



Legacy Council Meeting Highlights

Legacy Council Meeting: September 23, 2026 cvo.org/Council

The Legacy Council met at the College office in Guelph on September 23, 2026. The public is welcome to watch Council via the livestream; please contact the College to attend in-person. Council highlights, minutes, and replays from policy-related discussions are available at cvo.org/Council. The Legacy Council considered the following items in September:

Budget 2027: The Legacy Council approved the proposed budget for 2027 for the College and the Transition Council. In the third year of transition to the new legislation, the work of the Transition Council is funded by reserves, and wind-down of the Legacy Council has been funded by revenue from fees. There is no increase to licensure fees in the 2027 budget, and several spending reductions have been included. The Legacy Council decided to transfer additional funds from the sale of the College's former office building to ensure a balanced budget for 2027.

Cybersecurity Audit: Cybersecurity is an essential component of the College work. Risks related to cyberattacks, data breaches, and social engineering continue to increase. The College carries cybersecurity insurance and has a substantial education program for staff to mitigate the risks. The College recently completed a cybersecurity audit. As a result of the audit, the College is investing in increased technology infrastructure and has developed a technology plan to address the recommendations identified in the audit.

Update on Complaints Committee Work: The Legacy Council received an update on progress in the Investigations and Resolutions team's work. The team has implemented new processes that doubled the number of reviewed complaints, making significant progress in clearing the backlog of cases. As well, they are exploring options to apply artificial intelligence to increase efficiencies with case matters.

Consultation Feedback related to antimicrobial stewardship in Accreditation Standards for Veterinary Facilities in Ontario: The Legacy Council reviewed comments from facility directors and partner organizations concerning proposed changes to the accreditation standards to emphasize the importance of antimicrobial stewardship (AMS). The consultation also reviewed revisions intended to clarify requirements within the standards.

On AMS, the consultation feedback indicated veterinarians generally support AMS but were concerned with additional administrative burden that didn't improve clinical outcomes. The Legacy Council decided to move ahead with requiring a written policy on AMS, enabling veterinary teams to consider AMS principles that apply to their scope of practice, including species treated. Incorporating AMS into accreditation standards aligns with existing professional guidance and regulatory expectations, reinforces the role of accreditation in promoting safe, quality veterinary care, and reflects broad provincial, national and international consensus on the importance of AMS.

On the revisions to enhance clarity of the current standards, the Legacy Council approved revisions to the accreditation standards to provide clarity on drug delivery. The clarification supports regulatory compliance, traceability, and protection against diversion or tampering with guidance on delivery methods that include tracking and signature confirmation and systems to ensure drug integrity during shipping

Advisory Group on AMS: In connection to its work on One Health, the Legacy Council approved the terms of reference to establish an advisory group on AMS. The group's task is to analyze education and information on current practices in antimicrobial prescribing for the veterinary profession and develop a public education campaign that supports evidence-based antimicrobial prescribing in animal health care. The advisory group will include veterinarians, veterinary technicians, an academic representative, a Legacy Council member, and representatives from partner organizations. The group will complete its work by spring 2027.

Strategy 2026: The Legacy Council reviewed the final outcomes report of Strategy 2026, marking the conclusion of focused effort from June 2023 to June 2026 across five strategic objectives. Through its work on Strategy 2026, the College made meaningful progress in strengthening veterinary regulation, supporting public confidence, and preparing the organization for the future. One of the most significant accomplishments was the progress made on legislative reform with the Veterinary Professionals Act and Transition Council's work to implement the College of Veterinary Professionals of Ontario. In the objective concerning access to veterinary services, the College advanced initiatives, including limited licensure competency assessment tools, work on team-based care, and conversations about the future of veterinary medicine.

In the area of innovation and technology, the Ontario Veterinary Regulatory Innovation Panel supported conversations on artificial intelligence, record-keeping tools, and new models of care delivery. As well, Legacy Council issued guidance on artificial intelligence-enabled medical devices and a position statement on embracing innovation and the digital age. In its work on One Health, the College has supported education, dialogue among partners, emergency management conversations, and antimicrobial stewardship work. A highlight is the work with Matawa First Nations focused on increasing access to veterinary care in nine northern communities. And finally, on the objective focused on people and context, the College is attentive to bringing compassion, inclusion, accessibility, and fairness to its regulatory approach. This also includes focus on the College brand, continued collaboration on veterinary well-being, and work on inclusion, diversity, equity, and accessibility.

The final outcomes report is available on the College website. The next strategic plan will come into place after the College of Veterinary Professionals of Ontario is established.