



Legacy Council Meeting Highlights

Legacy Council Meeting: September 25, 2025

cvo.org/Council

The Legacy Council met in-person on September 25, 2025. The public is welcome to watch Council proceedings via the livestream; please contact the College if you plan to attend in-person. Council highlights, minutes, and replays from policy discussions are available on the College website at cvo.org/Council. The Legacy Council considered the following items in September:

Policy: Language Benchmark: The Legacy Council discussed a report, prepared by the Centre for Canadian Language Benchmarks (CCLB), which describes the type, scope and composition of the English and French language skills required by the veterinary profession in Ontario. The report supports the establishment of valid, reliable, and fair language levels of English or French required to work as a veterinarian in Ontario; and to map Canadian Language Benchmarks to the College's currently accepted language proficiency tests. Following discussion, the Legacy Council approved the proposed benchmark scores of CLB 9 for Reading, Writing, Listening and Speaking. Each Canadian veterinary regulator has been presented with the report and is supportive of adopting these validated language benchmark scores as a national standard.

In 2023, Council approved funding for the language benchmarks project for veterinary medicine in Ontario. Having language benchmarks for the profession enables the College to set appropriate pass marks for all language tests that the College accepts as part of the requirements for licensure. In 2024, the CCLB's benchmarking team collected data through research, job shadowing and on-site workplace observations of language use. Additional data was collected through interviews and survey responses.

The confidential report, reviewed by the Legacy Council, describes the benchmarks of the speaking, listening, reading, and writing tasks required of veterinarians in Ontario, and provides a blueprint of the language requirements needed to work safely as a veterinarian, based on Canada's national language standards: Canadian Language Benchmarks (CLB) and Niveaux de compétence linguistique canadiens (NCLC).

The Fair Access to Regulated Professions and Compulsory Trades Act helps ensure regulated professions and individuals applying for registration by regulated professions are governed by registration practices that are transparent, objective, impartial and fair. Since 2022, regulation was established related to language proficiency testing by regulators. Currently, Ontario regulators are also required to accept the language tests that are approved under the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act.

Policy: Report on the Matawa First Nation Project: Following discussion, the Legacy Council unanimously approved A New Way Forward, a report from the Advisory Circle looking at the future for access to animal health care within Matawa First Nations. The collaborative project with Matawa First Nations sought to better understand the opportunities to improve veterinary services in both drive-in and fly-in communities.

Moving forward, the College will be a facilitator and convenor of this work alongside the Matawa First Nations Management team with strategies focused on both public health and dog health. Some of the tactics directly impact College materials and resources, while some tactics include the development of new resources for veterinary teams that belong to the profession at large. Further, some tactics are aimed at assisting Matawa to measure and support its work for the future. The College is attentive to appreciating the unique needs of First Nation communities. The Legacy Council approved the recommended objectives and tactics. The Chiefs Council of the Matawa First Nations will also be reviewing the recommendations.

Budget 2026: The Legacy Council approved the proposed budget for 2026 for the College and the Transition Council. 2026 is the second year of transition to the new legislation and includes the work of the Transition Council, funded by reserves, and wind-down of the existing Legacy Council, funded by revenue from fees. There is no increase to licensure fees in the 2026 budget. The 2026 budget includes a modest surplus.