



THE COLLEGE OF
VETERINARIANS
OF ONTARIO

SUMMARY REPORT ON LEGISLATIVE REFORM CONSULTATION FEEDBACK

Background on the Consultations

The College Council has been engaged in strategic discussions regarding the need to consider reform to the *Veterinarians Act* since 2013. To progress this work, it commissioned an oversight advisory group, three working groups, in-depth research, and broad-based consultations. Included in the approach to consultation have been specific opportunities for the public to respond to key areas of debate. Comments and opinions received for each public consultation have been fed back into the College's analysis and discussion process to help shape Council's final recommendations.

This report provides a brief summary of the perspectives raised by those who participated in each separate consultation.

Consultations included the following topics:

1. Single Screening Process for Investigations
2. Expanded Public Register
3. Mandatory Quality Assurance Program
4. Interim Suspensions
5. Mandatory Reporting of Dismissal or Resignation Related to Incompetence or Incapacity of a Member
6. Publicizing a Notice of Hearing
7. Objects of the College

It should be noted that, while all consultations garnered veterinarian perspective, consultations (4), (5), and (6) received significant attention from the general public.

CONSULTATION FEEDBACK: EXPANDED PUBLIC REGISTER

Consultation Period: May 19, 2016 – June 27, 2016

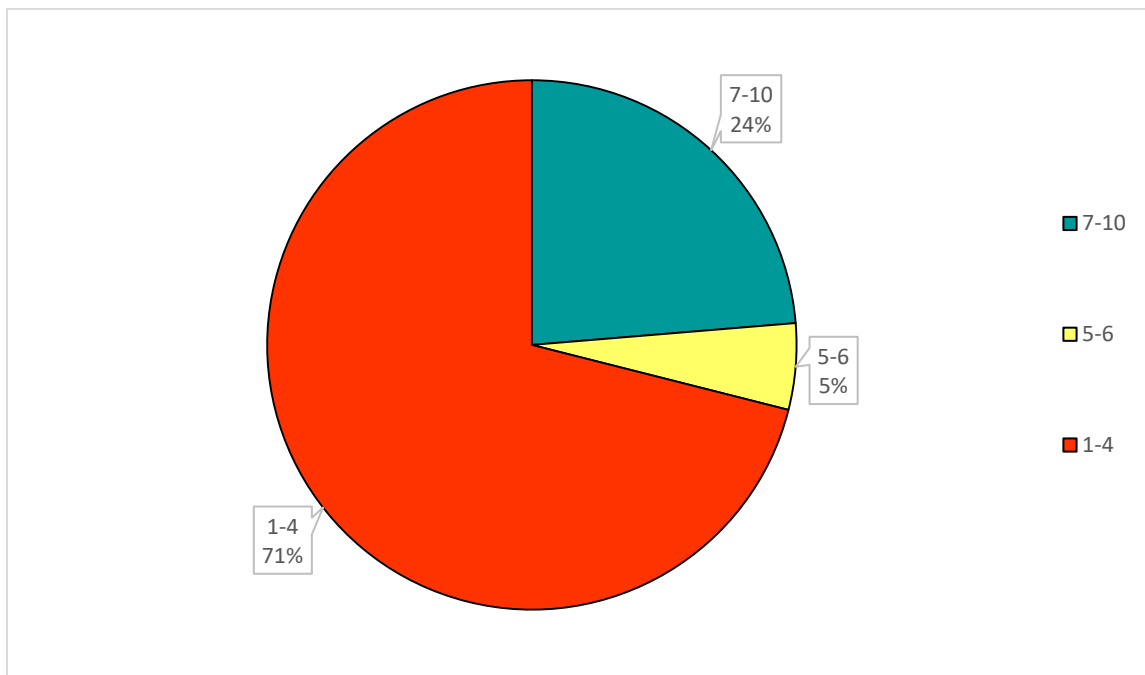
Submissions: 38 submissions

Overview of the Feedback:

Respondents who took the survey (rather than simply providing comments) were divided as follows based on the responses received to the question asking respondents to rank their support of the concept on a scale of 1 to 10:

- 1 - 4: critical of the concept
- 5 - 6: neither in favour of the concept nor critical of it
- 7 - 10: in favour of the concept

The following chart illustrates the breakdown of the responses received:



Additional Comments:

- *This is completely unnecessary. It is unfathomable how the College thinks that this will help protect the public. Instead, it will open veterinarians up to possible reprisals,*

including (but not limited to) violence, ostracizing, failure of their business, stigmatization, and other negative consequences

- *It will strengthen protection of the public*
- *I am not sure if I would include "criminal charges" unless they have already been convicted*
- *As veterinarians, we need to be responsible and be held to a higher standard. A more open and accurate public register would protect pet owners, potential employers and may also serve as a deterrent to some*
- *I am not sure if the privacy of the member is considered when making such information public*
- *The register should be limited to the veterinary professional activities of the member. Other information can be found by web search and is not relevant to the practice of veterinary medicine*

Following its review, Council directed that the College move forward on including this concept in its final proposal to the Ministry.

Appendix: Consultation Backgrounder:

[Consultation: Expanded Public Register](#)

[Veterinarians Act: Legislative Reform – What do you think?](#)

[What is the concept?](#)

To expand the information included on the Public Register to improve overall transparency and assist the public to make informed decisions related to veterinary care choices.

Watch a [video presentation](#) by Jan Robinson, College Registrar and Chief Executive Officer, outlining the concept.

[Why is the College considering changes to this concept?](#)

In accordance with the *Veterinarians Act*, the College currently provides a narrow listing of information on the Public Register. This is particularly noticeable in the areas of complaints and discipline. The College of Veterinarians of Ontario is perhaps the only regulatory college in Ontario that cannot publish a notice of hearing, including the member's name and allegations, prior to the hearing.

Providing additional information on the Public Register would increase transparency in College activities.

Currently the Public Register provides the following information about individual veterinarians:

- Name, including any former names
- Licence Status which may be active, suspended, resigned, resigned emeritus, deceased, expired or cancelled
- Primary Practice Location: address, work telephone number, patient group, patient type, languages spoken

- Current Licence Information: licence class and status, any conditions and limitations that may exist on the licence, expiration date for licence
- Veterinarian Details: professional activities, including the practice type and focus
- Undergraduate Veterinary Degree: when and where the licensed member obtained the degree
- Licence History: date licence was first issued and any changes to type or status since licence was issued
- Hearings: any past hearings are listed with the decisions

Currently the Public Register provides the following information about individual veterinary facilities:

- Name
- Facility Accreditation Status which may be active, closed, expired, temporarily closed or suspended
- Location: address, telephone number
- Name of Director
- Currently Accredited Facilities: facility type, expiration date for current Certificate of Accreditation, any conditions and limitations that may exist on the certificate
- Accreditation History: practice opening date

What is proposed?

Additional key items will be added to the Public Register:

- Notice of hearings and member allegations prior to a hearing, inclusive of the date(s) of the hearing
- Undertakings
- Outcomes of facility accreditation inspection
- Criminal charges reported on annual licence renewal
- Convictions reported on annual licence renewal
- Bail conditions reported on annual licence renewal

What are the benefits?

Significant benefits include:

- Serving the public interest by allowing for greater public protection
- Maintaining the public's confidence and trust that self-regulation is effective
- Enhancing the public's ability to make informed decisions
- Strengthening the regulator's accountability

In the proposed concept, the College will be attentive to ensuring only appropriate information is included on the Public Register, striking a balance between transparency and public protection and the fairness and privacy of licensed members.