

# Minutes



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## Council Meeting

March 20 and 21, 2024

2-71 Hanlon Creek Blvd.

Hybrid Meeting

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Presiding Officer: Dr. Wade Wright

Members present: Dr. Patricia Alderson (attended virtually)  
Dr. Claire Beauchamp  
Dr. Kathleen Day Dunbar  
Ms. Cathy Hecimovich  
Dr. Louise Kelly  
Ms. Catherine Knipe  
Dr. Lena Levison  
Dr. Clayton MacKay  
Dr. Alana Parisi (attended virtually)  
Dr. Sami Qureshi (attended virtually)  
Dr. Jessica Retterath  
Mr. Douglas Reynolds (attended virtually)  
Ms. Rena Spevack  
Dr. Yashvir Varma  
Dr. Michael Zigler

Appointed Officer: Jan Robinson, Registrar and CEO

Staff attending: Ms. Kim Huson, Executive Partner, Communications  
Ms. Sarah Kirby, Executive Partner, Policy  
Dr. Kim Lambert, Associate Registrar, Quality Practice  
Ms. Kali Pieters, Policy & Projects Coordinator  
Ms. Beth Ready, Executive Partner, Governance, Culture & Operations  
Ms. Shilo Tooze, Deputy Registrar

### 1. Call to Order

A Land Acknowledgement was read aloud by the President.

Dr. Wright called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m. and welcomed Councillors.

It was noted that the Council meeting was live streamed. Guests and observers watched the meeting via streaming.

## 2. Roll Call

A roll call was conducted.

## 3. Approval of Agenda

**MOTION:** It was moved and seconded,

“That the agenda be adopted as circulated.”

CARRIED

## 4. Conflict of Interest

No conflicts were declared.

## 5. Consent Agenda

Councillors reviewed the consent agenda and it was requested that

5.3 Registrar’s Report

5.4.1 Accreditation Committee Report

be removed from the consent agenda to be discussed separately.

All of the following consent agenda items were approved as presented:

5.1 Minutes – December 6 and 7, 2023

Minutes – Annual Council Meeting - December 6, 2023

5.2 President’s Report

5.4 Committee Reports

5.4.2 Registration

5.4.3 Complaints

5.4.4 Discipline

5.4.5 Executive

5.4.6 Quality Assurance

**MOTION:** It was moved and seconded,

“That the Consent Agenda be approved with item 5.3 and 5.4.1 to be discussed separately.”

CARRIED

### 5.3 Registrar’s Report

The Registrar noted that a review of the Veterinary Assistance Program (VAP) is being conducted. It has not been reviewed since 2004. Dr. Wright and the Registrar will be attending a first meeting in early April.

### 5.4.1 Accreditation Committee Report

Ms. Cathy Hecimovich, Chair of the Accreditation Committee, read an email that the College received from a member informing of their positive feedback on the new accreditation model.

**MOTION:** It was moved and seconded,

“That the Council of the College of Veterinarians of Ontario accept the Registrar’s Report and Accreditation Committee Report as presented.”

CARRIED

## **6. Strategic Alignment**

### **6.1 Evaluation**

Dr. Alana Parisi introduced this agenda item.

Council reviewed the meeting evaluation from its meeting held in December 2023.

### **6.2 Strategic Plan**

#### **6.2.1 Strategy 2026 – Year 1 Tactics**

Councillors were provided with the Year 1 Tactics related to Strategy 2026.

The document was provided to Council for information.

### **6.3 Policy Review and Project Priorities**

The Policy and Project Tracking Chart was provided for information.

### **6.4 Performance Measurement**

#### **6.4.1 Key Performance Indicators**

The performance indicators are intended to assist Council to focus on the risks to the organization and within the practice of veterinary medicine.

Council is provided with a Dashboard on a quarterly basis.

### **6.5 Outcomes Focused Regulation**

#### **6.5.1 Update**

Work continues relating to the management of drugs by veterinary facilities, the role of facility directors, the evaluation of remedial undertakings, improving medical record keeping, both public and profession based understanding of the VCPR, supporting anti-microbial stewardship, promoting cultural humility, and culture of safety.

### **6.6 Veterinary Practice Community Reference Panel**

The College has had Community Reference Panels since 2018. One panel consists of the public voice, and the other the voice of the profession.

Each panel is offered a yearly opportunity to meet directly with Council. The public panel met with Council in September 2023.

Members from the Veterinary Practice Panel met with Council – some attended in person and others joined virtually.

Panel members were asked specific questions and Council had an opportunity to ask questions.

## **7. Finance**

### **7.1 Financial Statement – January 31, 2024**

Council reviewed the Variance Report, Balance Sheet, and Revenue and Expenses Statement ending January 31, 2024.

The documents are presented as information only.

## **Public Policy**

### **8.1 Legislative Reform**

Ms. Sarah Kirby, Executive Partner, Policy, provided a presentation to Council discussing the main features of the new legislation and the process the College has set in place to move the next discussions forward. An opportunity for asking questions and providing clarifications was provided.

### **8.2 Draft Position Statement – Embracing Innovation and the Digital Age in Veterinary Medicine**

Dr. Jessica Retterath, Chair of the Ontario Veterinary Regulatory Innovation Panel, introduced this agenda item.

The panel held its first meeting in January 2023. One particular aim of the Panel's work was to assist Council to position innovation in the veterinary community and assist with guidance on how to encourage forward movement while mitigating risk. To begin to further advance the College in this conversation, the Panel crafted a draft position statement to clearly state publicly the Council's interests. Once approved this statement will be followed by a guide to assist veterinarians on how to approach this unregulated space of data analytics, precision medicine, software and artificial intelligence, robotics and others.

The Panel members were supportive of the draft and the Executive Committee also reviewed the draft statement and made minor revisions.

Council considered and provided its feedback on a draft Position Statement – Embracing Innovation and the Digital Age in Veterinary Medicine.

**MOTION:** It was moved and seconded,

“That the Council of the College of Veterinarians of Ontario adopt the draft Position Statement – Embracing Innovation and the Digital Age in Veterinary Medicine as presented and post.”

CARRIED

### **8.3 Notice of Motion (Dr. Clayton MacKay)**

At its meeting held in December 2023, Dr. Clayton MacKay provided the following statement of intent to make a motion at the next regularly scheduled meeting date of Council.

That the Council of the College of Veterinarians of Ontario review the election procedure for the Executive Committee.

Dr. Clayton MacKay indicated that he was withdrawing his motion.

## **9. Organizational Policy**

### **9.1 By-Law Changes – Licence Application Fee, Jurisprudence Exam Fee, Outstanding Fees**

Ms. Shilo Tooze, Deputy Registrar, introduced this agenda item.

The College periodically reviews fees across the organization to ensure that the fees are adequately managing the necessary costs to conduct the specific activity. Aside from the licensure category fees, applicants to the College pay a licence application fee and the CVO Jurisprudence Exam fee. It was determined that these fees had not been adjusted in many years and no longer reflected the costs to conduct these functions.

The Council also reviewed a new proposed by-law change that would require licensed members who owe fees to the College to pay any outstanding fees owed to the College in order to renew their licence each year.

At its meeting in September 2023, Council supported the proposed fee revisions and the proposed by-law changes were circulated to licensees and posted on the College website for comment.

Council was provided with a brief summary of the proposed changes and the feedback that was received in the consultation relating to licence application fee, CVO jurisprudence exam fee, and outstanding costs.

Council considered the information provided and provided its feedback. Council acknowledged that breadth of the feedback and indicated an opportunity to consider this as fees are reviewed for legislative reform.

**MOTION:** It was moved and seconded,

“That the Council of the College of Veterinarians of Ontario approve the By-law changes as presented.”

CARRIED

### **9.2 By-Law Changes – Election of Council Members**

At its meeting in December 2023, Council robustly discussed its early thoughts on the direction to be taken. Council directed that the item be returned to staff for developing proposed By-law changes which would be forwarded to its meeting in March.

As per Council’s direction, a revised By-law was considered by Council that supports continuing with the current Council and committee elected and appointed members, excluding order in council appointments, until the transition period is complete. If approved, the draft By-law will be circulated for public consultation for 60 days.

**MOTION:** It was moved and seconded,

“That the Council of the College of Veterinarians of Ontario approve the By-law amendment as presented and circulate for public consultation.”

CARRIED

## 10. Council Roundtable

### Trends – Media, Regulatory, Legal, and Public

Councillors were provided by staff with the top trends relating to media, regulation, recent legal cases, and public.

Councillors reviewed the trends that were brought forward.

### General Trends

Councillors were given the opportunity to raise any matter that they believe is relevant to the College and its activities. Comments included:

- recent article “Family medicine access in Canada drops since 2016, survey suggests <https://www.cbc.ca/news/health/cihi-family-medicine-1.7150378>
- article in BBC news “How these Canadian cows are burping less methane” <https://bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-68602575>

## 12. Notice of Motion

No notice of motion was brought forward.

## 13. Confidentiality

Councillors were reminded that Council meetings are public meetings.

Information discussed in in-camera sessions must be kept confidential by all in attendance. All budget/financial/strategic alignment documents are not to be shared outside of the meeting as these documents are working documents of Council and not public material. Any inquiries regarding the package can be directed to the website where the public package is posted.

Minutes of the Council meeting are not approved until its next meeting.

## 14. Evaluation Form

The Council meeting evaluation form will be forwarded for completion electronically via Survey Monkey. Councillors are encouraged to complete the evaluation which is helpful in continually improving future Council meetings.

## 15. Date of Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of Council will be held on June 19, 2024.

## 17. Adjourn

**MOTION:** It was moved,

“That the meeting of Council be adjourned.”

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 2:08 pm.

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Dr. Wade Wright  
President

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Jan Robinson  
Registrar and CEO

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Beth Ready  
Recording Secretary