

Minister, AGRI AGRI:EX

From: Nancy Neville <nneville@cvma-acmv.org>
Sent: Monday, February 12, 2018 5:00 AM
To: ae.minister@gov.ab.ca
Cc: premier@gov.ab.ca; labour.minister@gov.ab.ca; education.minister@gov.ab.ca; tbf.minister@gov.ab.ca; edt.ministeroffice@gov.ab.ca; health.minister@gov.ab.ca; af.minister.m@gov.ab.ca; vermillion.lloydminster@assembly.ca; highwood@assembly.ab.ca; minedu@leg.gov.mb.ca; minhsal@leg.gov.mb.ca; minagr@leg.gov.mb.ca; Minister, AEST AEST:EX; Minister, HLTH HLTH:EX; Minister, AGRI AGRI:EX; he.minister@gov.sk.ca; minister.ae@gov.sk.ca; minister.ag@gov.sk.ca; douglas.freeman@usask.ca; baljit.singh1@ucalgary.ca; margitta.dziwenka@abvma.ca; Richard.Hodges@umanitoba.ca; drlesleyshep@gmail.com; CVMA SBCV; denise.hunt@usask.ca
Subject: Correspondence from the President of the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association
Attachments: 18-02-12 Funding veterinary education.pdf

Please find attached correspondence from Dr. Troye McPherson, President of the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association.

Yours sincerely,

Nancy Neville
*Executive Assistant /
Adjointe de direction*

**CANADIAN VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION /
Association canadienne de médecins vétérinaires**
339 rue Booth Street
Ottawa, ON K1R 7K1
T: 613-236-1162, ext. 111
TF: 800-567-2862
<http://canadianveterinarians.net> <http://veterinairesauCanada.net>

The nomination deadline has been extended until February 13, 2018!





February 12, 2018

The Honourable Marlin Schmidt
Minister of Advanced Education

Via e-mail only to: ae.minister@gov.ab.ca

RE: Funding of veterinary education in Western Canada

Dear Minister Schmidt:

The Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA), federally incorporated in 1948 by an Act of Parliament, represents 7,200 members from across Canada, including most of the veterinarians from Western Canada and all licensed veterinarians from Alberta. The CVMA is the national and international voice for Canada's veterinarians, providing leadership and advocacy for veterinary medicine.

The CVMA has learned of the decision of the Government of Alberta not to renew the interprovincial funding agreement for veterinary education at Western College of Veterinary Medicine (WCVN) in Saskatoon, effectively reducing its funding of veterinary education for Alberta students by more than \$3.3 million per year and eliminating the 20 student seats presently available for Albertans at WCVN. Given the crucial impact of this plan, the CVMA would like to urge the Alberta Government to discuss alternative options with the key stakeholders, such as the Alberta Veterinary Medical Association (ABVMA), Western College of Veterinary Medicine (WCVN), University of Calgary Veterinary Medicine (UCVM) and the provincial governments of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and British Columbia.

Veterinarians are custodians of the health and well-being of wildlife, companion animals, and agricultural food producing animals. The work of Veterinarians contributes significantly to public health and ecosystem health and to healthy economics. Alberta raises large numbers of food producing animals that enter the human food chain. Animal surveillance, health and wellbeing contribute to quality food, food safety and effective management of diseases, to name but a few. From an economic perspective, veterinarians, directly or indirectly, foster the prosperity of domestic sales, exports and employment. Overall, veterinary practices of small, food animal and wildlife provide for the wellbeing of Albertans.

.../2

canadianveterinarians.net
veterinairesauCanada.net

339, rue Booth Street
Ottawa (Ontario) K1R 7K1

t • (800) 567-2862
f • (613) 236-9681
admin@cvma-acmv.org

One Profession, One Strong Voice.
Une profession, une seule voix.

 [CanadianVeterinaryMedicalAssociation](https://www.facebook.com/CanadianVeterinaryMedicalAssociation)
 [@CanVetMedAssoc](https://twitter.com/CanVetMedAssoc) | [@Assoccanmedvet](https://twitter.com/Assoccanmedvet)
 [@cvma.acmv](https://www.instagram.com/cvma.acmv)

In order to uphold the aforementioned benefits to Albertans, quality veterinary education and a sufficient number of veterinarians are required. The CVMA is extremely concerned about the Alberta government's withdrawal of funding for veterinary education at WCVM as this will likely cap the number of Alberta veterinary students able to be educated. We anticipate this will lead to fewer credentialed veterinarians entering practice in Alberta at a time when there already appears to be a shortage of veterinarians. Indeed, Alberta's need for veterinary services is anticipated to rise as a result of, for example, the Federal Government's new antimicrobial use regulations and policies.

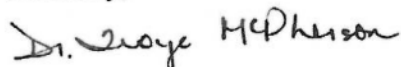
From 2013 to 2016, 97 WCVM graduates have found jobs in Alberta. At the same time, the Alberta Government funded 80 seats. About 60 per cent of those graduates working in Alberta have entered rural large or mixed animal practice. The WCVM trains Alberta-based graduate students, interns and postdoctoral fellows. Over the past five years, WCVM has assisted 106 Alberta-based students in achieving post-graduate degrees or training.

Another service that WCVM provides to Alberta is that of animal research. The WCVM's research program has a significant impact on Alberta's livestock sector, particularly in beef cattle production. The studies conducted in the past decade have a lasting impact on livestock production across the West.

WCVM has a veterinary teaching hospital, the only one in Western Canada. The WCVM Veterinary Medical Centre (VMC) offers primary care to animal owners as well as advanced referral services to western Canadian veterinarians, including practitioners in Alberta who rely on the VMC for access to new technologies and specialized care for their patients.

The UCVM and WCVM offer complementary programs and services that, working synergistically, result in benefits to the veterinary profession and hence the public of Alberta that far outweigh the funding that Alberta has to date shared with the other western provinces. Ample funding for a growing demand of veterinary services is of the essence to ensure the personal and economic wellbeing of Albertans and the population of Canada's West in general. Extension of funding from Alberta to both UCVM and WCVM will help ensure the benefits of such an ongoing relationship are not lost to Alberta students nor to the public in general. The CVMA would like to thank you for considering the above and reaching out to stakeholders to find the appropriate solution.

Sincerely,



Dr. Troye McPherson
President

cc: Hon. R. Notley, Premier of Alberta
Hon. S. Hoffman, Health Minister of Alberta
Hon. O. J. Carlier, Alberta Minister of Agriculture and Forestry
Hon. C. Gray, Minister of Labour, Alberta
Hon. D. Minister of Education, Alberta

Hon. Joseph Ceci, Minister of Finance, Alberta
Hon. D. Bilous, Minister of Economic Development and Trade, Alberta
Hon. I. Wishart Manitoba Minister of Education and Training
Hon. K. Goertzen, Manitoba Minister of Health, Seniors and Active Living
Hon. R. Eichler, Manitoba Minister of Agriculture
Hon. M. Mark, British Columbia Minister of Advanced Education, Skills and Training
Hon. A. Dix, British Columbia Minister of Health
Hon. L. Popham, British Columbia Minister of Agriculture
Hon. J. Reiter, Saskatchewan Minister of Health
Hon. T. Beaudry-Mellor, Saskatchewan Minister of Advanced Education
Hon. Lyle Stewart, Saskatchewan Minister of Agriculture
Dean D. Freeman, WCV
Dean B. Singh, UCV
Dr. M. Dziwenka, President, ABVMA
Dr. R. Hodges, President, Manitoba Veterinary Medical Association
Dr. L. Sawa, President, Saskatchewan Veterinary Medical Association
Dr. S. Armstrong, CVMA-Society of British Columbia Veterinarians Chapter