



Council Meeting Highlights

Council Meeting: March 20 & 21, 2024
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The College Council met as a hybrid meeting on March 20 & 21, 2024. Council meets next on April 19 for a special Council meeting and again on June 19, 2024 for its next regular meeting. The public is welcome to attend Council proceedings in-person or to watch via the livestream. Council highlights and replays from policy discussions are available on the College website at cvo.org/Council. Council considered the following items in March.

Legislative reform: College staff provided Council with a thorough overview of *The Enhancing Professional Care for Animals Act*, which was tabled in the provincial legislature early in March. The legislation is currently making its way through the legislature and will provide our new governing framework. Components of the draft legislation, include recognition of veterinary technicians' skills on the veterinary team; modernized governance, including a mandatory quality assurance program; increased transparency and efficiency in investigations and their resolutions; and improved access to veterinary care, including low-risk health care options. A replay of this informative and exciting presentation is available on the College website.

By-Law Changes – Licence Application Fee, Jurisprudence Exam Fee, Outstanding Fees: Council reviewed and discussed the feedback received during the consultation on the proposed changes to the Licence Application Fee, the Jurisprudence Exam Fee, and Outstanding Fees. Council approved the proposed fee increases which will help manage the necessary costs associated with each activity. Thank you to everyone who participated in the consultation – your feedback was helpful and appreciated.

By-Law Changes – Election of Council Members: As the College moves towards new legislation, there will be a period of time when the existing Council will tend to the mandate in the Veterinarians Act and there will also be a transitional Council that will include current councillors, appointed veterinary technicians and additional public members. The transitional Council will develop new processes under the new Act. Following discussion, Council decided to approve, for consultation, a By-Laws amendment that would extend the terms of current Council members until the new Act receives final proclamation. The consultation is now open on the proposed change to the By-Laws. Council will review the consultation feedback at its June meeting.

Veterinary Practice Community Reference Panel: Council was pleased to have members of the Veterinary Practice Community Reference Panel join Council to share their insight. The College has had Community Reference Panels – one with public members and one with veterinarians - since 2018. The panels meet regularly and share their thoughts on policy matters. Council welcomed their input on trends that are relevant to Council's work, how the panel can best support Council in their role, and the importance of the profession's voice in the College's work.

Presentation on The Future of Farms: Council welcomed dairy veterinarian Dr. Kristen Edwards; dairy farmer Ethan Wallace, of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture; and beef farmer Robert McKinlay, of the Beef Farmers of Ontario, to further Council's understanding of the cattle industry in Ontario. They discussed various challenges such as access to veterinary medicine, the need to increase use of veterinary technicians, farmer wellness, vulnerability of the supply chain, public perceptions, antimicrobial stewardship, and data and technology in farming today. Council appreciated their perspectives.