

RESOLUTION 1-23
CREATION OF A MID-LEVEL ALBERTA VETERINARY MEDICAL
ASSOCIATION (ABVMA) PROFESSIONAL DESIGNATION

WHEREAS the scope of practice for Alberta veterinary professionals is governed by the ABVMA, which is governed by the Veterinary Profession Act, (RSA 200, Ch. V-2); and

WHEREAS the lack of veterinary professionals has a direct impact on the sustainability and profitability of livestock producers; and

WHEREAS medical doctor shortages led to the growth of the Nurse Practitioner designation in human medicine; and

WHEREAS addressing the current rural veterinary shortage will take a number of years to have an impact, but the livestock industry needs assistance now; and

WHEREAS there are veterinary services that could be performed by a mid-level veterinary professional, alleviating some pressure on Doctors of Veterinary Medicine.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED
THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

The Alberta Minister of Jobs, Economy and Northern Development work with the ABVMA to create a Mid- Level Veterinary Professional designation within the Veterinary Profession Act to address the rural veterinary shortage and provide mid-level supportive care to Alberta livestock producers with veterinary oversight, including but not limited to:

1. Pregnancy Checking
2. Vaccination
3. Semen Testing
4. Blood draws
5. Injections
6. Catheterization
7. Wellness checks
8. Renewing prescriptions
9. Establishing required relationship for producers to purchase prescribed medicines.

SPONSORED BY: Municipal District of Greenview
CARRIED

STATUS: Provincial
DEPARTMENT: Ministry of Jobs, Economy and Northern Development

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

It is well established that the lack of veterinarians is a worldwide issue. Many in the profession state they are burned out and some have left the profession. While Canadian schools annually graduate approximately 380 veterinary doctors, this barely keeps pace with current levels of retirement and attrition. It is estimated that Alberta alone is short 850 veterinarians, and veterinary technicians are in short supply as well.

The Rural Municipalities of Alberta advanced a resolution in February, 2022 to the Government of Alberta that requested increased funding for the University of Calgary Faculty of Veterinary Medicine. This request was granted by the Provincial Government in an announcement on May 10, 2022. The increase in funding will take the total seats available for prospective students from 50 to 100. While a positive first step, this will address the issue in five years but the problem is now.

Registered Veterinary Technicians are paid low salaries, after two years of schooling, a Registered Veterinary Technician will receive an average of \$21.47 per hour. Minimum wage is currently \$15 per hour for individuals over 18 years of age in Alberta. The average length of a registered veterinary technician's career is 5-7 years.

Providing a mid-level veterinary professional designation may retain more registered veterinary technicians in the field as it would allow for advancement, improve financial compensation and alleviate some of the staffing challenges currently being experienced in veterinary practices in Alberta.