



SPEAKING FRANKLY

A Report on the Public Advisory Panel

February 2021

BACKGROUND

As a component of its Strategy 2020 objectives, the Council of the College of Veterinarians of Ontario formed a public advisory panel to assist with its work. The public advisory panel's specific mandate includes:

- to provide early advice to the College on emerging policy matters
- to provide feedback on the clarity of draft policy to the general public
- to provide input on the public communication strategy
- to identify emerging trends related to the animals, animal care and public perspective

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

This report summarizes key areas highlighted by the panel and outlines opportunities for Council consideration.

A teleconference meeting of the Public Advisory Panel was held on February 10, 2021.

KEY AREAS

(A) Feedback on the College's Annual Report

- Report is clear and visually appealing
- Icons were well-used and helped disseminate information
- Professional corporations section required more context
- Appreciation for the acknowledgement of the challenges of the last year
- Potential opportunity to compare data to last year to show trends

(B) Update on College Work on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

- Huge area of discussion
- Potential to use automated processes to remove bias
- Importance of consulting BIPOC advisors
- Potential for training in unconscious bias; emotional intelligence if not already covered

(C) Creation of Two Separate Public Advisory Panels

- Prefer the Panel stays together
- Importance of hearing different perspectives
- Increased chance of lobbying of a cause if voices are more siloed

(D) Trends or Issues to Raise for Consideration

- Increase in animal ownership leading to increased demand on veterinarians
- Concerns about continuity of care as public seeks out numerous veterinarians to access care
- Use of veterinary students in the immunizations of humans against Covid-19
- Potential use of veterinarians and registered veterinary technicians in human immunization

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.