



Canadian Veterinary
Medical Association
Association canadienne
des médecins vétérinaires

June 4, 2025

Hon. Buckley Belanger P.C. M.P.
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6
Via email - Buckley.Belanger@parl.gc.ca

RE: Congratulations from the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA)

Dear Secretary Belanger:

The veterinary professionals of Canada, including over 25,000 veterinarians, technologists and technicians, look forward to working closely with you for the betterment of animal health and welfare and the economic wellbeing of our animal production industries. Congratulations on your appointment as Secretary of State (Rural Development).

Since 1948, the CVMA has proudly served as the national voice for Canada's veterinary profession. Our members are deeply engaged in protecting public and animal health, supporting food safety and security, and advancing animal welfare. We work closely with federal departments and agencies, including Health Canada, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, and the Public Health Agency of Canada, to promote science-based policy and practice.

As you know, Canada is experiencing a prolonged shortage of veterinarians affecting all areas of the profession, including food animal and regulatory practice. As Canada ranks as the world's fifth largest agricultural exporter, with annual red meat exports alone totalling \$9.5 billion, the economic impact of food animal veterinarians cannot be overstated. Each food animal veterinarian contributes approximately \$1.2 million in direct and indirect economic output to their community.

We believe, to combat this shortage, that Canada must do more to leverage its pool of internationally trained veterinarians. To facilitate internationally trained veterinarians' entry into the workforce, we support a targeted investment to expedite veterinary skills testing and training. A proposed \$50 million capital investment to establish a national testing centre – part of a larger \$100 million+ initiative at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine in Saskatoon – would significantly expand testing and training capacity to ensure that all qualified veterinarian candidates can enter the workforce each year.

This initiative has garnered broad support across the veterinary and agriculture sectors, and across



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Canada's five veterinary colleges and the Deans Council - Agriculture, Food and Veterinary Medicine, and is essential for ensuring a sustainable veterinary workforce in Canada. The construction of a national testing centre is also supported by Provincial Ministers of Agriculture in: Alberta, British Columbia, New Brunswick and Saskatchewan.

A strong veterinary workforce is crucial to managing biothreats, animal welfare, food safety, and protecting our \$37.3 billion animal production sector.

Thank you for your continued commitment to the well-being of Canadians. As the national association representing the veterinary profession we would appreciate the opportunity to meet with you to discuss this important initiative further and request your leadership to help meet the needs of all Canadians.

Once again, congratulations, and we look forward to building a productive relationship with you over the course of this Parliament.

Sincerely,

Tim Arthur, DVM
President

W. Joel Neuheimer
CEO

