



Legacy Council Meeting Highlights

Legacy Council Meeting: March 17, 2025

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The Legacy Council met in-person on March 17, 2025. The public is welcome to attend meeting proceedings in-person or to watch via the livestream; please contact the College if you plan to attend in-person. Council highlights and replays from policy discussions are available on the College website at cvo.org/Council. The Legacy Council considered the following items in March:

Policy: Position Statement on Maintaining Appropriate Boundaries: The Legacy Council approved a new Position Statement on Establishing and Maintaining Appropriate Professional Boundaries in Practice. The Position Statement is part of the College's work to introduce resources and supports related to professionalism. The position states that veterinarians are entrusted to uphold high moral and ethical standards in practice. This includes maintaining appropriate boundaries in their relationships with clients, colleagues, staff and other co-workers that are essential and relevant to providing quality and safe care to their patients. The College expects veterinarians to resolve relationship boundary situations, up to and including, when necessary, the transfer of a patient to another veterinarian in a separate location and discontinuing the veterinarian-client-patient relationship. The new Position Statement is now available on the College website. A replay of the Legacy Council's discussion is also available on the College website.

Policy: Revisions to the Code of Ethics: The Legacy Council approved revisions to its Code of Ethics. The College's inclusion, diversity, equity, and accessibility Action Plan includes a commitment to strengthen policies and practices using an equity and inclusion lens. The proposed revisions add ethical principles and duties for conduct that support anti-racism, inclusivity, and cultural safety in the practice of veterinary medicine. The revised Code of Ethics will be available on the College website soon.

Strategy 2026: The March Legacy Council agenda included an update on progress related to Strategy 2026, the College's current strategic plan. In the key strategic priority of legislative reform, the College has been making significant progress with the development of regulatory concepts which are now in consultation. The Legacy Council has ensured the fiscal support of the work of the Transition Council and the support of staff in advancing the work required to transition to the new Veterinary Professional Act.

Another objective in Strategy 2026 focuses on partnering for improved access to veterinary services. Progress in this area includes completion of the limited licensure pilot, collaboration with the OVMA and OVC on a podcast series focused on the future and team-based care, a compassionate person-centred approach to investigations and resolutions, and participation in the first RVT mobilization training program in Ontario.

Strategy 2026 also includes a focus on innovation and technology. Progress includes a new guidance document related to use of artificial intelligence. As well, regulatory sandboxes continue to be considered by Council.

In promoting the importance of One Health, the College's work centres around emergency responses, the potential use of community vaccinator programs, and advancing antimicrobial stewardship.

Focusing regulation on people and context is the fifth strategic priority. This area includes initiatives on veterinary team mental health and well-being, IDEA information and education sessions for Council, Committee members and staff, promotion of the use of a spectrum of care approach to veterinary practice, and research around team-based care. Strategy 2026 is available on the College website.

Council & Committee Use of Artificial Intelligence Tools: The Legacy Council approved a governance policy that permits the use of pre-approved AI tools to support Council and Committee members in their roles. The tools must not be used to replace professional judgement. Potential uses for AI technology in Council and Committee work could include information analysis, note taking, and assistance with decision-writing. The new policy defines the procedure for a Council or Committee member to make use of approved AI tools.