the ABVMA members site at the time of writing this article, and I hope that many of you have taken the opportunity to review and respond to the updates. The work on the PIPS Bylaw is currently underway and will be made available for member review when the task force is finished.

I would like to conclude by saying that although it has been a busy year, I am proud to have represented the ABVMA as president.



# Registrar's Message



**Darrell Dalton, DVM**  
Registrar, Alberta Veterinary  
Medical Association

**2017 WAS A YEAR THAT THOSE OF** us within the ABVMA office will certainly remember. After the long struggles to implement a new database to manage member and practice registrations, it was finally field tested at last year's renewals. It was not without its struggles, but in the end, we seem to have worked out most of the kinks, and are experiencing a much easier and smoother renewal season for the 2018 year. Practice renewals also occurred smoothly last summer.

Once again, the leadership group of the ABVMA attended Leadership Weekend in Calgary to help Council determine the direction in which the ABVMA will proceed. There were many productive meetings and training sessions, as well as a good dose of collegiality, networking, and socializing with both old and new friends. The educational highlight was a mock hearing conducted by legal counsel for the ABVMA. Many have never seen the process in action, and it was very informative. The Annual General Meeting capped off the weekend, with good attendance by the membership. Leadership Weekend remains one of our great strengths within the ABVMA to encourage and maintain good member representation and involvement, and we strive to keep it fresh and vibrant.

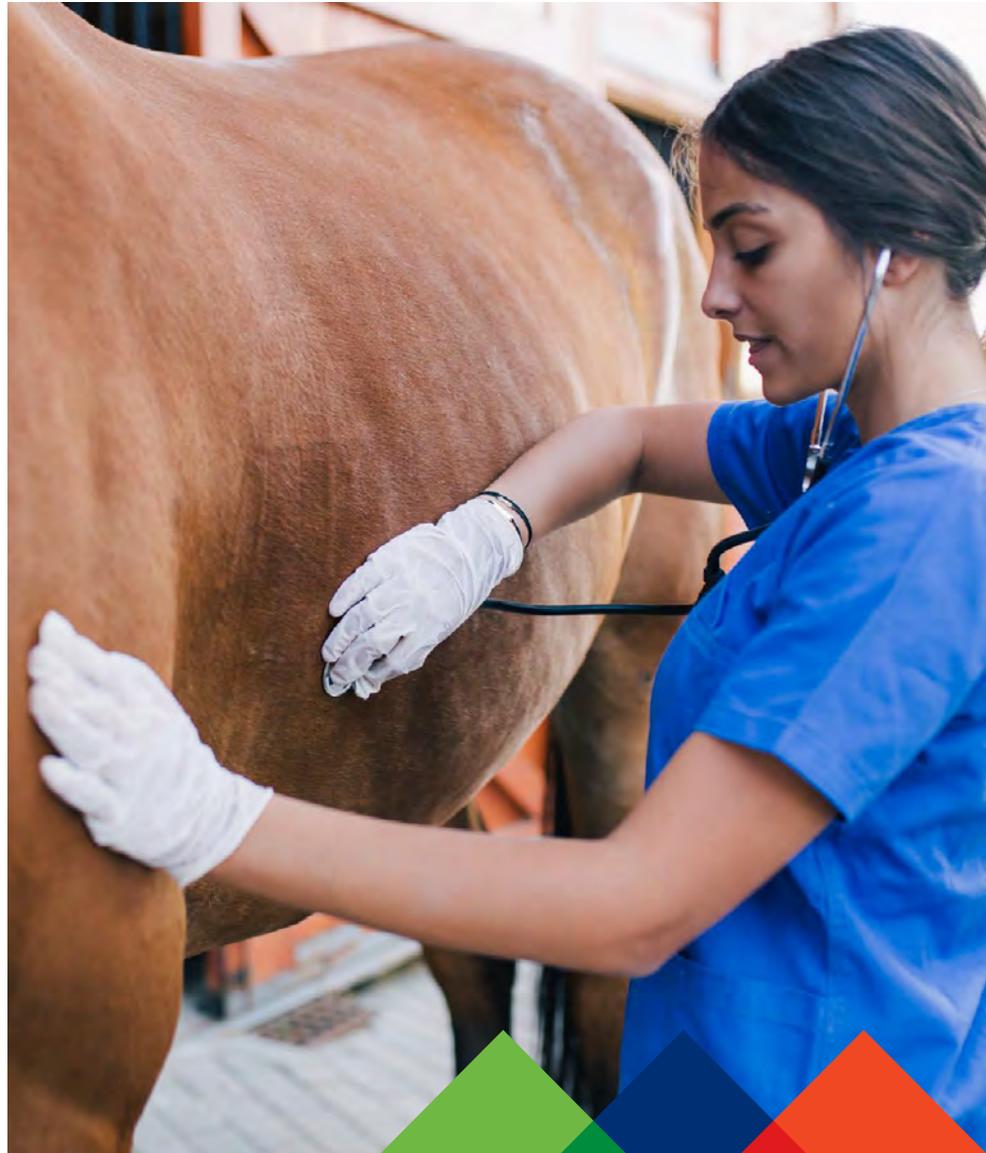
There has been healthy growth in our member numbers for both technologists and veterinarians, and there is a robust demand for more. The new practice numbers are increased over previous years showing strong growth. The Canadian Veterinary Medical Association Practice Owner's Economic Survey results indicate that Alberta has held its own through the recent downturn in the economy, and we look forward to more productive days ahead.

A summary of the year would be incomplete if we did not mention Bill 31, passed late in 2017 by the legislature. There were many concerns with this legislation, and the membership of the ABVMA once again stepped up to express their concerns to the government. We did not achieve the results that we had hoped for, but have the opportunity to work with the Minister of Labour to develop regulations that we can all live with.

Another government announcement was also cause for concern for the association. Alberta's participation in the interprovincial funding agreement for the Western College of Veterinary Medicine (WCVM) is being withdrawn, and the seats from WCVM are being brought to Calgary. The profession applauds additional seats at UCVM, but

is troubled over the ability to expand educational opportunities for veterinary students in the future. ABVMA members sent their concerns to government, confirming their commitment to the future well-being of the profession.

There is much more to read about in this annual report, and I suggest that you take the time to peruse the pages. We are a great organization in a great profession. Enjoy your reading.



# 2017 ABVMA Council



**BACK ROW (LEFT TO RIGHT):** Ms. Andrea Edwards, Dr. Chris Belan, Dr. Lisa Lomsnes, Dr. Louis Kwantes, Mr. Alvin Kumlin, Dr. Tye Perrett, Dr. Keith Lehman

**FRONT ROW (LEFT TO RIGHT):** Dr. Kathy Keil, Dr. Kirsten Aarbo, Dr. Karen Allen, Dr. Kevin MacAulay, Dr. Margitta Dziwenka, Dr. Kim Romanufa, Dr. Darrell Dalton, Ms. Darcie Steffler

**MISSING FROM PHOTO:** Mr. Jim Dobie, Dr. Douglas Freeman

# 2017 Public Members' Message



Mr. Alvin Kumlin



Mr. Jim Dobie

**ABVMA COUNCIL WORKED THROUGH** a full-to-overflowing agenda in 2017. In addition to the routine administrative matters before Council, 2017 saw the revival of the provincial road trip with the group setting off from Edmonton for a three-day tour with stops at 19 veterinary practices and the Calgary Stampede Ranch.

Representatives of Lakeland College, the Alberta Animal Rescue Crew Veterinary Hospital, NAIT, Grande Prairie Regional College, Olds College, the Alberta Helping Animals Society and the Edmonton Humane Society and others made appearances before Council in 2017.

Council has deliberated at length on the matter of antimicrobial use and resistance in recent years and now the use of cannabinoids in veterinary medicine is also being discussed. Research will inevitably lead to guidelines as veterinarians report an increase in the number of clients asking about the possible benefits.

In October, the Government of Alberta announced intentions to withdraw financial support from the Western College of Veterinary Medicine at the University

of Saskatchewan and to redirect part of the funding to the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Calgary. The immediate outcome of this will be the same number of Alberta veterinary medicine graduates entering the profession, but may adversely affect future required increases in graduate numbers. The announcement was unexpected as it was made through the media with notice being provided to the ABVMA only three hours prior.

With little to no consultation with the ABVMA, in November the Government of Alberta introduced Bill 31: *A Better Deal for Businesses and Consumers Act*. The bill passed in early December and outlines amendments to the *Veterinary Profession Act*, and was included with new rules for providers of high-cost credit products, re-sellers of event tickets and the car sales/repairs business. As a self-regulated profession, veterinarian professionals have taken great exception to this. This is very much a live issue with Council and will be a continued subject of discussion in 2018 as the ABVMA works with the Ministry of Labour to develop regulations prior to the act being proclaimed.

# Association Report

## COMPLAINTS AND DISCIPLINE



**Phil Buote, DVM**

Complaints Director and Deputy Registrar, Alberta Veterinary Medical Association

### **THE ALBERTA VETERINARY MEDICAL**

Association is the professional regulatory organization that is responsible for regulating the profession of veterinary medicine in the province of Alberta. Receiving and managing complaints from the public is a core regulatory activity. The ABVMA is accountable to the Government of Alberta and is required to provide a report to the Minister of Labour in accordance with the *Veterinary Profession Act* (VPA):

### **The Veterinary Profession Act Annual Report**

**6.1(1)** *The Association must submit to the Minister an annual report of its activities in a form acceptable to the Minister that contains the information requested by the Minister, including but not restricted to*

**(a)** *a statement respecting the number of complaints made and their disposition, including the number of hearings closed to the public in whole or in part, the number of appeals and the number of registered members who have been suspended;*

....

## Complaints

During the 2017 calendar year, the ABVMA received 28 written letters of complaint in accordance with section 27(1) of the VPA.

In addition, on two further matters, the Complaints Director received information that was treated as a complaint under section 27.1 of the VPA.

### **Aware of unprofessional conduct**

**27.1** *Despite not receiving a complaint under section 27(1), if the Complaints Director has information that on reasonable grounds causes the Complaints Director to believe that the conduct of a registered member constitutes unprofessional conduct or has information that a person has not complied with an order under section 41.1(1) or 45(5) or with a ratified settlement under section 30.1, or if an admission under section 35.1 does not relate to all matters complained of or investigated, the Complaints Director may treat the information as a complaint received under section 27(1).*

The letters of complaint and information received pursuant to s. 27.1 of the VPA gave rise to 37 complaint cases that were dealt with in accordance with Part 5 of the VPA in 2017.

## Investigations

The Complaints Director is required to take action upon receipt of a written complaint. Normally, the Complaints Director will appoint an investigator to conduct an investigation in accordance with section 28(2)(e) of the VPA. The investigator undertakes an investigation in accordance with Division 3 – Investigations of the VPA. The investigator submits a report of the investigation to the Complaint Review Committee (CRC).

In 2017, an investigator was appointed to conduct an investigation into 31 of the 37 complaints.

There are 14 investigations ongoing as of this writing.

## Resolving Complaints

Other actions that may be taken by the Complaints Director upon receipt of a written complaint are described in section 28(2) of the VPA and may include attempts to resolve the complaint with the consent of the complainant.

### Acting on a complaint

**28(1)** *Within 30 days of being given a complaint, the Complaints Director must give notice to the complainant of the action taken with respect to it.*

**(2)** *The Complaints Director*

**(a)** *May encourage the complainant and the investigated person to communicate with each other and resolve the complaint,*

**(b)** *May, with the consent of the complainant and investigated person, attempt to resolve the complaint,*

**(c)** ...

In three complaints received in 2017, the complainant and investigated member were agreeable to working towards resolution of the complaint. In two of the matters, the complainant and veterinarian agreed to a resolution, and those cases were concluded. In the third complaint, there are ongoing communications between the parties regarding a possible resolution. This resolution is being



37 complaint cases /  
3,238 total registered members =

1.1%

OF REGISTERED MEMBERS  
(VETERINARIANS AND VETERINARY  
TECHNOLOGISTS) WHO WERE THE  
SUBJECT OF A COMPLAINT IN 2017.

## Association Report COMPLAINTS AND DISCIPLINE (CONTINUED)

conducted in accordance with section 28(2) (b) of the VPA.

In two complaint cases (originating from a single letter of complaint), the complainant died. As a result, the complaints have been terminated. Without a complainant to be interviewed and provide evidence as a witness at a hearing, there is no reasonable expectation of a successful outcome if the complaint was not dismissed. The Complaints Director discussed the matter with the veterinarian involved and was satisfied that the public interest was protected in terminating the complaint.

### Referral to the Complaint Review Committee

In three letters of complaint received in 2017, the Complaints Director referred the matter directly to the Complaint Review Committee (CRC) in accordance with section 28(2) (g) and /or (h) of the VPA:

#### Acting on a complaint

**28(1)** *Within 30 days of being given a complaint, the Complaints Director must give notice to the complainant of the action taken with respect to it.*

#### **(2)** *The Complaints Director*

...

**(g)** *if satisfied that the complaint is trivial or vexatious, may refer the complaint to the Complaint Review Committee,*

**(h)** *if satisfied that there is insufficient or no evidence of unprofessional conduct, may refer the complaint to the Complaint Review Committee.*

The CRC reviews the complaints referred under this section and makes a decision in accordance with section 28(4):

#### **(4)** *The CRC must review a referral under subsection (2) or (3) within 30 days of receiving it and may:*

**(a)** *dismiss the complaint, if in the opinion of the Complaint Review Committee*

**(i)** *the complaint is trivial or vexatious, or*

**(ii)** *there is insufficient or no evidence of unprofessional conduct,*

**(b)** *direct the Complaints Director to conduct or appoint an investigator to conduct an investigation and to prepare a report on the investigation and submit it to the Complaint Review Committee for its consideration before acting under clause (a) or referring the matter to the Hearings Director for a hearing, or*

**(c)** *make a referral in accordance with section 65.1.*

Of the three cases referred under this section, the CRC made a decision in one case to dismiss the complaint as they were of the opinion the complaint was trivial or vexatious and in two cases dismissed the complaint due to insufficient or no evidence of unprofessional conduct.

### Complaint Review Committee (CRC)

The CRC is established by Council in accordance with section 9.5(1) of the VPA and the ABVMA Bylaws. The CRC is composed of six registered veterinarians, two registered veterinary technologists and two members of the public. The CRC is established by Council on an annual

## Disposition of 23 cases reviewed by the CRC in 2017 (includes cases originating in 2016 and 2017)

Dismissed due to lack of or no evidence of unprofessional conduct:

**12/23**

Dismissed due to trivial or vexatious:

**1/23**

Referred to Hearings Director for a hearing:

**10/23**

*The reports of the investigation into three complaints are currently before the CRC for their consideration as of this writing.*



basis and reviews all complaint cases in accordance with the VPA.

The CRC makes a preliminary, threshold decision based on the information provided to it in the investigator's report. It may decide to refer a matter for a hearing if, in its opinion, there is information that if proven to be true at a hearing may reasonably lead to finding of unprofessional conduct. Alternatively, it may decide to dismiss the case if in its opinion there is a lack of or no evidence of unprofessional conduct or if in its opinion the complaint is trivial or vexatious.

The CRC conducted 16 meetings by teleconference in 2017 to review 23 complaint cases. These included the reports of the investigations into 19 complaints and information regarding the four matters (three from 2017 and one from 2016) referred directly to the CRC under section 28(2) (g) or (h). Eight of these complaint cases originated from letters received during the 2016 calendar year and fifteen from letters received during 2017.

## Council

Council is the appeal body for the complaints process. A complainant may request a review of a CRC decision to dismiss a complaint. This review is undertaken by a Committee of Council (COC) in accordance with section 34 of the VPA and the ABVMA Bylaws regarding quorum of Council.

In 2017, the COC initiated the review of a CRC decision to dismiss the complaint in three cases (two from 2017 and one from 2016).

The COC rendered decisions in two cases from 2017, which were referred directly to the CRC without investigation. In both cases, the COC upheld the decision of the CRC that the complaint be dismissed on the basis that there is insufficient or no evidence of unprofessional conduct.

The decision on the review of the third complaint case, originating from 2016, is not available as of this writing.



## Association Report COMPLAINTS AND DISCIPLINE (CONTINUED)

### Hearings

The Hearing Tribunal is the panel of peers responsible for making decisions at a hearing. Tribunal members receive evidence, listen to sworn testimony and may ask questions of the witnesses. The tribunal first make decisions on fact, and subsequently must decide if the conduct of the investigated member constitutes unprofessional conduct as defined in the VPA. Members of the Hearing Tribunal are selected by the Hearings Director from the list of members that are appointed by Council in accordance with section 9.3 of the VPA. A Hearing Tribunal appointed for a hearing into the conduct of a veterinarian is composed of three registered veterinarians and one member of the public. In cases where a hearing is held into the conduct of a veterinary technologist, the tribunal is composed of two veterinary technologists, one registered veterinarian and one member of the public, in accordance with section 9.4(1)(b).

The ABVMA Hearing Tribunal convened seven hearings in 2017. One of the seven hearings has not concluded as of this writing.

### Hearings Open to the Public

ABVMA hearings are normally open to the public. Section 39.1 of the VPA, *Access to Hearing*, provides that under certain circumstances a hearing may be closed to the public. None of the seven ABVMA hearings held in 2017 were closed to the public.

### Consent Orders

Section 35.1 of the VPA provides that a member may submit a written admission of unprofessional conduct to the Hearings Director. An investigated member may enter into consent discussions with a group of peers, which is normally a subcommittee of the CRC. These without-prejudice discussions are held to arrive at an agreed statement of facts, agreed admissions of unprofessional conduct and agreed sanctions that ultimately make up a consent proposal to be submitted to a Hearing Tribunal for consideration.

If the consent discussions are successful, a signed admission of unprofessional conduct and consent order are presented to the Hearing Tribunal as a joint submission by the ABVMA and the investigated member.



The consent process is mutually beneficial in that the investigated member may take responsibility for his/her conduct and have the matter dealt with expeditiously and efficiently with reduced costs to both parties.

In 2017, six of the seven hearings were conducted by way of consent orders.

## Appeals

There were two appeals to Council completed in 2017 where a member appealed findings and orders of the Hearing Tribunal.

A third appeal to Council is continued and has not been completed as of this writing.

The first appeal to Council was regarding a protracted hearing into two letters of complaint against a veterinarian that were received in March and May of 2012.

The hearing was originally set to proceed by way of a consent order on February 20, 2013, but did not proceed at the direction of the member. The member brought forward several applications that included serious allegations of institutional bias against the ABVMA. Although there were

several adjournments required, the tribunal ultimately convened for a total of seven days of hearings on November 6-7, 2014, January 6-7, 2015, May 22, 2015, and November 23-24, 2015.

The Hearing Tribunal made findings of unprofessional conduct and ordered sanctions against the member.

The investigated member filed a Notice of Appeal to Council on January 15, 2016. Once again, the member made preliminary applications on procedural matters and repeated the allegations against the ABVMA. A COC convened on August 29, 2016, and dismissed the preliminary applications. The COC received written submissions from the ABVMA and the member and both parties agreed to reconvene on November 29-30, 2016. The member sought an adjournment to retain new legal counsel and the appeal hearing was set over to March 15-16, 2017. The veterinarian, through his legal counsel, informed the ABVMA on March 14, 2017, that he intended to withdraw his appeal. The ABVMA maintained that there were no grounds for appeal and that the appeal should be dismissed. The COC accepted the request to withdraw and dismissed the appeal. Despite the last-minute withdrawal,

the ABVMA did not seek costs of the appeal.

The details of the complexity of this appeal and the associated expense are reported in the July/August 2017 edition of the *ABVMA Members' Magazine*. A member's right to appeal is established in the VPA, Division 5 – Appeals, and provides a necessary element of administrative fairness to the process for members.

The total cost to the association for this matter including the hearing and the appeal was \$229,863.45, of which \$80,000 is expected to be recovered from the member.

This single case has contributed substantially to the increased cost of the complaint process reported in recent years.

The second appeal conducted by Council was regarding the hearing into allegations arising from a letter of complaint received in 2015. The Hearing Tribunal made findings of unprofessional conduct in two of 14 allegations and ordered sanctions against the member. Given that the tribunal made findings in only two of the 14 allegations, sanctions included a letter of reprimand, an order to pay partial costs in

## Association Report COMPLAINTS AND DISCIPLINE (CONTINUED)

the amount of \$6,875 and publication with no names.

The veterinarian appealed the findings and orders of the Hearing Tribunal. The grounds for the veterinarian's appeal were set out in the letter of appeal and included:

That he disagreed with the Hearing Tribunal's analysis of the expert witnesses' testimony and its analysis of his experience and the treatment he provided,

That the Hearing Tribunal "failed to account" for his experience and continuing education and applied the incorrect standard of care,

That the ABVMA's complaints process was "cumbersome, expensive and discouraging," involved multiple charges in order to "overwhelm" the veterinarian and was cancelled several times, and

The remedy sought by the veterinarian was to have the findings of unprofessional conduct overturned and the penalty orders in the decision vacated.

The COC upheld the decision of the Hearing Tribunal and noted in their decision:

*"For the reasons stated above, considering all the information before it, including the oral submissions received from both parties on January 23, 2017, and in accordance with the VPA Section 45(5)(b), the COC confirms the decisions and findings of unprofessional conduct and the sanctions set forth by the Hearing Tribunal in its Decision of September 6, 2016. In addition, the COC found no evidence of procedural unfairness in regards to the Investigator, the CRC, allegations 5 and 10 or the Hearing."*

In making its decision on costs of the appeal, the COC received and considered submissions from parties and concluded that the full costs payable by the veterinarian ought to be reduced by \$1,000 due to the last-minute adjournment of one hearing day.

The veterinarian was invoiced \$6,875 for the costs of the hearing and \$20,272.14 (actual costs less \$1,000) for the costs of the appeal. Those costs have been paid by the member.

## Members Suspended

In three of the six hearings that were concluded in 2017, the Hearing Tribunal accepted proposed agreed sanctions that the member be suspended. The order relating to the sanction of suspension in the consent orders for each of the three cases read:

*"... shall be suspended from the practice of veterinary medicine commencing January 1, 2018, for a period of one month."*

*"... shall be suspended from the practice of veterinary medicine for a period of thirty (30) days commencing December 1, 2017."*

*"... shall be suspended from the practice of veterinary medicine for a period of six months commencing on Aug. 12, 2017."*

Two of the ordered suspensions are in effect as of this writing. In accordance with the VPA section 65.2 and ABVMA's "Council Policy – Publication of Professional Conduct Proceedings," orders for suspensions are published with names in the ABVMA

Members' Magazine and on the ABVMA public website for the duration of the suspension.

## Practice Review Board (PRB)

The Practice Review Board (PRB) is the committee established by the VPA that may, with the approval of Council, undertake a review of the practice of a registered member or review the practice of veterinary medicine in general. The PRB is also the committee that is designated by Council to consider matters of incapacitation in accordance with section 65.1 of the VPA.

Section 65.1 provides a means to direct members that are incapacitated by addictions to be assessed and access necessary treatment. In 2017, the PRB met regarding three members incapacitated by addictions. Two members have undergone treatment and have satisfied the PRB that they are no longer incapacitated and may return to practice under the terms of an aftercare agreement. The third member is continuing in treatment and is currently in good recovery.

The Practice Inspection and Practice Standards (PIPS) Committee refers matters of non-compliance with PIPS Bylaws to the PRB. In 2017, there were no practices referred to the PRB by the PIPS Committee.

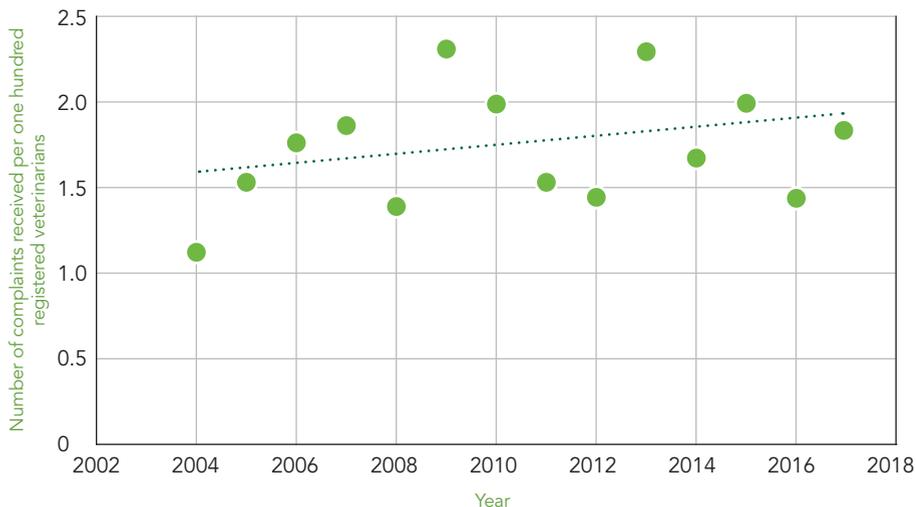
## Number of Complaints Received

The number of complaints received has increased in recent years. It must be

noted that the total number of registered members has also increased. The ABVMA has only recently started receiving complaints against registered veterinary technologists and such complaints are few.

To undertake a meaningful comparison, the annual number of complaints received per one hundred registered veterinarians is presented. The graph below shows a trend towards increased number of complaint

**Graph of Number of Complaint Cases Over Year - Scatter Plot with a Trend Line**



## Association Report COMPLAINTS AND DISCIPLINE (CONTINUED)

cases, which is consistent with other professional regulatory organizations.

The graph indicates some year-to-year variation in the number of complaints received. There is no dramatic increase in the number of complaints received against registered veterinarians over the past decade. The number of complaints received per one hundred registered veterinarians for 2017 is 1.79. This number is consistent with the trend observed over the past decade and has actually flattened the trendline compared to last year.

### Complaints Related to Costs of Veterinary Services

During late 2017, the Ministry of Service Alberta introduced consumer protection legislation, Bill 31, that includes amendments to the VPA that would provide for regulations around authorization, fee disclosure and advertising of fees. The amendments to the VPA could also fairly be construed to regulate fees.

A review of the complaints received during 2017 indicates that:

Complaints received are generally about the quality of veterinary care provided and related outcomes.

Thirty-two of 37 complaints make no reference whatsoever to the cost of veterinary care provided.

There were four letters of complaint (five complaint cases) that raised the issue of cost of services in the context of requesting a refund for veterinary fees paid because the complainant was of the belief that the veterinarian or veterinary practice was, for some reason, responsible for additional required veterinary care or the death of an animal.

In two complaint cases, the complainants clearly sought out veterinary practices that provided care at a reduced price. In both cases the practices provided a level of care that did not meet the clients' expectations, which led to a letter of complaint that was investigated and ultimately led to allegations and/or findings of unprofessional conduct.

### Public Members

I would like to take this opportunity to thank public members whose terms came to an end during 2017, including:

**Ms. Leanne Binetruy**

Complaint Review Committee

**Ms. Deb Bresee**

Complaint Review Committee

**Mr. David Graham**

Hearing Tribunal

**Mr. Dwayne Rawson**

Hearing Tribunal

**Ms. Donna Von Hauff**

Practice Review Board

The ABVMA is pleased that the minister has appointed the following public members:

**Mr. John DeJong**

Hearing Tribunal

**Dr. Karim Fouad**

Complaint Review Committee

**Mr. Mick Howden**

Council

**Ms. Dianne Johnstone**

Complaint Review Committee

**Ms. Anne Rothery**

Practice Review Board

Public members provide the public oversight of self-regulation of the profession that is required by the VPA. This is a very valuable role in the administration of the complaints and discipline process.





# Association Report

## GOVERNANCE

### Bill 31

During the summer of 2017, staff of the ABVMA became aware of a public survey being conducted by Service Alberta to gather consumer input covering many topics. Included in the survey were two questions that pertained to veterinary services, and an additional question that was a general question but appeared to align with the previous two questions. A letter was sent to both the Minister of Service Alberta and the Minister of Labour requesting a meeting regarding the survey, but no replies were received. At the end of October, the ABVMA was invited to attend a meeting with staff of Service Alberta to discuss the next steps following the survey results. The two issues presented at that meeting were disclosure of fees by veterinary practices and the advertising of prices. The ABVMA explained that disclosure of fees was already mandatory through the process of informed consent, and that the profession had dealt with the questions of advertising of fees and had voted against it. There was no indication to the ABVMA that proposed legislation was being considered. A week later, a teleconference took place, which was largely a repeat of the first meeting.

The government did not identify any actions for the association and again, there was no indication that the government was considering legislative changes. On November 28, a final teleconference confirmed that the Service Alberta Minister was presenting Bill 31 for first reading the following day. A request to view the proposed legislation was denied.

The bill was given first reading the next day, and included amendments to the *Veterinary Profession Act* (VPA). The association was disappointed to learn the bill restated what is already mandated to veterinary practices regarding fee disclosure, opened veterinary practices to advertising, and inappropriately reached into the VPA to give cabinet strong powers over our ability for self-regulation. Members wrote hundreds of letters to MLAs and the Minister of Service Alberta to voice the disagreement of the profession with the proposed amendments. Dr. Richard Starke, veterinarian and MLA for Vermilion-Lloydminster, passionately championed the opposition to Bill 31. Despite the outcry from the veterinary profession and the opposition in the legislature, the bill passed on December

12, 2017, and received Royal Assent on December 15, 2017.

At the time of publication of this report, no changes are in effect that impact Alberta veterinary practices. Regulation changes must be developed in consultation with the ABVMA before the bill can be proclaimed.

## VPA Amendments

Beginning in May 2016, the association consulted with the Ministry of Labour on amendments to the *Veterinary Profession Act (VPA)* to include veterinary technologists as full participants in the governance of the association. Amendments to the General Regulation were developed and came into force with proclamation of the amended VPA on February 1, 2017. Changes to the VPA and Regulation then required modifications to the ABVMA Bylaws, as they may not properly exist in contradiction to the VPA and Regulation. These changes required a vote of the membership at the Annual General Meeting. Resolution 16-I, passed unanimously by all veterinarians present, thereby amending the ABVMA Bylaws to align them to engage veterinary

technologists in the governance of the affairs of the association. Resolution 16-II and 16-III both subsequently passed. This was a momentous occasion that included registered veterinary technologists who were able to vote because of the passing of Resolution 16-I.

## Bylaw Review Task Force

To ensure that the ABVMA Bylaws remain current and in alignment with changes to the VPA and General Regulation, a task force was struck by Council to do a line-by-line review. The task force met numerous times to conduct this review, and a finalized version has been sent to Council for evaluation. Council now has instructed staff to post the draft bylaw online for review by the membership. Following the 2018 Annual General Meeting, an open forum will be held to discuss this draft with the membership. Once all comments are collected from members, a final version will be approved by Council to go to the general membership for a vote. This is anticipated to be in the spring of 2018.

## Marketing Activity Guidelines

The updated Marketing Activity Guidelines passed unanimously at the 2017 Annual General Meeting (AGM). This was the result of the review and consultation with the membership regarding the Marketing Activity Guidelines that started in 2016. Though there was extensive consultation regarding this document, which had included a 2016 post-AGM discussion with the membership, there were minimal changes to the guideline.

## Strategic Planning

Each year, Council of the ABVMA holds a strategic planning session with all members of Council and the chairpersons of all the advisory committees. This session is intended to review the Vision and Mission statements of the ABVMA, as well as prior strategic directions and priorities. This year, a very successful session resulted in the fine-tuning of our strategic directions and confirmation that previous priorities of the association had not significantly changed.

Several activities are underway that support the strategic directions above:

1. Prepare Alberta veterinarians, registered veterinary technologists and veterinary teams for increased veterinary oversight of antimicrobials.

The ABVMA has been working closely with the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association, the Canadian Council of Veterinary Registrars, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, and other national groups to ensure that changes implemented by Health Canada regarding the prescribing and dispensing of antimicrobials for 2018 are applied by our veterinary teams in a uniform fashion consistent with other provinces. The efforts will ensure that all veterinarians and producers are aware of the changes that will be made.

2. Provide leadership in animal welfare

### **Animal Protection Act**

There have been some indications from the Government of Alberta that the *Animal Protection Act* (APA) may be

opened and reviewed soon. The ABVMA is working to review the APA and make recommendations to the government that directly affect the veterinary profession. The association strives to be leaders of animal welfare in the province and will continue to work and improve animal welfare for all animals in Alberta.

3. Enhance the public's affinity to the veterinary profession.

Council has identified for the past three years that effort needs to be spent to increase the affinity of the public for the veterinary profession. However, the association cannot be certain what the public's current impression of the profession is, and may in fact remain largely unaware of the involvement of the veterinary profession in their daily lives. As a result, Council has authorized the expenditure of funds to conduct a market research survey to establish what the profession thinks the public thinks of us, as well as to establish what the public truly thinks of us. It is a large endeavour, with results expected in early 2018.

These results will give direction to Council when conducting strategic planning in April.

4. Assist Alberta veterinary practices in sustainability, and excellence in economics and management.

The ABVMA continues to support Alberta member participation in the CVMA Practice Owners and Associate DVM surveys. The practice owners survey provides a measuring stick for practices to compare themselves to other Alberta practices, as well as to similar practices in other provinces. During tougher economic times, it is important for the sustainability of practices to ensure that the business and medical management within the practice be as efficient as possible. There seems to be increased pressure on the profession for the cost of veterinary fees, without the public having a full appreciation of the costs incurred for providing quality care for their animals.

# Association Report

## 2017 ABVMA LEADERSHIP WEEKEND

**A SUCCESSFUL LEADERSHIP WEEKEND** was held February 24-26, 2017, at the Delta Calgary South Hotel. Nearly 120 members of Council, committee members, staff and invited guests attended the weekend.

Friday morning kicked off with a welcome by ABVMA President Dr. MacAulay. Dr. Darrell Dalton, ABVMA Registrar, provided an overview of ABVMA Governance, followed by a Council Update conducted by Dr. Kevin MacAulay and several members of Council. This session introduced attendees to the three resolutions on the table for a vote at the 2017 Annual General Meeting. The morning concluded with a presentation by Mr. Darren Osborne, Economic Survey Consultant to the CVMA Business Management Program. The presentation provided numerous statistics and ideas on how to keep practice economically sustainable in the trying economy.

Over lunch, Dr. Douglas Freeman, Dean at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine (WCVM), updated the leadership group on the new Mentoring Program at

WCVM. Various committee meetings were conducted Friday afternoon.

Friday evening featured dinner, a networking social and an entertaining presentation by Ms. Jody Urquhart on leadership, entitled "Follow me – I'm Right Behind You."

Mr. David Cory presented a thoughtful and engaging presentation to the group on Saturday morning on the topic of Emotional Intelligence in Veterinary Medicine. Saturday afternoon featured a Mock Hearing and was well received by the audience.

The Member Recognition Banquet on Saturday evening was attended by approximately 200 guests. The evening honoured numerous award winners, 35-year members and committee volunteers for their contributions to the association. Background music by the Aaron Young Trio rounded out the evening.

On Sunday, February 26, the Annual General Meeting (AGM) took place with

over 115 in attendance. Three resolutions passed unanimously. Following the conclusion of the AGM, an open forum discussion was held to discuss Prescribing and Dispensing Guidelines.

Thank you to all members and guests who attended.





# Association Report

## REGISTRATION

### Registration Day

The ABVMA continues to deliver two registration days per year: one in June in Edmonton and one in September in Calgary. Unlike other regulatory jurisdictions, the ABVMA does not require new registrants to write a jurisprudence and bylaws exam. Instead, new registrants to the ABVMA must attend a day of networking and review of the important aspects and benefits of being an ABVMA member. Pre-reading materials and questions are distributed prior to the day. Introductions of Council, the Registration Committee and other invited guests are made, with welcomes from the Council, CVMA, ABVTA and other local organizations.

The rest of the day is followed by some case studies, with the intent to have involved and interactive participation by the new registrants to ensure they have a solid understanding of their responsibilities and to help answer any questions that they may have. Breakfast and lunch are provided, which are always a big hit, and this time provides for renewal of friendships and creation of new ones.

## ABVMA Members on October 31, 2017

### VETERINARIANS



- General **1535**
- Time Limited **102**
- Limited (Supervised) **12**
- Limited (Unsupervised) **18**
- Non-Practicing **193**
- Temporary **5**

### VETERINARY TECHNOLOGISTS



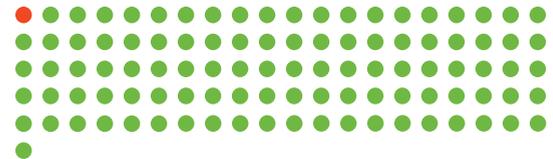
- General **1562**
- Limited (Small Animal) **4**
- Provisional **32**
- Non-Practicing **223**

## Total Veterinary Applications



## License Type

### Accredited Veterinary Program



Limited (Supervised) **1**    Limited (Unsupervised) **0**  
 General **95**    Temporary **0**

### Non-Accredited Veterinary Program



## COUNTRY OF ORIGIN FOR ALL NEW VETERINARY LICENSEES

### GENERAL LICENSE

Australia	2
Canada	75
China	1
England	3
Grenada	1
India	1
New Zealand	2
Nigeria	1
Scotland	3
USA	6
West Indies	3

**98**

### LIMITED (SUPERVISED) LICENSE

Albania	1
Brazil	2
Canada	1
Egypt	2
Germany	1
India	3
Iran	1
Pakistan	1
Philippines	1

**13**

### LIMITED (UNSUPERVISED) LICENSE

Belgium	1
---------	---

**1**

### TEMPORARY LICENSE

India	3
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**3**



TOTAL  
**115**



TRANSFER **LIMITED (SUPERVISED)** LICENSE VETERINARIAN  
TO **GENERAL PRACTICE** LICENSE

1

TRANSFER **TEMPORARY REGISTERED** VETERINARIAN  
TO **GENERAL PRACTICE** LICENSE

10



**PROVISIONAL VETERINARY TECHNOLOGIST** TRANSFER TO  
**GENERAL VETERINARY TECHNOLOGIST** REGISTRATION

79



TOTAL **VETERINARY TECHNOLOGIST APPLICATIONS**

GENERAL VETERINARY TECHNOLOGIST

43

PROVISIONAL VETERINARY TECHNOLOGIST

84

**TOTAL**

127

# Association Report

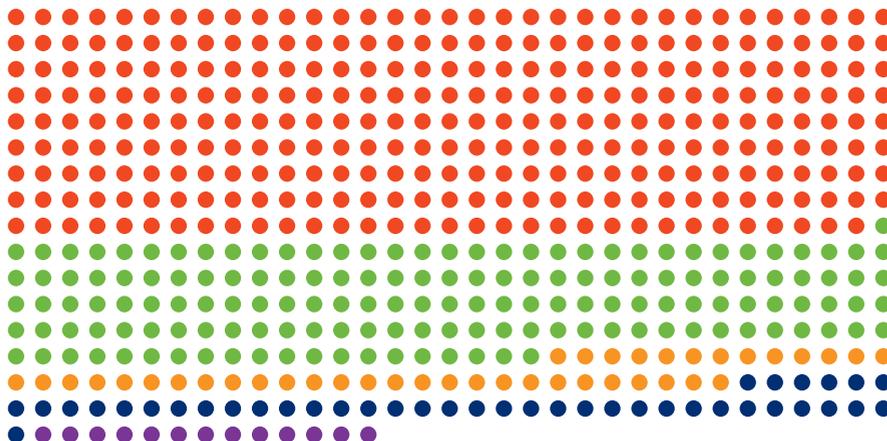
## PRACTICE INSPECTION AND PRACTICE STANDARDS (PIPS) COMMITTEE

**THE PIPS COMMITTEE IS A LEGISLATED** committee charged with certifying veterinary practice entities (VPEs) as being compliant with the minimum standards as established by the PIPS Bylaw in order to provide assurance to the public that veterinary practices in Alberta meet minimal acceptable standards. The major emphasis this year was moving the annual practice renewal process online.

All practices continue to be inspected every third year on a rotational basis. Between November 2016 and October 2017, 28 new VPEs were approved. All practices must also complete a Quality Assurance Self-Verification Guide annually indicating that they are maintaining PIPS standards.

The ABVMA also administers the *Radiation Protection Act* for veterinary facilities on behalf of Radiation Health, Occupational Health and Safety, of the Alberta Ministry of Labour.

## Practice Statistics | Total 542



COMPANION

296



MIXED

153



FOOD ANIMAL

40



EQUINE

40



OTHER  
(ZOOS/WILDLIFE)

13



# Association Report

## MEMBER WELLNESS PROGRAM

### **THE ABVMA HAS PROVIDED A**

Member Wellness Program for several years. There are two components to this program:

1. Provision of anonymous psychological counselling for all members.
2. Provision of residential treatment and support for incapacitated members.

Prior to this year, each member has been given the opportunity to contact the Member Wellness Program and be put

in contact with a psychologist in their area of the province for three anonymous counselling sessions. These sessions have been paid for from the general revenues of the ABVMA. In 2017, Council approved an increase in the number of available sessions to four per year. The response to these sessions has been generally positive, with most people receiving the help that they need.

The second aspect of the Member Wellness Program is for members that are incapacitated to the point of being unable to help themselves. Many require

residential treatment, but lack the funds to access the treatment. Funds are provided to the member from monies donated by other members on an interest-free loan basis, with the understanding that when the member is well again the loan will be repaid. It is only through the generous donation of our membership that allows this portion of the program to function.

Council has been looking at ways to augment the current Member Wellness Program. Additional details will be made available to members in 2018.



# Association Report

## ADVISORY COMMITTEES

### Report of Professional Advisory Committees 2017

The professional advisory committees serve as key sources of information for Council of the ABVMA. These groups maintain an environmental scan in their areas of interest so that Council may be aware of emerging issues and needs of all ABVMA stakeholders.

The ABVMA Leadership Team includes Council, and the chairs of the legislated committees and professional advisory committees. The Leadership Team meets annually in April for strategic planning.

Here is a summary of the activities of the professional advisory committees for 2017. All committees:

- provided ideas and feedback on articles for [albertaanimalhealthsource.ca](http://albertaanimalhealthsource.ca) and social media
- provided feedback on several CVMA position statements

- contributed to the ABVMA Strategic Plan
- provided feedback on the Interpretation Guide for the ABVMA *Guidelines Regarding Prescribing, Dispensing, Compounding and Selling of Pharmaceuticals*

#### 1. Animal Welfare Advisory Committee

- a representative of the committee attended the Canadian Federation of Humane Societies National Animal Welfare Conference on behalf of ABVMA
- several members are participating in an ABVMA Task Force reviewing the *Animal Protection Act* to identify changes that ABVMA Council will take forward to Alberta Agriculture and Forestry
- several members are participating in the steering committee for the Veterinary Forensics Workshop planned for November 2018

- prepared fact sheet about canine importation to be incorporated into the second edition of *Best Management Practices for Animal Shelter and Rescue in the Province of Alberta*

#### 2. Companion Animal Advisory Committee

- participated in teleconference with Darren Osborne to review initial findings of the 2017 economic survey results to inform changes to the *Small Animal Suggested Fee Guide*
- prepared fact sheet for ABVMA members on the use of Cannabis and Cannabinoids in dogs

#### 3. Equine Advisory Committee

- participated in teleconference with Darren Osborne to review initial findings of 2017 economic survey results to inform changes to *Large Animal Suggested Fee Guide*

- brought forward to Council the topics of Equine Piroplasmosis and LIS Brand Inspections for further discussion

#### **4. Food Animal Advisory Committee**

- participated in teleconference with Darren Osborne to review initial findings of 2017 economic survey results to inform changes to *Large Animal Suggested Fee Guide*
- asked Council to disseminate large animal emergency response information to improve member understanding

#### **5. Human Resource Development Advisory Committee**

- joint meeting held between Human Resource Development, Registration and Member Wellness committees for robust discussion about mentorship for both new graduates and internationally trained new members

- Council approved a brief annual human resource electronic survey from the committee to member practices

#### **6. Member Wellness Advisory Committee**

- successful webinars with more than 20 participants at each webinar using GoToMeeting platform:
  - i. Bell Let's Talk Day
  - ii. Suicide Prevention
  - iii. Preventing Burnout
- continued to support Mental Health First Aid courses and Council has approved two offerings per year
- wrote Wellness Tips for E-News
- provided information for the Professional Wellness website page, wellness poster and wellness article for *Members' Magazine*

#### **7. Wildlife and Ecosystem Health Advisory Committee**

- working on additional wildlife resources for the members' website
- an increased level of communication is occurring with Alberta Environment and Parks to discuss areas of mutual interest and impact

# Association Report

## CONTINUING EDUCATION

### 2017 CanWest Veterinary Conference

The 2017 CanWest Conference was well attended and held at the stunning Fairmont Banff Springs Hotel. The conference saw record numbers once again across five learning tracks. In addition to continuing education, two social events were hosted with the Meet and Greet on Saturday night and the Welcome Reception on Sunday evening in the Trade Fair.

Two pre-conference wet labs were hosted on Friday, October 13, in partnership with the University of Calgary, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine.

CanWest played host to several other organizations that held events in conjunction with the conference including:

- the Alberta Association of Animal Health Technologists
- the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association
- Christian Veterinary Mission Canada
- the Western Assembly of Veterinary Associations
- Western College of Veterinary Medicine Alumni

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## Attendance Statistics

### By Category

Veterinarians – **298**

Veterinary Technologists – **145**

Students – **48**

Speakers – **25**

Staff & Council – **34**

Moderators – **4**

Practice Staff – **38**

Industry Representatives – **213**

Guests – **130**



### By Region

Canada – **893**

Alberta – **610**

Saskatchewan – **39**

Quebec – **28**

P.E.I. – **3**

Ontario – **117**

Nova Scotia – **3**

Manitoba – **29**

British Columbia – **57**

New Brunswick – **3**

Yukon – **1**

Province Unknown – **3**

USA – **54**

Australia – **4**

Pakistan – **1**

Country Unknown – **8**

## ATTENDANCE STATISTICS (CONTINUED)

### Equine Program

Sunday Equine Breakfast Table	Monday Equine Breakfast Table
Topic Discussion – <b>42</b>	Topic Discussion – <b>45</b>
Sunday – <b>57</b>	Monday – <b>37</b>
	Tuesday – <b>48</b>



TOTAL  
**229**

### Companion Animal Program

Sunday:	Monday – <b>178</b>
Track 1 – <b>72</b>	Tuesday – <b>173</b>
Track 2 – <b>217</b>	



TOTAL  
**640**

### Vet Technologist Program

Sunday – <b>50</b>	Monday – <b>68</b>
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TOTAL  
**118**

### Food Animal Program

Sunday – <b>51</b>	Tuesday – <b>39</b>
Monday – <b>55</b>	



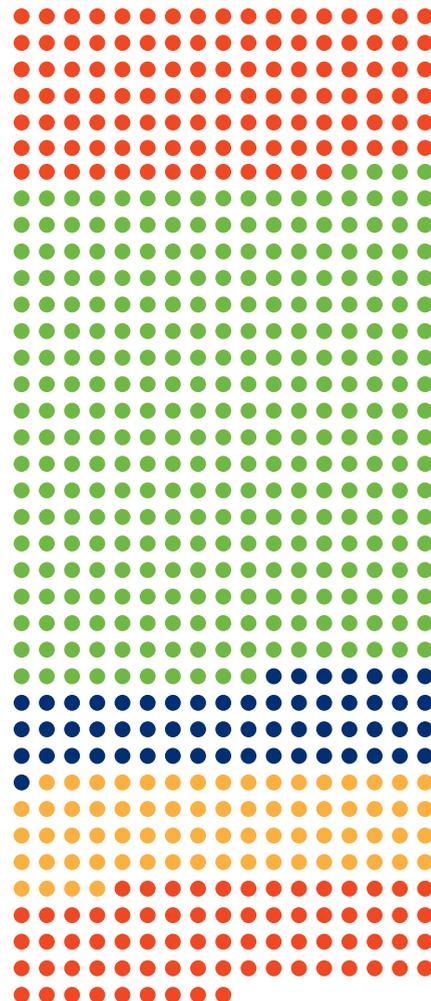
TOTAL  
**145**

### Vet Team Program

Sunday – <b>27</b>	Tuesday – <b>63</b>
Monday – <b>56</b>	



TOTAL  
**146**









# Association Report

## COMMUNICATION

### Regular Communication

#### Magazine and Electronic Newsletters

The ABVMA *Members' Magazine* has a current distribution of nearly 4,600, including veterinarians, veterinary technologists, practices, permit holders and various stakeholder organizations. The magazine is the official communication with members and continues to be well-read and received by the membership.

The association continues to distribute the weekly E-News each Wednesday, which provides timely information for members between production cycles of the magazine. The weekly E-News also features regular PIPS Tips, Prescribing and Dispensing Questions and Member Wellness Tips.

#### Website Presence

The ABVMA continues to maintain two websites:

[www.abvma.ca](http://www.abvma.ca)

The ABVMA website was refreshed and re-launched in fall of 2016 in conjunction

with the database implementation project. In the past year, there were 183,775 visits from 72,204 unique visitors. The most commonly viewed page continues to be the classified ads.

[www.albertaanimalhealthsource.ca](http://www.albertaanimalhealthsource.ca)

The Alberta Animal Health Source continues to provide veterinarian-approved information and advice for the public, animal owners, producers and people thinking about careers in veterinary medicine. The intent is that the Alberta Animal Health Source website is the go-to resource for animal health and welfare related information. In the past year, the site has had 55,454 visits from 47,779 unique visitors. When we look specifically at traffic acquired through organic searches (Google/Bing), we see a 136% increase over last year (19,168 searches in 2017 vs 8,121 in 2016).

Some of the top-visited pages include: raw food diets, accredited Canadian AHT programs, taking pets to national parks, sharpen your pet vaccine know how, ABVMA tattoo combination master list.

#### Social Media

Although we are still seeing growth across all channels (between 8-13%), the growth rate has slowed from years past, despite maintaining one of the strongest social engagement rates when compared to our regional and national counterparts. Changes on Facebook's social algorithm for organizational pages has decreased our social reach by nearly 60% this year, however new features in the platforms themselves have created new opportunities in how they are utilized. This has prompted a complete review of our social media strategy heading into 2018.

# Association Report

## PROJECTS

### Alberta One Health Antimicrobial Workshop

#### Phase II



Following the successful delivery of the Alberta One Health Antimicrobial Workshop in November 2016, the ABVMA received a grant extension from Alberta Agriculture and Forestry to develop supplementary materials with the remaining grant funds from the first project. This extension enabled the association to start working on the second phase of the project. This project got underway in the fall 2017 with completion expected in early 2018.

The main components of this project will include:

1. Production, printing and distribution of Antimicrobial Use (AMU) Workshop Report
2. Digital Stakeholder Engagement Strategy achieved through several initiatives including:
  - a. development and launch of AMU microsite ([ohab.ca](http://ohab.ca))
  - b. press/media kit on AMU workshop and resistance
  - c. development and promotion of various social media content

### Market Research Survey

In 2017, Council approved budget to support a Market Research Survey Project. The Market Research Survey project will provide Council and staff with the information required to continue working towards Strategic Direction #3 – Enhance the Public's Affinity Towards the Veterinary Profession.

The ABVMA has contracted ev+ and Banister Research to carry out this project. The project began in December 2017 with the execution of an online web-based survey of ABVMA members (both veterinarians and technologists).

Additional surveys will take place in early 2018 and will include surveys of the greater public including: pet owner telephone survey, livestock owner telephone survey, web-based survey of animal welfare organizations and in-depth interviews with various Alberta animal rescue organizations.

Results will be presented at the Leadership Weekend in 2018 and will help steer discussions at Strategic Planning April 2018.



# Association Report

## PROVINCIAL AND NATIONAL AFFILIATIONS



**Louis Kwantes, DVM**  
Alberta Representative on  
CVMA Council

### Message From CVMA

#### Canadian Veterinary Medical Association

The CVMA provides national and international leadership to advance issues, concerns and professional interests of Canada's veterinarians.

The CVMA continues its work in antimicrobial stewardship and antimicrobial surveillance. Recent initiatives include a workshop on identification of requirements for National Surveillance of Antimicrobial Use (with outputs that will help move development of such a program forward) and a planning workshop to kick-start updating and development of guidelines for prudent antimicrobial usage across six species groups. Next steps include final guideline development, construction of a platform to support access and communication and a prototype.

The Canadian Animal Health Products Regulatory Advisory Committee has struck a sub-committee to discuss implementation and impacts of Health Canada's decision to move all medically important antimicrobials (MIAs) to the Prescription Drug List (PDL). This sub-committee, in

which the CVMA participates, is in place to ensure consistent communication regarding the transition. PDL changes come into effect December 1, 2018. Visit our website at [canadianveterinarians.net/policy-advocacy/veterinary-oversight-of-antimicrobial-use-in-canada](http://canadianveterinarians.net/policy-advocacy/veterinary-oversight-of-antimicrobial-use-in-canada) for more information.

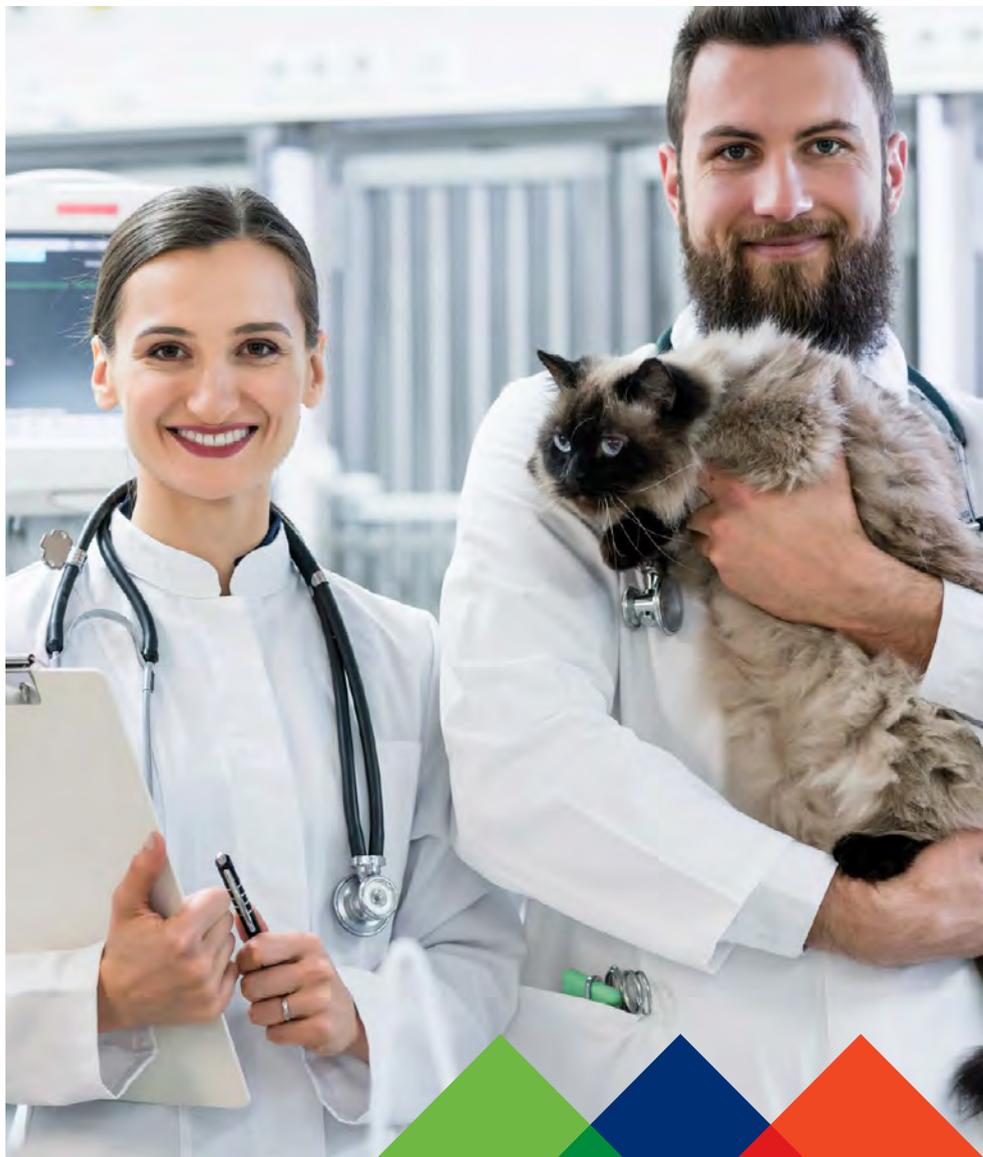
The CVMA joined the Coalition for Small Business Tax Fairness that opposes our federal government's tax proposals that would dramatically change the way incorporated small businesses are taxed in Canada. Read the latest information at [smallbiztaxfairness.ca](http://smallbiztaxfairness.ca).

During July, the 2017 Convention in Charlottetown, PEI, CVMA hosted the Provincial Forum and President's Meeting, providing provinces an opportunity to share and collaborate with peers. The ABVMA participated, and was again invited to select Alberta veterinarians to engage in CVMA's Emerging Leaders Program.

In partnership with the ABVMA, CVMA oversees a business management program that continues to deliver economic reports to support Alberta veterinary businesses.

CVMA continues to consult with ABVMA in development of relevant veterinary related position statements and engages in regular communication with ABVMA, including CVMA updates published in each issue of ABVMA's *Members' Magazine*.

CVMA looks forward to serving Alberta's veterinarians and continued collaboration with our colleagues at the ABVMA.



### Alberta Veterinary Technologist Association (ABVTA)

The ABVMA continues to work closely with the ABVTA, formerly the Alberta Association of Animal Health Technologists. We provide administrative support for this organization, and help them in the delivery of continuing education, their AGM, Tech Connect and other events that occur throughout the year.

### Alberta Agriculture and Forestry (AAF)

The ABVMA fosters a strong relationship with AAF. Our main interaction is with the Animal Health and Assurance Branch, which houses the sub-units Livestock Traceability Section, Animal Health Section, Investigation and Inspection Section and the Animal Welfare Section. Dr. Lehman, Chief Provincial Veterinarian, is a regular attendee and contributor to ABVMA Council meetings.

This past year, the ABVMA has been involved in a Strategic Foresighting exercise to assist the province to develop new regulations regarding the prescribing

and dispensing of pharmaceuticals, particularly antimicrobials. This should keep the province in line with the new regulations from Health Canada. We look forward to their policy release and implementation in 2018.

We also anticipate AAF opening the *Animal Protection Act* (APA), and are ready to assist the province in the development of improvements to the APA.

In addition, we have also remained involved with the Alberta Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Steering Committee and the Biosecurity Champions committee, which AAF facilitates.

### GoA, Ministry of Labour

The association worked closely with the Ministry of Labour to change our General Regulation to include veterinary technologists within the governance of the ABVMA. This relationship seemed to become somewhat lost during the Bill 31 introduction by Service Alberta. However, the ABVMA is committed to working with the Ministry of Labour to develop regulations mandated through Bill 31 that will cause minimal disruption to veterinary practice in Alberta.

### Alberta Farm Animal Care (AFAC)

The ABVMA maintains a membership in AFAC and is a regular attendee at AFAC Advisory Council meetings. These meetings are both informative and provide an avenue to express our opinions to other agricultural stakeholders. We also support the Livestock Care Conference that is held every spring, and sponsor four students to attend this worthwhile meeting. AFAC conducts a session called "Meet the Experts," and executive of the ABVMA attend to meet with students and provide information to them regarding animal welfare and possible career paths that they may wish to consider.

### American Association of Veterinary State Boards (AAVSB)

This association is very important to the ABVMA. We have been a member for many years and have encouraged other provinces to join. This organization sponsors two delegates from each member organization to attend their annual conference held each September.

The process of licensure in the USA is very different than in Canada, but many of the issues are the same. Being involved with the AAVSB has allowed us to share our common problems and learn possible solutions. The AAVSB has also developed tracking software for continuing education hours, and a process whereby all documentation for licensure is maintained in one place. The AAVSB also allows for reporting of all discipline cases from all member states and provinces for verification of any new applicants. The Veterinary Technician National Exam (VTNE) is administered by the AAVSB.

## Animal Welfare

Animal welfare remains an integral part of the ABVMA Strategic Plan. We endeavour to maintain good relationships with the Government of Alberta — Animal Welfare Branch, AFAC, the Alberta SPCA and other humane societies and rescue groups. We also look forward to participation in the updating of the APA.

## Western Assembly of Veterinary Associations/ Canadian Council of Veterinary Registrars (WAVA/CCVR)

The four western provinces hold an annual meeting inviting the four presidents and the four registrars (and assorted delegates) to discuss issues that are common to each college or association. For the past few years, this meeting has occurred in conjunction with the CanWest Veterinary Conference. It is an excellent opportunity to discuss common problems of registration, discipline and governance to help keep all veterinarians and technologists in western Canada on a similar plane for registration and mobility.

The CCVR is a similar group, but involves the registrars from all ten provinces. The CVMA acts as secretariat for this group. Much like WAVA, the CCVR deals with issues that concern us all on a national basis. This group meets twice a year and has been very effective and productive in having another national voice for the veterinary profession.

## Educational Institutes

Alberta has had the luxury of having four technical schools graduating veterinary technologists and two veterinary colleges available for veterinary graduates. The ABVMA strives to keep good relations with all six of these educational institutes by keeping lines of communication open, attending advisory committee meetings and providing multiple points of contact with the schools and their students. In addition, the deans of both veterinary colleges sit as ex-officio members of Council and are active contributors. Representatives from the ABVMA were involved in 2017 with the selection procedure for the UCVM Assistant Dean Admissions and the Associate Dean Academics. Also representatives of the four technical schools and two veterinary colleges participate on the Human Resources Development Advisory Committee.

In spring 2017, the ABVMA became aware that the Government of Alberta had intentions of withdrawing from the 54-year-old interprovincial funding agreement between WCVM and the province. This was a surprise to Council. They were happy to see additional seats being given to UCVM, but were concerned that the move would limit the province's ability to increase the

number of veterinary graduates in the future without expensive infrastructure spending. A letter was sent to the Minister of Advanced Education in March 2017, and a meeting was held with the Assistant Deputy Minister of Advanced Education on June 19 to express these concerns. The announcement of withdrawing from the interprovincial agreement and increasing seats at UCVM was made October 12 with no further consultation with the ABVMA. A further meeting with the Minister of Advanced Education confirmed that this is a non-negotiable decision.

### Triplicate Prescription Program Steering Committee

The prescription monitoring program administered by the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta is called the Triplicate Prescription Program (TPP). All veterinarians in Alberta are responsible to this program if they prescribe narcotics or controlled substances. The TPP Steering Committee meets six times a year to evaluate and give direction to the program. New medications are considered for addition to the program, and areas of concern — such as the opioid crisis of

2017 — are identified. The ABVMA has had representation on this Steering Committee since 2010, and ABVMA Registrar has been elected as Chair for the next two years.

### John Waters Zoonotic Disease Workshop/ Veterinary Forensics Workshop

Neither of these two programs were offered in 2017. Planning for both is ongoing for delivery in 2018.

### CFIA and the PVS Tool

In 2017, Canada participated in a Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS) evaluation conducted by the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE). An evaluation team from the OIE spent the second half of March in Ottawa meeting with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), and then travelled the span of the country. The evaluation was at the invitation of Canada's Chief Veterinary Officer.

The OIE provides this service to all member countries, of which Canada is

one. The goal of the PVS tool is to evaluate the depth and breadth of the veterinary services available within a country. The tool has four fundamental components:

1. Human, physical and financial resources
2. Technical authority and capability
3. Interaction with interested parties
4. Access to markets

To evaluate the four fundamental components, the OIE has developed 47 critical competencies (CC) split among the four components. For each CC, there are five "Levels of Advancement" used to score the country. Level one means there is virtually no infrastructure to support that CC. Level five means that the country meets or exceeds OIE standards for that CC. For a country to score well, it should ideally have predominantly four's and five's in its evaluation.

During their travels, the team met with CFIA representatives from across Canada and from all levels within CFIA. In addition, they also met with many of

the recipients or providers of veterinary services such as producers and commodity associations, packing/slaughter houses, feeder associations, wildlife associations, veterinary schools, diagnostic laboratories, private practice veterinarians, technical schools, provincial governments, veterinary and technical associations or colleges and border services. Representatives of the ABVMA were involved in this process.

We look forward to CFIA releasing this report in 2018.

## **Animal Health Emergency Management Workshop**

The ABVMA was invited to participate as a leader in agriculture with leaders from Alberta's beef, dairy, pork and poultry industries, with their federal and provincial counterparts. The purpose of the workshop was to test elements of association-level plans and producer-level guidelines and tools developed to assist the livestock industry and producers in Alberta in preparing for a disease-related, sector-wide emergency. A foreign animal disease outbreak was modelled and evaluated.



# Association Report

## BUILDING THE PROFESSION



**Baljit Singh, BVSc & AH,  
MVSc, PhD, FAAA**

Dean, University of Calgary –  
Faculty of Veterinary Medicine



**UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY**  
FACULTY OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

**THE UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY,** Faculty of Veterinary Medicine (UCVM), celebrated many achievements by our students and faculty in 2017, along with some exciting infrastructure and funding news.

### Here are a few highlights:

- In March, we launched our new Strategic Plan 2017 – 2022, Advancing our Vision: One Community, One Health, outlining our direction for the next five years and our continued commitment to the community.
- We welcomed the following members to our community: Alexis Berezan, Salman Reza, Samantha Lewin, Lori Buccini, Colleen Jacobsen, Dr. Dongyan Niu, Nicole Stublely, Catherine McLeod, Katrine Maurer, Dr. Angelica Galezowski, Dr. Jocelyn Poissant and Naomi-Rose Dutta.
- UCVM staff and students were engaged with the broader community including major events such as the Calgary Stampede and the equestrian events at Spruce Meadows.
- We graduated UCVM's Class of 2017, the sixth class from our faculty.
- We welcomed our 10th class, UCVM's Class of 2021.
- The following new leadership team appointments were made: Dr. Hermann Schaeztl, Associate Dean (Research), Dr. Jacob Thundathil, Associate Dean (Graduate Education), Catherine McLeod, Director of Operations.
- The \$13-million expansion of our Clinical Skills Building at our Spyhill Campus is expected to be completed by May 2018. We are also renovating additional space at our Foothills Campus.

- In October, Minister of Advanced Education Marlin Schmidt announced funding for additional seats in our doctor of veterinary medicine program. Starting in 2020, UCVM will accept an additional 20 students in our program, increasing the class size from 30 to 50 students. My sincere thanks to our community of teachers and supporters. We value the partnership with veterinarians in the distributed veterinary learning community (DVLC) in educating the next generation of veterinary medical leaders.



## Association Report BUILDING THE PROFESSION (CONTINUED)



**Douglas Freeman, DVM, PhD**

Dean, Western College of  
Veterinary Medicine



### THE WESTERN COLLEGE OF VETERINARY

Medicine (WCVM) underwent international accreditation in October 2017. The process occurs every seven years to ensure that we meet standards set by the American Veterinary Medical Association's Council on Education. Here are key points that we highlighted during accreditation:

- On average, we've annually received over 420 DVM program applications since 2013. Selecting high quality students helps us achieve top results. For example, our graduates' NAVLE scores are in the top 22 percentile worldwide, while the success rate for WCVM graduates applying to clinical internships was 100 per cent and 80 per cent for residencies in 2017.
- Strong research funding has helped WCVM scientists make key discoveries across the One Health spectrum. Over 60 Alberta-based students have also participated in our stellar undergraduate research program since 2013.
- The Veterinary Medical Centre continues to have a strong, diverse caseload that enhances students' experiences and helps them become "practice-ready."

This year, we changed the leadership model at the VMC to enhance the college's academic and clinical missions. Dr. Stephen Manning is the new associate dean, clinical programs, who oversees the teaching hospital and senior students' clinical rotations.

In October 2017, the Government of Alberta pulled out of the four-province partnership that has supported the WCVM for over 50 years — a decision that puts veterinary education, research and clinical services in jeopardy. With Alberta alumni support, we're committed to re-establishing this partnership, serving the province of Alberta and protecting the future of veterinary medicine in Western Canada.

## Technical Colleges

Veterinary technologists are an indispensable part of the veterinary team. The Animal Health Technology (AHT) program is offered at four technical colleges in Alberta: Grande Prairie Regional College, Lakeland College, NAIT and Olds College. The ABVMA supports the AHT programs by participating on their advisory committees and encouraging increases in enrollment to accommodate the growth in veterinary practice in Alberta.

All four colleges are accredited by the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association and the Canadian Council on Animal Care. All four have PIPS approved small animal practices. Also, Olds College and Grande Prairie Regional College small animal clinics are American Animal Hospital Association approved.

The technical colleges have formal transfer agreements with several universities providing transfer credit for degree programs.

All AHT graduates challenge the North American Veterinary Technician National Examination (VTNE). In order to practice in Alberta, AHTs must submit to ABVMA a diploma from an accredited AHT program and a passing score on the VTNE. After all documentation is submitted each graduate's name goes forward to ABVMA Council to receive the designation Registered Veterinary Technologist (RVT).

Here are the statistics for the 2016/2017 academic year:

Programs Quota/ Graduates	Grande Prairie Regional College	Lakeland College	NAIT	Olds College
AHT (2 yr diploma)	35Q	42Q	32Q	30 onsite/30 online Q
	27G	36G	32G	30 onsite/25 online G
VMA (1 yr certificate)		26Q	25Q	
		23G	28G	
VMR (1 yr certificate)				36Q
				15 onsite/10 online G
VTA (4 mth certificate)				30Q
				28G

**Key:**

Q=quota, G=graduates, VOA=Veterinary Office Assistant, VMA=Veterinary Medical Assistant, VMR=Veterinary Medical Receptionist, VTA=Veterinary Technical Assistant

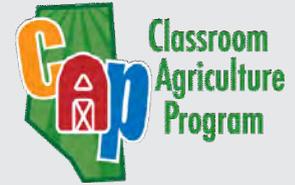
There is a growing trend for Alberta RVTs to seek veterinary technician specialty designation. All ABVMA members, both veterinarians and veterinary technologists, may apply for specialty recognition through the ABVMA.

## Classroom Agriculture Program (CAP)

The ABVMA is a board member in CAP. CAP delivers classroom presentations to grade four Alberta students to educate them about the importance of agriculture in their everyday lives. The program is delivered by volunteers from various areas of agriculture and range from veterinarians to commodity producers.

### Here is a summary of CAP activities in 2017

- CAP registered 23,110 students (1014 classrooms) to receive a presentation in 2017
- 259 volunteers provided presentations to the 2017 registered classrooms
- CAP approved a new Communications Plan
- CAP continues an online presence at: [www.classroomagriculture.com](http://www.classroomagriculture.com) and is on Facebook: @classroomagricultureprogram
- CAP held a goal planning session along with its Annual General Meeting and regular board meeting in September 2017



**In 2017,  
CAP student  
registrations  
reached  
a total of  
23,110 in 1014  
classrooms.**



# Independent Auditor's Report

EDMONTON, ALBERTA | DECEMBER 15, 2017

## To the Members of Alberta Veterinary Medical Association

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Alberta Veterinary Medical Association, which comprise the statement of financial position as at October 31, 2017 and the statements of operations, changes in member's equity and cash flow for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

## Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

## Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion

on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

## Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Alberta Veterinary Medical Association as at October 31, 2017 and the results of its operations and its cash flow for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

*Kingston Ross Pasnak LLP*

**Kingston Ross Pasnak LLP**

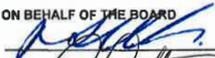
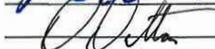
Chartered Professional Accountants



# Statement of Financial Position

YEAR ENDED OCTOBER 31, 2017

	2017	2016
<b>ASSETS</b>		
CURRENT		
Cash	\$ 309,759	\$ 458,638
Accounts receivable	95,284	60,708
Goods and Services Tax recoverable	17,070	20,897
Investment due within one year (Note 3)	405,160	324,919
Prepaid expenses	50,730	46,441
	<b>878,003</b>	<b>911,603</b>
OTHER RECEIVABLES (Note 4)	381,812	365,719
INVESTMENTS (Note 3)	708,807	466,823
PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT (Note 5)	50,486	62,965
INTANGIBLE ASSETS (Note 6)	102,323	101,445
	<b>\$ 2,121,431</b>	<b>\$ 1,908,555</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
CURRENT		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 523,779	\$ 434,197
Deferred project revenue (Note 7)	148,694	270,956
Deferred operating revenue (Note 8)	575,895	512,620
	<b>\$ 1,248,368</b>	<b>1,217,773</b>
COMMITMENTS (Note 9)		
<b>MEMBERS' EQUITY</b>		
Unappropriated members' deficit	(739,715)	(887,109)
Operating reserve	1,371,461	1,327,752
Professional wellness reserve	88,508	85,729
Investment in property and equipment	50,486	62,965
Investment in intangible asset	102,323	101,445
	<b>873,063</b>	<b>690,782</b>
	<b>\$ 2,121,431</b>	<b>\$ 1,908,555</b>

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD  
 Director  
 Director

See notes to financial statements.

# Statement of Changes in Member's Equity

YEAR ENDED OCTOBER 31, 2017

	Unappropriated Members	Operating Reserve	Program Reserve	Professional Wellness Reserve	Investment in Property and Equipment	Investment in Intangible Assets	2017	2016
<b>BALANCE Beginning of year</b>	\$ (887,109)	\$1,327,752	\$ -	\$85,729	\$62,965	\$101,445	<b>\$690,782</b>	\$400,419
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses	\$261,849	-	(36,563)	(12,221)	(18,162)	(12,622)	<b>182,281</b>	290,363
Investment in property and equipment	-	-	(5,683)	-	5,683	-	-	-
Investment in intangible assets	-	-	(13,500)	-	-	13,500	-	-
Transfer between reserves	(114,455)	43,709	55,746	15,000	-	-	-	-
<b>BALANCE End of year</b>	\$ (739,715)	\$ 1,371,461	-	\$ 88,508	\$ 50,486	102,323	<b>\$ 873,063</b>	\$ 690,782

See notes to financial statements.

# Statement of Operations

YEAR ENDED OCTOBER 31, 2017

	2017 (Budget - unaudited)	2017	2016
<b>REVENUES</b>			
<b>Registration</b>			
Veterinarian registration	\$ 2,032,844	\$ 2,131,270	\$ 2,021,521
Veterinary Technologists registration	304,651	323,346	290,201
Permits to practice for a corporation	72,830	82,344	106,222
Administrative fees	69,999	67,401	71,557
<b>Professional wellness</b>			
General	-	18,395	29,128
Recovery	5,000	4,200	(5,913)
<b>Other revenue</b>			
Restricted programs (Schedule 1)	-	663,422	688,613
Communications - newsletter/magazine/roster	167,000	163,904	169,798
Practice inspections	162,000	145,560	101,954
Discipline/complaints program	150,000	124,162	191,374
Investment interest	18,000	22,633	17,635
Alberta Veterinary Surveillance Network Program	-	9,706	32,976
	<b>\$ 2,982,324</b>	<b>\$ 3,756,343</b>	<b>\$ 3,715,066</b>

See notes to financial statements.

# Statement of Operations

YEAR ENDED OCTOBER 31, 2017 (CONTINUED)

	2017 (Budget - unaudited)	2017	2016
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
<b>Governance</b>			
Leadership weekend	\$ 165,000	\$ 165,011	\$ 148,486
Council and other committee meetings	142,000	164,507	125,354
Representation/delegation	75,000	56,098	43,367
<b>Communications</b>			
Publication and website	242,500	181,600	189,196
Public relations and awards	23,000	29,657	15,483
Student programs	29,500	21,591	23,082
<b>Administration</b>			
Wages and benefits	1,096,981	962,664	939,934
Office operations (including amortization)	411,120	390,896	400,840
Office rent	164,000	157,320	154,983
Credit cards	82,000	94,103	80,887
Professional services	30,500	30,800	30,150
Postage and courier	16,000	25,494	14,469
Bad debts	-	23,677	84
General legal fees	25,000	17,843	28,005
<b>Other expenses</b>			
Restricted programs (Schedule 1)	-	687,764	648,521
Discipline/complaints program	522,500	306,517	359,123
Practice inspection	179,000	175,024	152,123
Triplicate prescription program	33,075	33,075	31,500
Professional wellness	31,500	34,816	18,779
Affinity Market Research Survey Project	-	10,272	-
Alberta Veterinary Surveillance Network Program	-	7,980	24,285
Changes in unrealized fair value of investments	-	(2,647)	(3,948)
	3,268,676	3,574,062	3,424,703
<b>EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES</b>	\$ (286,352)	\$ 182,281	\$ 290,363

See notes to financial statements.

# Statement of Cash Flow

YEAR ENDED OCTOBER 31, 2017

	2017	2016
<b>OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Excess of revenues over expenses	\$ 182,281	\$ 290,363
Items not affecting cash:		
Changes in unrealized fair value of investments	(2,647)	(3,948)
Depreciation and amortization	30,783	29,994
	<b>210,417</b>	<b>316,409</b>
Changes in non-cash working capital:		
Accounts receivable	(50,669)	(138,684)
Prepaid expenses	(4,289)	16,115
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	93,410	238,260
Deferred project revenue	(122,262)	227,745
Deferred operating revenue	63,275	95,778
	<b>(20,535)</b>	<b>439,214</b>
Cash flow from operating activities	<b>189,882</b>	<b>755,623</b>
<b>INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Purchase of property and equipment	(5,683)	(4,938)
Purchase of intangible assets	(13,500)	(112,716)
Redemption of investments	320,422	100,000
Purchase of investments	(640,000)	(320,000)
Cash flow used by investing activities	<b>(338,761)</b>	<b>(337,654)</b>
<b>(DECREASE) INCREASE IN CASH</b>	<b>(148,879)</b>	417,969
<b>CASH - BEGINNING OF YEAR</b>	<b>458,638</b>	40,669
<b>CASH - END OF YEAR</b>	<b>\$ 309,759</b>	<b>\$ 458,638</b>
<b>CASH CONSISTS OF:</b>		
Bank accounts	\$ 369,027	\$ 563,652
Outstanding cheques	(59,268)	(105,014)
	<b>\$ 309,759</b>	<b>\$ 458,638</b>

See notes to financial statements.

# Notes to Financial Statements

YEAR ENDED OCTOBER 31, 2017

## 1. Purpose Of the Association

The Alberta Veterinary Medical Association (the "Association") is the professional regulatory organization responsible for regulating the practice of veterinary medicine in the province of Alberta. All veterinarians and veterinary technologists practicing veterinary medicine in Alberta must be registered with the Association. The Association serves the public through self-governance in accordance with the *Veterinary Profession Act*. This includes registration, a complaints and discipline process, practice inspection and the setting and maintenance of high levels of practice standards. The Association is a not-for-profit medical organization under the *Canadian Income Tax Act* and, as such, is not subject to income tax.

## 2. Summary Of Significant Accounting Policies

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations. Significant accounting policies observed in the preparation of the financial statements are summarized below.

### Revenue recognition

Alberta Veterinary Medical Association follows the deferral method of accounting for contributions.

Restricted contributions are recognized as revenue in the year in which the related expenses are incurred. Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue when received or receivable if the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured.

Registration dues are invoiced by the Association to its members on a calendar year basis and are recorded as income on a straight-line basis over the 12-month period to which they relate.

Other income is unrestricted and is recognized in the period earned.

### Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents consist of cash on hand and cash on deposit less cheques issued and outstanding. Included in cash is \$90,556 (2016 - \$68,403) related to the Radiation Protection Program.

### Property and equipment

Property and equipment is stated at cost or deemed cost less accumulated amortization. Property and equipment is amortized over its estimated useful life at the following rates and methods:

Furniture and fixtures declining balance method	20%
Leasehold improvements straight-line method	5 years
Computer hardware straight-line method	3 years
Computer software declining balance method	100%

### Intangible assets

Intangible assets are comprised of assets that lack physical substance and are amortized over their estimated useful lives at the following rates and methods:

Database straight-line method	10 years
Website straight-line method	5 years

# Notes to Financial Statements

YEAR ENDED OCTOBER 31, 2017 (CONTINUED)

## Investment

The Association's investment Alberta Pet Essential Treatment Foundation of which it owns 33% of the outstanding voting shares and is accounted for by the cost method (as detailed in Note 13).

## Financial instruments

Financial assets and financial liabilities, are initially measured at fair value unless otherwise noted, the Association subsequently measures its financial instruments at amortized cost.

Investments consist of guaranteed investments certificates and are measured at cost plus accrued interest with any changes recorded in the statement of operations.

## Use of estimates

The preparation of financial statements, in conformity with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations, requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosures of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements, and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Due to the inherent uncertainty

involved in making such estimates, actual results could differ from these estimates. Significant areas that require the use of management's estimates included the collectible amounts of accounts receivable, the useful lives of property and equipment, intangible assets and the corresponding rates of amortization, the amount of accrued liabilities, and the amount of revenue to be deferred and recognized.

## Members' equity

The Association relies mainly on the Members' registration dues to finance its operations. The funds available are allocated to the various programs based on the priorities identified by the Council. The objective is to set aside at least 45% of the gross revenue less non-recurring programs Members' equity.

The Member's equity of the Association consist of the unappropriated members' deficit, equity in property and equipment, intangible assets, and operating, program and professional wellness reserves.

Transfer from unappropriated members consists of \$55,746 to cover the deficit in program reserve and \$43,709 to the operating reserve and \$15,000 to the wellness reserve as outlined in the Associations objective above.

Transfers to and from equity invested in property and equipment consist of additions funded through operations and depreciation. Additions of \$5,683 related to the purchases of property and equipment were transferred from the program reserve.

Transfers to and from equity invested in intangible assets consist of additions funded through operations and depreciation. Additions of \$13,500 related to the purchase of intangible assets transferred from the program reserve.

## Statement of Cash Flow

The Association is using the indirect method in its presentation of the Statement of Cash Flow.

## Allocated expenditures

Expenditures which benefit more than one program of the Association are allocated among the functions. Salaries and benefits are allocated amongst programs based on hours spent. All other operating expenses are allocated amongst programs in accordance to the nature of each expenditure. General support expenses classified under "Administration" on the Statement of Operations are not allocated.

# Notes to Financial Statements

YEAR ENDED OCTOBER 31, 2017 (CONTINUED)

## 3. Investments

	2017	2016
\$100,000, 1.91% LBC Trust Guaranteed Investment Certificate due December 27, 2017	\$ 101,633	\$ 101,638
\$100,000, 2.45% National Bank of Canada Guaranteed Investment Certificate due March 8, 2018	101,591	101,591
\$100,000, 2.45% Natcan Trust Company Guaranteed Investment Certificate due March 8, 2018	101,591	101,591
\$100,000, 1.80% Montreal Trust Company Guaranteed Investment Certificate due December 23, 2020	101,539	-
\$100,000, 1.70% Canadian Western Bank Guaranteed Investment Certificate due December 22, 2019	101,458	-
\$100,000, 2.05% HomEquity Bank Guaranteed Investment Certificate due June 7, 2021	100,826	-
\$100,000, 1.86% General Bank of Canada Guaranteed Investment Certificate due August 2, 2019	100,459	-
\$100,000, 1.40% Vancity Credit Union Guaranteed Investment Certificate due August 2, 2018	100,345	-
\$60,000, 1.70% Equitable Bank Guaranteed Investment Certificate due December 23, 2019	60,875	-
\$60,000, 2.05% Home Trust Company Guaranteed Investment Certificate due July 5, 2021	60,398	60,398
\$60,000, 1.98% Canadian Western Trust Guaranteed Investment Certificate due July 5, 2020	60,378	60,378
\$40,000, 1.92% Pacific and Western Guaranteed Investment Certificates due March 31, 2019	42,019	41,227
\$40,000, 1.91% Home Trust Company Investment Certificate due December 22, 2020	40,655	-
\$40,000, 2.05% Equitable Bank Guaranteed Investment Certificate due August 4, 2020	40,200	-
\$100,000, 1.62% Keb Hana Bank Canada Guaranteed Investment Certificate redeemed during the year	-	101,389
\$100,000, 2.68% Tangerine Bank Guaranteed Investment Certificate redeemed during the year	-	102,401
\$100,000, 2.15% Laurentian Bank Guaranteed Investment Certificate redeemed during the year	-	100,707
Royal Bank of Canada High Interest Savings	-	20,422
	<b>1,113,967</b>	<b>791,742</b>
Investments maturing within one year	<b>(405,160)</b>	<b>(324,919)</b>
	<b>\$ 708,807</b>	<b>\$ 466,823</b>

# Notes to Financial Statements

YEAR ENDED OCTOBER 31, 2017 (CONTINUED)

## 4. Other Receivables

	2017	2016
Discipline/complaints program	\$ 256,572	\$ 233,703
Professional wellness	125,240	132,016
	<b>\$ 381,812</b>	<b>\$ 365,719</b>

Discipline and complaints program receivables are non-interest bearing and have no fixed repayment terms. The Association has provided the members 1 to 3 years to repay.

During the year, the company recorded bad debt expense of \$21,877 (2016 - \$nil) relating to uncollectable amounts.

Professional wellness receivables are non-interest bearing and have no fixed repayment terms. The Association has provided the members 5 years to repay.

During the year, the company recorded bad debt expense of \$1,800 (2016 - \$nil) relating to uncollectable amounts.

Accordingly, the other receivables have been classified as long term receivables.

## 5. Property And Equipment

	Cost	Accumulated amortization	2017 Net book value	2016 Net book value
Furniture and fixtures	\$ 144,802	\$ 109,318	\$ 35,484	\$ 37,962
Leasehold improvements	44,812	31,662	13,150	21,916
Computer hardware	23,360	21,508	1,852	3,087
Computer software	12,757	12,757	-	-
	<b>\$ 225,731</b>	<b>\$ 175,245</b>	<b>\$ 50,486</b>	<b>\$ 62,965</b>

Amortization provided for in the current year totaled \$18,162; (2016 - \$18,722).

# Notes to Financial Statements

YEAR ENDED OCTOBER 31, 2017 (CONTINUED)

## 6. Intangible Assets

	Cost	Accumulated amortization	2017 Net book value	2016 Net book value
Database	\$ 126,216	\$ 23,893	\$ 102,323	\$ 101,445
Website	67,551	67,551	-	-
	<b>\$ 193,767</b>	<b>\$ 91,444</b>	<b>\$ 102,323</b>	<b>\$ 101,445</b>

Amortization provided for in the current year totaled \$12,622; (2016 - \$11,272).

## 7. Deferred Project Revenue

Deferred project revenue consists of funds received that are restricted for specific purposes or related to future periods, as follows:

	2017	2016
Antimicrobial Use Project	\$ 111,977	\$ 207,426
Radiation Protection Program	26,599	26,114
John Waters Workshop	10,118	10,118
Traceability Training	-	27,298
	<b>\$ 148,694</b>	<b>\$ 270,956</b>

Refer to schedule 1 for Restricted Program Activity

# Notes to Financial Statements

YEAR ENDED OCTOBER 31, 2017 (CONTINUED)

## 8. Deferred Operating Revenue

Deferred operating revenue consists of funds received for registration dues relating to a future period, as follows:

	2017	2016
Veterinary registration	\$ 381,773	\$ 356,367
Practice Inspection Renewals	106,124	77,574
Veterinary Technologists registration	74,005	64,969
Permit to Practice for a Corporation	13,993	13,710
	<b>\$ 575,895</b>	<b>\$ 512,620</b>

## 9. Commitments

The Association leases premises under a long term lease that expires on July 31, 2024. Under the lease, the Association is required to pay a base rent of \$157,320 for the first five-year term and \$165,186 for the second five-year term. In addition to the above base rent, the Association must pay for its proportionate share of utilities, property taxes, maintenance and other related costs for the leased premises. Future minimum lease payments as at year end are as follows:

2018	265,933
2019	265,933
2020	273,799
2021	273,799
2022	273,799
	<b>\$ 1,353,263</b>

# Notes to Financial Statements

YEAR ENDED OCTOBER 31, 2017 (CONTINUED)

The Association also has long term lease with respect to its equipment. The leases contain renewal options and provide for maintenance costs. Future minimum lease payments as at year end are as follows:

2018	78,252
2019	37,162
2020	34,462
2021	31,762
2022	22,853
	\$ 204,491

The Association has committed to annually contribute \$3,000 to the Students of the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association Symposium to support a student member of the Association.

## 10. Budget

The Council approved this budget on October 15, 2016.

## 11. Canwest Veterinary Conference

The CanWest Veterinary Conference (the "conference") is hosted by the Association.

	2017	2016
Revenue	\$ 250,467	\$ 263,883
Trade Fair Booths	189,135	164,905
Sponsorship	55,959	17,821
Expenses	(515,458)	(416,161)
	\$ (19,897)	\$ 30,448

# Notes to Financial Statements

YEAR ENDED OCTOBER 31, 2017 (CONTINUED)

## 12. Financial Instruments

The company is exposed to various risks through its financial instruments. The following analysis provides information about the company's risk exposure and concentration as of October 31, 2017. Unless otherwise noted, the company's risk exposure has not changed from the prior year.

### Credit risk

Credit risk arises from the potential that a counter party will fail to perform its obligations. The Association is exposed to credit risk from members, and the maximum exposure to this risk is the carrying value of accounts receivable on the balance sheet. The Association has five members that account for 88% of the Discipline receivables, three members that account for 92% of the Wellness receivables and three customers that account for 48% of the trade accounts receivable balance as October 31, 2017.

### Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Association will encounter difficulty in meeting its financial obligations as they become due. Cash flow from operations provides a substantial portion of the Association's cash requirements.

### Market risk

The Association is exposed to fluctuations in the market price of its investments. This risk is managed by the Association's investment policies which prescribe limitations regarding the type of investments. In addition, the Association is exposed to interest rate risk with respect to the amount of interest earned on term deposits.

### Interest rate risk

Interest rate risk is the risk that the value of a financial instrument might be adversely affected by a change in the interest rates. The Association is exposed to interest rate risk primarily through its guaranteed investment certificates.

## 13. Alberta Pet Essential Treatment Foundation

The Alberta Pet Essential Treatment Foundation was incorporated on March 25, 2013, as a charitable foundation aiming to provide funding for veterinary treatment and education to individuals for low income or with qualified financial need. The Association holds 100 of the 300 shares in issue at a nominal value.

During the year, the Association has earned \$6,000 (2016 - \$2,000) for providing administrative support services to The Alberta Pet Essential Treatment Foundation.

## 14. Comparative Figures

Some of the comparative figures have been reclassified to conform to the current year's presentation.

# Schedule of Restricted Program Activity

# Schedule 1

YEAR ENDED OCTOBER 31, 2017

	CanWest	Antimicrobial Use Project	Traceability Training Project	Radiation Protection Program	John Waters Workshop	Total 2017	Total 2016
<b>Opening deferred revenue</b>	\$ -	\$ 207,426	\$ 27,298	\$ 26,114	\$ 10,118	\$ 270,956	\$ 43,210
Add: Program funding received	495,561	-	-	45,599	-	541,160	916,359
Less: Revenue recognized	(495,561)	(95,449)	(27,298)	(45,114)	-	(663,422)	(688,613)
Ending deferred revenue	\$ -	\$ 111,977	\$ -	\$ 26,599	\$ 10,118	\$ 148,694	\$ 270,956
<b>EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$515,458</b>	<b>\$95,449</b>	<b>\$27,298</b>	<b>\$49,559</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$687,764</b>	<b>\$648,521</b>

# Schedule of Non-Restricted Revenues and Expenditures Schedule 2

YEAR ENDED OCTOBER 31, 2017

	2017 Performance	2017 Budget (Unaudited)	Performance as % of Budget	2018 Budget (Unaudited)
<b>REVENUE</b>				
Registration	2,604,362	2,638,148	98.72%	2,745,800
Communication	163,904	167,000	98.15%	142,500
Practice inspection	145,560	162,000	89.85%	189,000
Professional wellness	22,595	5,000	451.90%	-
Discipline/complaints program	124,162	166,000	74.80%	148,500
Investment interest	22,633	18,000	125.74%	23,500
Alberta Veterinary Surveillance Network Program	9,706	-	0.00%	-
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>3,092,921</b>	<b>3,156,148</b>	<b>98.00%</b>	<b>3,249,300</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>				
Governance	385,616	334,000	115.45%	423,250
Communications	232,848	264,500	88.03%	264,500
Administration	1,702,797	1,902,167	89.52%	1,733,090
Practice inspection	175,024	161,500	108.37%	185,000
Professional wellness	34,816	21,500	161.93%	45,000
Discipline/complaints program	306,517	357,500	85.74%	319,500
Triplicate prescription program	33,075	33,075	100.00%	34,750
Alberta Veterinary Surveillance Network Program	7,980	-	0.00%	-
Affinity Market Research Survey Project	10,272	-	0.00%	-
Other	(2,647)	-	0.00%	-
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>2,886,297</b>	<b>3,074,242</b>	<b>93.89%</b>	<b>3,005,090</b>



## Canadian Veterinary Oath

As a member of the veterinary medical profession, I solemnly swear that I will use my scientific knowledge and skills for the benefit of society.

I will strive to promote animal health and welfare, relieve animal suffering, protect the health of the public and environment, and advance comparative knowledge.

I will practice my profession conscientiously, with dignity, and in keeping with the principles of veterinary medical ethics.

I will strive continuously to improve my professional knowledge and competence and to maintain the highest professional and ethical standards for myself and the profession.

Healthy animals and  
people in a healthy  
environment.



**Alberta Veterinary Medical Association**

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