



THE COLLEGE OF
VETERINARIANS

OF ONTARIO

Strategy 2017 Outcomes Report

In September 2013, the Council of the College of Veterinarians of Ontario approved a new strategic framework for launch in 2014. Titled Strategy 2017, the plan highlighted four key objectives as the focus of Council's attention. This report serves as a public report on the progress achieved over the last 3 years based on the vision for each objective set at the time.

Objective 1

Inspire quality practice through assuring competence.

By 2017 the Council has confirmed its approach to Quality Practice, inclusive of assurance activities and based on demonstrated best practices.

The chosen approach respects the culture of the profession, applies to various career stages, and is gaining increasing acceptance in all practise sectors.

The primary tools which provide assurance data to the public have been selected and piloted. The tools are flexible, accessible and applicable to varied practice settings.

A full program launch date has been set.

Veterinarians are actively engaged in dialogues on risks in practise, and on quality improvement.

Progress

In the past three years, the College has clearly confirmed its approach to Quality Practice linking and developing programs focused on the individual veterinarian – Quality Assurance and Quality Improvement – and on the facility – Accreditation. Given the diversity of veterinary medicine, and with an emphasis on risk in practice, supports and resources have been

developed for practice with all species. Many of the College's new professional practice standards and leading edge use of multi-media presentation are being adopted by others.

New programs for quality assurance which consider the standards of practice of the profession, and for accreditation which consider standards for facility safety, are both in development and/or a pilot phase. Launch dates for both are planned for 2020. Engagement of the profession, however, has been slow. The Council continues to seek strategies to facilitate positive uptake by veterinarians that are focused on improving and supporting veterinary medicine in Ontario.

Objective 2

Create a culture of collaboration by engaging all stakeholders in veterinary self-regulation.

By 2017 the College has built the voice and contribution of an engaged community which attracts veterinarians, the public and other interested stakeholders.

Communication is multimodal and effective, creating a robust dialogue on all issues.

The Council actively seeks external representation to its committees and task forces.

Veterinarians volunteer for service and attend College functions.

Resources which support professional practise are increasing and are used.

Public understanding of veterinary medicine and the role of the College has increased.

Most importantly, the College's reputation is aligning with its desired outcome.

Progress

The College has been extremely successful over the last several years in developing strong and constructive stakeholder relationships. Further, the involvement of veterinarians and the public in the shaping of College policy has significantly increased. The use of task forces and advisory groups, the introduction of social media tools, and the addition of an on-line public consultation tool are examples of improvement in strengthening the self-regulatory process. There has also been particular attention paid to increasing education resources for both the public and veterinarians; the majority of these are on-line and directly accessible. The College, and its Council, is working diligently on overcoming challenges to its forward progress on building a reputation as a collaborative, fair and transparent leader. This area will continue to be an important strategic focus for the College.

Objective 3

Advance One Health stewardship enabling public health initiatives within veterinary medicine.

By 2017 the College has demonstrated clear and proactive leadership to veterinary initiatives which promote public and animal health and welfare.

The Council has identified key issues requiring stewardship and has provided energy and resources to advance initiatives important to the public and the profession.

The College is viewed as a partner and resource in one health initiatives provincially and beyond.

Progress

The Council has demonstrated tremendous foresight in its early initiatives related to facilitating One Health stewardship and leading public health initiatives in veterinary medicine. From shelter medicine, to rabies to antimicrobial resistance to public education, the College is not only raising awareness, but assembling veterinarians together to consider their role(s) and next steps on various issues. The Council also approved its first Animal Welfare position statement. Again, the issues of animal welfare and public health will remain central to Council's ongoing strategic thinking.

Objective 4

Lead legislative reform of the *Veterinarians Act* that enhances regulatory transparency, flexibility and innovation.

By 2017 the Council has set a course to reform the *Veterinarians Act* which has the support of the Minister of Agriculture and Food.

Key areas in need of revision have been identified and working groups are in place to identify best practice options for the future.

The profession is engaged in the discussion of modernizing the Act.

A plan for re-engineering is in place.

Progress

The Council has effectively established a principle-based plan and pathway to modernize the *Veterinarians Act*. The process has been vigorous to date and includes four working groups focused on:

- (1) Oversight and Administrative Matters,
- (2) Investigations and Resolutions,
- (3) Scope of Practice, and
- (4) Quality Assurance

Numerous consultations have taken place on key proposed concepts. Multiple stakeholder voices are actively engaged in the initiative, inclusive of the Ontario Veterinary Medical Association (OVMA). In particular, the College has effectively collaborated with the Ontario Association of Veterinary Technicians on a scope of practice model which focuses on the system of veterinary care delivery and specific areas of risk in animal medicine. Legislative reform will continue to be a strategic focus.

Council is set to launch its Strategy 2020, a new 3-year vision and action plan, in March 2017.