

## **SPEAKING FRANKLY**

### ***A Report on the Veterinary Practice Community Reference Panel***

May 2023

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#### **BACKGROUND**

As a component of its Strategy 2020 objectives, the Council of the College of Veterinarians of Ontario formed a veterinary practice advisory panel to assist with its work. The Veterinary Practice Community Reference Panel is the second iteration of this group which has now existed since 2017. The Veterinary Practice Community Reference Panel's specific mandate includes:

- to provide early advice to the College on emerging policy matters
- to provide feedback on the implementation of draft policy
- to provide input on the communication strategy with the veterinary community
- to assist in the identification of risk areas in practice
- to identify emerging trends and challenges in practice

The panel is intended to meet at least three times a year, once face-to-face with Council.

This report summarizes key areas discussed by the panel at its most recent meeting in May 2023 and outlines opportunities for College consideration.

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#### **KEY AREAS**

(A) VCPR with Christine Saunders

Christine Saunders, from Halmyre, facilitated a session related to the VCPR. A summary of this session will be developed by Halmyre for the College's use in further work related to this topic.

(B) Compassion in Regulation

The College was interested in hearing from the Panel how it currently perceives the College and what changes it believes could be made to assist with the goal of regulating with care and compassion. Panel members were provided with a series of existing web pages and publications for consideration. Comments on the developed materials from the Panel included:

- Historically, there has been a sense of fear of the College.
- Typically, the more you engage with the College the more the fear reaction disappears.
- The tone of the College has changed in recent years.
- Including resources and contact information on documents is helpful.
- The example documents convey compassion and demonstrate that the College is there to help.

### (C) Clarifying Act, Regulation, and Policy Infographic

The College has developed an infographic that outlines what components of legislative reform will appear in a new Act and which will appear in associated regulations and policies. Panel members were asked if the infographic clearly outlined the topics and increased clarity on the process. Comments from the Panel included:

- Infographics are helpful and have an important place in communications.
- Generally, the infographic was well-received.
- The infographic simplifies the message of the difference between each piece.

### (D) Trends for Consideration

Panel members have the opportunity to raise any current trends or issues within the veterinary sector that they believe should be raised for the College's consideration. Comments from the Panel included:

- Violence in veterinary practices is a concern.
- Recent [CBC Radio program](#) related to the shortage of veterinarians.

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### **SUMMARY**

The Council is grateful to the members of the advisory panel for their candid comments and willingness to engage with the profession as it aims to instill confidence in veterinary regulation. All information and identified opportunities will be considered for both immediate and future planning.