



## AGENDA ITEM 12.3

### **TOPIC:     Composition and Quorum of Statutory Committees and Panels**

#### **History of Topic**

##### *General Information and Legislative Framework*

Statutory committees and panels are tasked with carrying out the core program-based functions of the College's mandate. Ensuring the right number of individuals possessing the necessary types of backgrounds and skillsets in carrying out this work is essential to fulfilling the College's various roles related to the public interest.

The composition and quorum for statutory committees and associated panels outlined in the *Veterinarians Act* is currently highly prescriptive. Section 7 of *Veterinary Professionals Act, 2024 (VPA)* removes the requirement for this level of specificity within statute in favour of an increased use of regulation language and the College's By-laws.

Under the *VPA*, statutory committees and their associated panels will continue to be named with some specific committee name changes. A large portion of the information related to these committees and panels will transition from the level of statute to either regulation language or College By-law. College Council will still be responsible for appointing members to committees and committee chairs will continue to appoint panels. Committees will continue to report to College Council who will continue to oversee and direct their work.

#### **Development of Regulatory Concept by Transition Council**

Transition Council reviewed and forwarded for public consultation a regulatory concept related to the composition and quorum of statutory committees and panels in September 2024.

This regulatory concept was developed based on legal advice the College received that indicated that it would be beneficial, and highly advisable, to outline minimum requirements for committee and panel composition and quorums in Regulation to ensure clarity and consistency for both the public and profession. Other items (such as maximums, ratios, and vacancies) could continue to be outlined in College By-law.

The concept included:

### 1. Membership and Quorum Requirements

Transition Council proposed that the minimum membership and quorum requirements for statutory committees and their associated panels be outlined in regulation to ensure equitable representation amongst veterinarian, veterinary technician, and public voices.

### 2. Diverse Voices

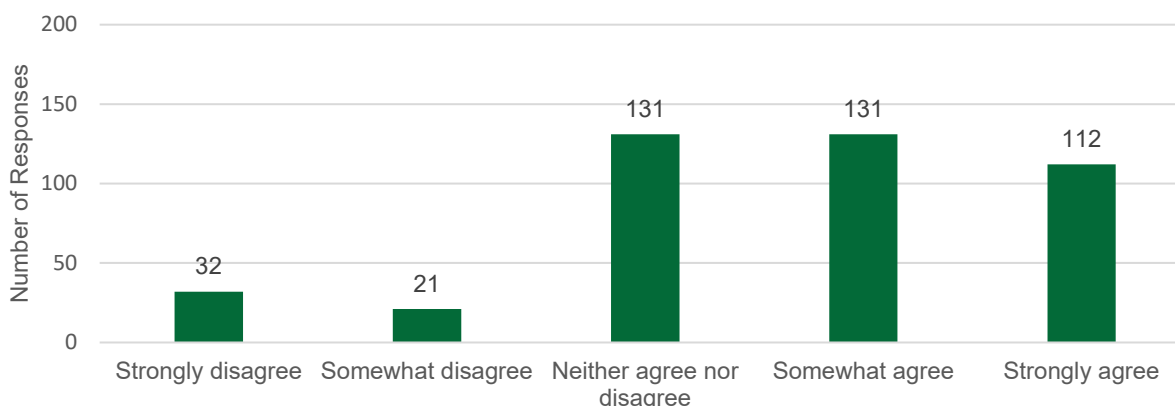
Transition Council proposed that committee and panel members be chosen from a variety of different backgrounders including members of the Council of the College of Veterinary Professionals of Ontario (CVPO), government-appointed public members, and general members of the public. Transition Council also proposed that this selection process, including any associated competencies or backgrounders, be outlined in CVPO By-law.

## General Consultation Feedback

The composition and quorum of committees and panels was included in the list of regulatory concepts that were circulated for public consultation from February 11 to April 16, 2025.

The following quantitative responses were received related to the composition and quorum of committees and panels:

Survey respondents were asked to indicate their agreement with a statement about Committees and Panels on a Likert scale of responses from “Strongly disagree” to “Strongly agree”. The figure below presents the results of 427 responses to the statement “*The proposed minimum committee and panel composition and quorum requirements are appropriate.*”.



In addition to the quantitative data, the following qualitative trends were noted:

- Some comments requesting maximum membership in regulation; and
- Some comments indicating support for the absence of maximum membership in regulation.

For more information on this consultation feedback, please refer to pages 60-62 of the full consultation report.

## Consultation Feedback from Key Partners:

### *Ontario Veterinary Medical Association (OVMA)*

In its April 15, 2025, submission the OVMA shared:

- General support for the concept of composition and quorum of committees and panels;
- Recommendation that a Council member continue to serve as Chair for committees and panels;
- Recommendation that veterinarian members have representation on every committee;
- Requests for committee members to receive training and orientation, for there to be a term limit on committee and panel membership, and for the introduction of an evaluation process; and
- General opposition to non-government appointed public members as members of committees and panels, with proposed considerations of:
  - o Non-government appointed public members only serving on panels, not committees;
  - o An enhanced recruitment process;
  - o Provision of extensive training; and
  - o Suggested title for this type of member to be “Non-veterinary Special Appointee”.

### *Ontario Association of Veterinary Technicians*

In its April 16, 2025, submission the OAVT shared:

- Strong support for the inclusion of veterinary technician members on each committee as well as in the calculation of quorums for each committee;
- Strong support for the inclusion of language related to one member of the same professional category as the member under review being included on the applicable panel.

### *Other Submissions:*

- Support for the composition and quorum of statutory committees and panels to appear in regulation language
  - o Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario
- Request for term limits on committee and panel members
  - o Ontario Association of Bovine Practitioners (OABP)
- Request for a veterinarian member on all committees and panels
  - o OABP
- Interest in the appointment of individuals in the agricultural and/or commodity communities to committees and panels
  - o Ontario Federation of Agriculture; Ontario Sheep Farmers; Ontario Association of Swine Veterinarians

For more information related to these submissions, please refer to the beginning of page 131 of the full consultation report.

## Further Information Gathered Based on Consultation Feedback

### 1. Potential Transition to CVPO By-law

Since the regulatory concept related to committees and panels was circulated for public consultation, the College has received further information from several sources (including legal perspectives) that has indicated that requirements related to committees and panels may be better situated in the By-Laws of the College of Veterinary Professionals of Ontario (CVPO) instead of within Regulation. In particular, the College has been made aware of an overall appetite for this language to appear in By-Law in accordance with Section 91 (1) 10 of the VPA which states:

The Council may make by-laws relating to the administrative and internal affairs of the College not inconsistent with this Act and the regulations, including by-laws respecting the following matters .... with respect to committees and their panels, respecting the filling of vacancies on committees or panels, providing for the composition of committees or panels and quorum for committees or panels, respecting the qualifications, selection, appointment and terms of office of members of committees, and prescribing conditions that disqualify committee members from sitting on committees and governing the removal of disqualified committee members.

## Additional Context to Assist with Decision Making

Based on this work, Transition Council is asked to consider the following option related to the composition and quorum of statutory committees and panels:

- Transfer the topic of the composition and quorum of statutory committees and panels from the level of regulatory concept to the level of CVPO By-law.

To help with this consideration, it is important to highlight that:

- The transfer of this topic to By-law would not result in the need to “start from scratch” and all previous work completed (including information gathered from the public consultation) would also be shifted over to this area of focus;
- That having information related to the composition and quorum of committees and panels in By-laws would flow nicely with the additional components already slated for By-law related to appointment processes including competency assessments; and
- The outlining of expectations in By-law allows for more flexibility for future CVPO Councils to adjust these requirements without requiring regulatory amendment should they become necessary in the future.

Alternatively, the ongoing inclusion of committees and panels as a regulatory concept could assist with ongoing transparency of the CVPO’s work at regulatory level and provide a higher level of surety should its approaches ever be questioned.

## Transition Council Discussion

The information contained in this cover sheet is being presented to Transition Council for its review and discussion related to next steps. To aid in this discussion, Transition Council is encouraged to consider if any further clarification or additional information is necessary prior to providing its direction.

## Potential Direction

Based on this review and discussion, Transition Council may direct:

1. That the regulatory concept be transferred to Transition Council's work related to By-Laws;
2. That the regulatory concept be returned to College staff for further work and consideration; or
3. Any other direction as determined by Transition Council.

## Attachments

1. Appendix A – Regulatory Concept (as presented in the public consultation)

Concept Chart – Committee and Panel Composition

Section	Primary Concepts Confirmed by Transition Council	Additional Information	Date of Confirmation
This column outlines the specific section of regulation.	This column provides a description of the objectives sought and the associated reasoning.	This column provides any additional specific information required to ensure clarity.	This column outlines when Transition Council confirmed the concept as well as any additional questions raised.
<b>Committee and Panel Composition</b>	<p><b>General</b></p> <p>Transition Council proposes the development of regulation language related to membership and quorum requirements for statutory committees and panels in accordance with Section 7 of the <i>Veterinary Professionals Act, 2024 (VPA)</i>.</p> <p><b>Purpose</b></p> <p>Most of the programs and processes of the College of Veterinary Professionals of Ontario (CVPO) will be overseen by its various statutory committees and associated panels. Providing clear outlines of the composition of these entities allows for transparency for both the public and the profession.</p> <p><b>Overview</b></p> <p>The <i>VPA</i> establishes six (6) statutory committees for the CVPO as well as the ability for these committees to work in panels. Further details related to the composition and</p>	<p>Transition Council is thoughtful of the importance of both veterinarians and veterinary technicians serving on committees and panels, including ensuring that all panels that deal with member matters are required to have at least one member of the same professional category as the member under review.</p> <p>Transition Council is also proposing the ability to appoint at-large public members to committees and panels to increase</p>	Transition Council confirmed the regulatory concept related to committee and panel composition in September 2024.

Section	Primary Concepts Confirmed by Transition Council	Additional Information	Date of Confirmation
	<p>quorum of these committees and panels are designated to regulation development.</p> <p><b>Outline Membership and Quorum Requirements</b></p> <p>Transition Council proposes that the minimum membership and quorum requirements for statutory committees and panels be outlined in regulation.</p> <p><b>Embrace Diverse Voices</b></p> <p>Transition Council proposes that committee and panel membership be chosen from a variety of different areas, including Council members, government-appointed public members, general members of the CVPO, and general members of the public.</p>	<p>the number of diverse public voices at the table. Determining specific committee membership will be the responsibility of the Council of the CVPO.</p>	