



Council Meeting Highlights

Council Meeting: June 19, 2024

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The College Council met on June 19, 2024 at the College office in Guelph. Council meets on September 23 & 24, 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 June.

New Council member: As the result of the by-election among federally employed veterinarians, Dr. Sean Marshall joined Council for his first meeting. Dr. Marshall has worked for the Canadian Food Inspection Agency for over 20 years.

Legislative reform: Council celebrated its new governing legislation, the *Veterinary Professionals Act*, which received approval in the provincial legislature on June 6, 2024. This summer, a transition Council will be formed, which will include appointed registered veterinary technicians, as well as the current members of Council. At the June meeting, staff provided Council with an overview of the transition process, and next steps as we move forward to our new legislation as the College of Veterinary Professionals of Ontario. A replay of this presentation is available on the College website.

By-Law Changes – Election of Council Members: Council discussed a proposed change to the College By-Laws concerning the election of Council members. As Council moves into the transition period, the existing legacy Council will continue to tend to member matters and the operations of the College. A transition Council, including the current Council and appointed veterinary technicians, will develop new processes under the new Act. Council reviewed the consultation feedback and approved the change to the By-Laws to extend the current Council until the new Act receives final proclamation.

Maintaining Appropriate Boundaries: In Council's work to support professionalism, maintaining appropriate boundaries in practice has been identified as a priority to ensure veterinarians' decision-making isn't influenced by a relationship that crosses the boundary from a professional one to a personal one. Council discussed the next steps on this topic and decided to move forward with drafting a policy on maintaining appropriate boundaries.

Strategy 2026, Year One Outcomes: Council reviewed a summary report, available on the College website, of the work completed on each strategic objective during the first year of the strategic plan. Along with progress on legislative reform, achievements include:

- ongoing work on a national project to produce competency assessment tools for limited licensure
- increased focus on team-based care under the new legislative model
- publishing a position statement on Embracing Innovation and the Digital Age
- a One Health education strategy, including a One Health kit and a risk sheet for farm families
- year 2 of the College's action plan on inclusivity, diversity, equity and accessibility with progress in anti-racism training for Council, Committee and staff, and a refresh of the commitment to inclusion statement.
- a working group, as part of the Ontario Collaborative for Well-being in Veterinary Medicine, is developing a campaign to raise awareness on the importance of mental health in veterinary workplaces and reduce stigma that is a barrier to seeking help