



ANNUAL REPORT

2020 - 2021

RVTTC/TTVAC

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The strength of RVTTC is the unity of its membership. The primary members of the RVTTC are the provincial veterinary technology/technician associations of Canada. Together we work to Unite, Advance, and Strengthen the Veterinary Technology and Technician profession across Canada allowing us to collaborate on areas of mutual interest, ultimately helping us to champion the RVT profession on a national level with now over **9400 RVT** members.

2020 marks the year RVTTC is once again a truly national association with our Quebec colleagues the Association des techniciens en santé animale du Québec (ATSAQ) becoming an official member of the RVTTC. Together ATSAQ & the RVTTC will be reviewing our French name and how to integrate the titles RVT and TSAc.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, RVTs were identified as essential along with their veterinary team members. As an essential service, veterinary medicine came together to hold strong for all Canadian animals, owners, and producers. RVTs contribute to this essential service as integral members of the animal health care team, helping to ensure the health and welfare of the Canadian agricultural industry, laboratory research, plus protecting the human-animal bond by keeping companion animals healthy. RVTTC was instrumental in sharing up-to-date COVID-19 Information provided by the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) to the provincial associations. The RVTTC values the continued relationship with the CVMA and continues to collaborate on issues important to the Canadian veterinary community.

Throughout the pandemic, the RVTTC and the Provincial Associations collaborated to provide our members with up-to-date and emerging COVID-19 information. In addition, education and support was shared to assist with evolving protocols, keeping both team members and their clients safe and healthy. Providing much-needed mental health support and encouragement through these difficult times was also a priority for our association.





One element included the joint production between RVTTC and Motivatum Consulting, a video to help educate clients regarding the behind-the-scenes veterinary team processes during COVID-19 pandemic. With over 6500 views **[“An Open Letter to Pet Owners”](#)** provided a vital share while acknowledging the heroic efforts of the veterinary community.

Despite COVID challenges, the RVTTC has progressed with these exciting new initiatives.

- RVT Month Task Force developed and launched a new RVT App for RVT Month 2020.
- 2019-2020 saw a full review and update of the RVTTC Bylaws which added clarity to the specific role for RVTTC Members – the Provincial VT associations.
- Developed and created **[National Standards of Practice](#)** for RVT profession. To be released July 2021.

A \$120,600.00 grant from the Ontario government through the Ontario Labour Market Partnership program enabled the development of a national, bilingual website to educate prospective and current RVTs about the array of options within the profession. This expanded knowledge of the RVT profession will lead to a pathway for meaningful career growth and longevity. The Ontario Labour Market Partnership program is funded in part by the Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario.



Advocacy is a priority of the RVTTC. Expanding the National Voice for RVTs within our national and global veterinary communities is essential for the advancement of our RVT profession. RVT representatives share our voice in areas of animal welfare, RVT educational standards, reviewing the VTNE and professional development. Antimicrobial Stewardship and Antimicrobial Resistance, national labour shortage in veterinary medicine, and national position statements.

In our strategic planning for 2021, the RVTTC board committed to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. Joining Vet Med Interconnected has provided an opportunity for RVTTC to collaborate with similar veterinary organizations and our dedicated affinity organizations representing the diverse veterinary community. A new RVTTC DEI Task Force is planned to develop objectives and implement organizational initiatives for the inclusion and equity of all members of the veterinary community.

We invite you to continue reading through our annual report to see the works of the RVTTC and advancements of our Provincial Association members. Together Everyone Achieves More. The RVTTC, a truly National Association.



Heather Shannon RVT
RVTTC President



Shannon Brownrigg RVT
RVTTC Executive Director / CEO



2020-2021 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

REGISTERED VETERINARY TECHNOLOGISTS AND TECHNICIANS OF CANADA

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS OF MAY 31, 2021

	2021	2020 (unaudited)
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash	\$ 138,866	\$ 96,986
Short term investments (note 2)	93,048	88,321
Accounts receivable	4,480	1,276
Prepaid expenses	3,582	2,602
	\$ 239,976	\$ 189,185
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 27,085	\$ 17,324
Government remittances payable	2,248	1,079
Deferred revenue (note 3)	68,806	60,841
	98,139	79,244
NET ASSETS		
Internally restricted contingency fund (note 4)	18,000	12,000
Unrestricted net assets	123,837	97,941
	\$ 239,976	\$ 189,185



FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

UNAUDITED STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS AS OF MAY 31, 2021

	2021	2020 (unaudited)
REVENUE		
Membership dues	\$ 109,644	\$ 102,836
RVT Career Ladder	23,527	-
Sponsorship and other	38,319	27,951
	171,490	130,787
EXPENDITURE		
Administration	39,042	25,670
RVT Career Ladder	23,527	-
Annual general meeting	1,586	14,478
Bursaries	3,520	3,000
Executive Director	1,748	1,016
Marketing	6,760	7,817
Payroll expense	55,858	53,017
Representation	2,408	20,510
Bank charges	-	1,066
Website	4,511	4,890
Sponsorship	-	300
Cost of Goods sold	509	644
Miscellaneous	125	-
	139,594	132,408
NET REVENUE (EXPENDITURE) FOR THE YEAR	\$ 31,896	\$ (1,621)



RVTTC PROJECTS

RVT CAREER LADDER

The RVT Career Ladder Task Force initiated the creation of a dedicated career planning and advancement website to support and empower RVTs and to position the profession as a career with limitless opportunities. Supported by funding of \$120,660 from the Ontario government through the Ontario Labour Market Partnership program, the national, bilingual and interactive website will enable RVTs to investigate, personalize and create their own career pathway based on their skills, experience, education, interests and professional goals.



RVT advisory panels were established to provide insight, perspective and content into the website’s development. “The idea of the RVT Career Ladder website is really exciting! I think that many [RVTs] feel stuck or simply don’t know what else is available to them career-wise,” stated Tracy Rowswell, RVT and advisory panel member. “A website like this has such potential to further develop our profession in so many ways!”

The website will be launched nationally in December 2021.

The Ontario Labour Market Partnership program is funded in part by the Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario.



SPONSORSHIPS

Thank you to all of our sponsors for their continued support:



Animal health / Santé animale



2021 RVTTC/TTVAC STUDENT BURSARY WINNERS

SPONSORED BY PETPLAN PET INSURANCE



British Columbia Veterinary Technologist Association

Kristine Wong – Douglas College

Alberta Veterinary Technologist Association

Kayla Fielden – NAIT - Northern Alberta Institute of Technology

Saskatchewan Association of Veterinary Technologists

Keesha Blenkinsopp – Saskatchewan Polytechnic

Manitoba Veterinary Technologists Association

Kaylee Dueck – Red River College

Ontario Association of Veterinary Technicians

Cailey Seymour – Sheridan College

Association des Techniciens en Santé Animale du Québec

Amanda Gandhi – CEGEP Vanier College

Eastern Veterinary Technician Association

Brittany MacLean – Dalhousie University



AWARDS

Congratulations

RVT of Year – Senani Ratnayake BSc., RVT



“One of the most influential RVTs in North America. She has the ear, and the respect, of DVMs and world-class veterinary leaders. She is truly an engaging speaker who CARES about RVTs more than any person I know. Truly cares. She wants to lift other RVTs up, and she wants to make a difference. She looks at barriers being faced by RVTs, and she knocks them down.”

Sandy Hass Appreciation Award – Natalie Thomas



“Your vision, and passionate commitment to the RVT profession has made you an ideal candidate and award winner. “Although not an RVT, this has never slowed her drive to put Canada’s RVTs in the spotlight to enhance and uplift their role in veterinary medicine.”



MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS



BRITISH COLUMBIA VETERINARY TECHNOLOGISTS ASSOCIATION (BCVTA)



Submitted by: Amber Gregg, RVT - President; Denise Hitt, RVT - Executive Director; Mia Cirotto, RVT- CVBC Liaison & Outgoing RVTTTC BC Representative; Tinille McKenzie-Wyatt, RVT, VTS (ECC) RVTTTC BC Representative; Kalaya Donchi, RVT, VCC- RVTTTC BC; Representative Nominee; Tina Douglas, RVT - Treasurer; Kim Holbrow, RVT - Secretary; Ashley Hanson, RVT- Member at Large; Leanne Schmidt, RVT- Member at Large

The British Columbia Veterinary Technology Association is a leader and advocate for Professional Animal Health Care, helping to raise veterinary standards for the protection of the public and the animals of British Columbia.

Our vision is for every animal care facility in British Columbia to employ a Registered Veterinary Technologist. We partner in the veterinary healthcare industry to empower our members to utilize their training to deliver the gold standard of care.

The BCVTA, acting with integrity, serves to educate and advocate for our members, to advance the profession of veterinary technology.

BCVTA 2020 Membership Statistics:

- 979 RVTs
- 14 Non-resident
- 100 Students
- 5 Retired
- 30 Sustained
- 1128 Members total

Over the past year, the BCVTA has continued to advocate for and support our members. Due to job uncertainty and potential difficulty of obtaining CE after March 2020, we opted to allow an extension for our members to renew their membership and submit their required CE. As more virtual CE has come available we are now back on track for our CE and membership deadlines.

The BCVTA was able to host virtual conferences, webinars, and strategic planning sessions. Our Executive Director Denise took our Spring 2021 conference to the next level with amazing speakers such as Senani Ratnayake, Dr Andy Roark, Benita Altier, and Andrea Steele on a new platform that allowed us to host about 200 attendees and a virtual Trade Fair.



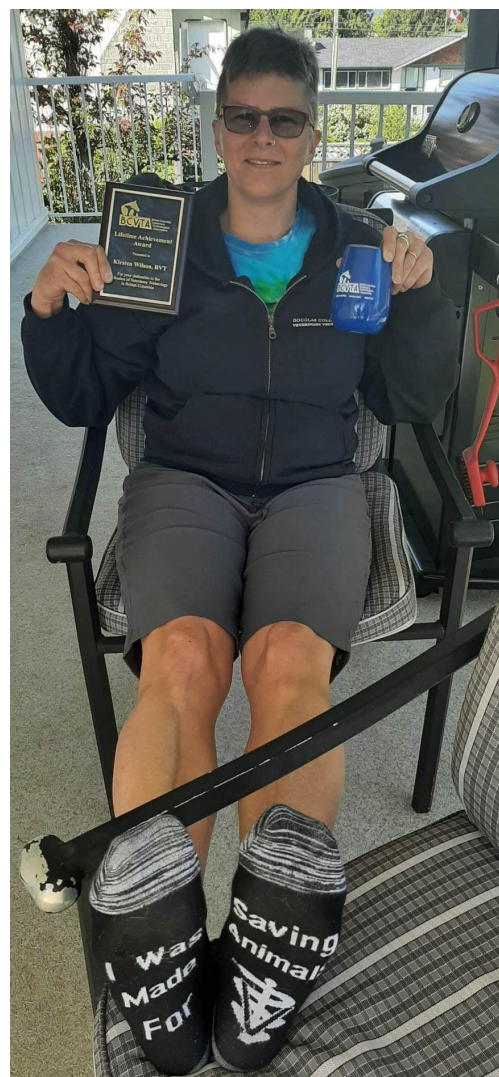
BRITISH COLUMBIA VETERINARY TECHNOLOGISTS ASSOCIATION (BCVTA) continued

Three separate students from BC Veterinary Technology programs were presented with scholarships this year. We have also welcomed two student representatives to regularly join our board meetings. This Spring the BCVTA gave out 3 prestigious awards to members: at the AGM we presented Heather Shannon with an Award of Appreciation and Kirsten Wilson with a Lifetime Achievement Award. Allison Fagan was also presented with an award for being the BCVTA RVT of the Year.

Our association continues to reevaluate our bylaws and policies to ensure they are up to date and align with our mission and vision statements. As such, we have created two new committees, a Complaints Committee and a Social Media Committee. Our board members have also completed a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion course.



Heather Shannon RVT
Award of Appreciation



Kirsten Wilson RVT
Lifetime Achievement Award



ALBERTA VETERINARY TECHNOLOGIST ASSOCIATION (ABVTA)



Submitted by: *Kate Simon RVT, VTS (ECC), Fiona Kowalczyk RVT*

The ABVTA was founded to support and empower a knowledgeable network of Registered Veterinary Technologists to advance our profession while providing compassionate veterinary care. It's almost as if our founding members knew that the pandemic of 2020 was coming when they created this association in 1978. The need for mental health supports, having a strong voice as well as opportunities for education have never been greater!

The ABVTA identified professional growth and support in the 2019 Strategic Plan with a goal of member development and advancement with a focus on wellness, compensation and sustainability. A mentorship task force was struck early in 2020 and with the onset of the COVID 19 pandemic, it was quickly noted that our AHT students were heavily impacted. Their campuses were closed leaving them with very little hands-on learning and only online instruction. The task force quickly changed their direction to a primary focus on students and created the ABVTA Student Mentorship FB Group. With almost 200 students joining, there were weekly math discussions, case presentations and guest speakers! This was very well received by the students and there was an overall pass rate 83.4% in 2019 and 81% in 2020 of the VTNE despite the challenges presented by COVID 19.

In September 2020, the ABVTA partnered with the Alberta Veterinary Medical Association (ABVMA) and the Government of Alberta Ministry of Labour and Immigration to develop a Veterinary Professional Workforce Study to focus on ways to improve the veterinary shortage and increase the number of veterinary professionals in Alberta. This study was facilitated by R. A. Malatest & Associates Ltd. and partially funded by the Ministry of Labour and Immigration's Labor Market Partnership Program. We look forward to seeing the results and recommendations to move forward with an issue that has troubled the industry for many years.



ALBERTA VETERINARY TECHNOLOGIST ASSOCIATION (ABVTA) continued

It was deemed by the CE committee that supporting our colleagues was of utmost importance during the pandemic. All CE has remained free to our members due to the enthusiastic response to this year's sessions. Jessica Benoit, RVT, VTS (Behavior) hosted "Taking the Fear out of Nail Trims" which sold out in less than 3 days. The Wellness Taskforce recognized the challenges of the pandemic and continues to collaborate with the CE committee to prioritize a focus on professional growth and support with an emphasis on wellness, compensation and sustainability. Due to the overwhelming response to the Veterinary Team Communication Series in 2020, the ABVMA and ABVTA partnered once again to host the event again for 8 weeks this Spring. This has provided Veterinary Professionals from the ABVMA and ABVTA many useful tools to engage and empower themselves in self-promotion, conflict resolution and team building. Saskatchewan and Alberta Veterinary Professionals also met weekly with hosts Coral Doherty RVT and Dr. Kathy Kiel to develop actions to aid employers and employees with some guidelines to build a psychologically healthy workplace during the Psychological Health and Safety Series, Mind the Gap, in early 2021, presented jointly by the ABVTA and SAVT. The 75 percent response rate from the membership in 2018 initiated the ABVTA to provide its members with a wage and benefit survey every two years in order to have a current snapshot of the complex challenges facing Alberta RVTs. The 2021 survey was sent out to Alberta RVTs in late spring and the ABVTA is actively preparing the results to share with the membership. An Engagement Survey has also been developed to be sent out to ABVTA membership in the Fall of 2021. The results of both the Wage and Benefit survey and the Engagement Survey will be used in our Strategic Planning Sessions to provide direction to develop goals that support our members and advance our profession.

The ABVTA is excited to launch the ABVTA Members Portal. This website provides the members easy access to multiple resources including current CE, Newsletters, information on RVT Advanced Training, Mentorship and Wellness Support as well Member Benefit Links. The RVTTC Career Ladder is another project we are excited to share with our members. The ABVTA currently has 2534 members including 440 students, 2094 registered members as of May 1, 2021.

It has been disappointing for the ABVTA Board of Directors to be so isolated from the membership as we move forward to CVMA and Canwest being hosted virtually again this year. The ABVTA is optimistic that by 2022 we can resume in person meetings and future CE events so that we can enjoy the support of our fellow colleagues and promote the profession in a healthy, safe environment.



SASKATCHEWAN ASSOCIATION OF VETERINARY TECHNICIANS (SAVT)

Submitted by: Breanne Barber, RVT & Lorraine Serhienko, RVT



The Saskatchewan Association of Veterinary Technologists (SAVT) has had to adapt in many ways in the past year and a half due to restrictions that have been put in place by our provincial government due to COVID-19. The SAVT has developed new and creative ways to connect with members, sponsors and other provincial associations. Now that we are well into 2021 we have come to realize that the COVID-19 pandemic and the restrictions that come with it are not going anywhere any time soon but are hopeful and looking forward to getting back to normal.

The SAVT was able to start 2020 off with our annual retreat/strategic planning weekend at the Outerbanks near Melfort, SK. Our annual meeting is held in person and is an important foundation for our whole year and it is important that all Board of Directors attend to assist the SAVT in decisions that need to be made. The board of directors have regular meetings once a month via Zoom, daily emails from Executive Director (ED), Jasmin Carlton, and have a WhatsApp group chat to stay connected as well. When COVID-19 restrictions came into full effect in March 2020 with shutdowns and closures, the Board of Directors and our Executive Director had to adapt to those changes. Our Executive Director made the decision to work from home. Working and living at home is not an easy task for anyone but Jasmin has done a remarkable job balancing work and her personal life.

Member communication has been a major focus over the past year. We made the decision in mid-2020 to cancel our annual conference in November and now we have decided to cancel an in-person conference for 2021. We are hoping to offer an online version of a conference for 2021. Our conference is an annual event for a lot of our members to get continuing education credits, socialize with other RVT's and attend the Annual General Meeting (AGM). The SAVT has been able to offer wellness opportunities and continuing education for the entire veterinary team. There are many events that we have offered virtually, collaborating with other provincial associations and sponsors; we are able to offer most of these at no charge to SAVT members.



Breanne Barber, RVT



Lorraine Serhienko, RVT



SASKATCHEWAN ASSOCIATION VETERINARY TECHNICIANS (SAVT) continued

We have been very active on our social media pages and offering a wide variety of continuing education for our members. The SAVT Annual General Meeting was successfully held virtually in November 2020. We had member engagement and questions throughout the entire meeting. The board is in discussion on what format the AGM will be in future years. Going virtually may be more efficient and make more time for continuing education sessions during our regularly scheduled weekend for conferences.

The SAVT Board of Directors and invited guests had our annual strategic planning meeting virtually in January 2021. During this meeting we were able to put all our minds together with new board members. It is always great to get new ideas flowing. Our annual strategic meeting is an important foundation for our whole year and it is important the board of directors attend this meeting to assist the SAVT in the year ahead. Our Executive Director (Jasmin) helped us update our SWOT and PESTLE analysis for the year to get everyone thinking of the future challenges we may face as an association and a board.

The SAVT has been very successful in our committee creation over the past few years. It has been an excellent resource to allow the SAVT Board of Directors to focus more on the governance of the association while the committees focus more on the inside operations. The committees are made up of members of our association, including some current board of directors, our Executive Director and the current SAVT President. Our committees for 2021 are; Advisory, Governance, Executive Interview, Public Relations, VTS/Mentorship, Student Network, Recruitment, Workplace Guidelines, Mental Health and Rural Engagement. The SAVT is looking forward to seeing what they can accomplish this year.

Our social media pages will be full of the great events that we are happy to offer to all of our members and members from other provincial associations. We have been lucky enough to collaborate with other associations to offer most of our CE events at no charge to our members. We look forward to the continued collaboration efforts and are excited to offer a wide variety of events for RVTs, VT students and any other member of the veterinary team. The months are filling up quickly with planned CE events, roundtable discussions and panel discussions. Please watch our social media pages and if there are any questions, please reach out to savt@savt.ca for more information.

Having to adapt both professionally and personally for our members has had its challenges but it has allowed the SAVT to thrive and grow as an association. The SAVT has become more creative with events, sessions and resources that we are able to offer SAVT members and share with other associations. The SAVT has been able to collaborate with some great partners and we look forward to more collaborations in the future. We hope everyone is staying safe and we are looking forward to the day we are able to have in-person events again.



MANITOBA VETERINARY TECHNOLOGISTS ASSOCIATION (MTVA)



Submitted by: *Jessee-Lee LeBlanc, Jenesis Caughy and Shailyn Fuz*

2020 RVT Month

We celebrated RVT month by promoting the RVTs are Essential poster, our national RVT App and running contests during the month of October. We also launched our Thank-A-Mentor where members were asked to share a story about an RVT that mentored them in their career and who helped guide them to become the RVT they are today.

Continuing Education

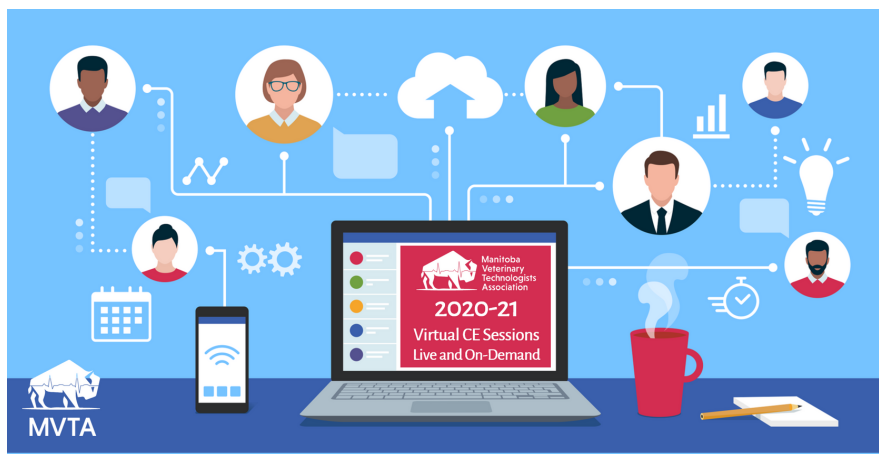
The MVTA announced our Virtual and On-Demand CE event on October 28, 2020. Starting November 25, 2020 and through to May 2021, we brought attendees 18 hours of virtual CE right to their home. We also offered an on-demand component that would allow everyone to access these recordings when best fit their schedules. We would like to thank the RVTTC for their \$500 contribution that sponsored 5 members to attend and the MVTA also used \$1300 from our advancement fund to sponsor 13 members to participate in this event.

Manitoba's RVTs Named as a Profession Who Can Administer COVID Vaccine

On December 9, 2020 the Manitoba Government issued an order under the Regulated Health Professions Act that expanded the list of professions who are allowed to administer the COVID-19 vaccine to include Veterinary Technologists (RVTs).

RVTs are proficient at administering vaccines, it's something they do every day. With the additional training from Red River College, RVTs are allowed to administer the COVID-19 vaccine to a new species, humans.

The MVTA would like to thank the Manitoba Government for recognizing the diverse skill set of RVTs and for allowing them to help in the battle against COVID-19. We encourage, support and thank our members who choose to become immunization providers.



MANITOBA VETERINARY TECHNOLOGISTS ASSOCIATION (MTVA) continued

CenCan Conference

The MVTA and MVMA sent out a joint announcement stating that CenCan 2021 will be cancelled due to the uncertainty of the current pandemic we are facing. We felt it was not safe to have an in-person event and that both associations would work hard to bring CE to our members. We are currently looking into revisiting a virtual option for the 2022 Cencan as well.

2021 AGM

Thank you to all the members that attended our first virtual AGM on February 28th. The Board and Executive Director worked hard in 2020 to complete the goals in our strategic plan as well as advocate on behalf of RVTs in our Province.

In 2020 the MVTA grew to 472 members! It was another busy, yet strange year for MVTA, and we couldn't have managed without our fantastic board of directors; Melanie Browning-Past President, Lisa Rea-President, Elizabeth Greber-President Elect, Robyn Winters-Secretary Treasurer, Jennifer Peters and Ainsley Clearwater- CE Directors, Jenesis Caughy and Shailynn Fuz-RVTTC Directors, Hannah Matthias and Desiree Majure-Marketing Directors/Member Relations, Tara Serrette and Jessee-Lee LeBlanc-Members at Large, or our absolutely amazing Executive Director; Donna Taraschuk keeping all of us on track!

Sadly, we have some board members retiring this year. We would like to thank all of our outgoing board members for the time they volunteered with the association - Melanie Browning, Robyn Winters, Jennifer Peters and Tara Serrette. It was a blast working with you and you forever made your mark on the RVT profession in Manitoba. We encourage all RVTs to volunteer on their provincial board, the experience you gain and the friendships you make are amazing!



MANITOBA VETERINARY TECHNOLOGISTS ASSOCIATION (MTVA) continued

With the help of a committee, a registered parliamentarian as well as our lawyer, many By-Law changes were proposed and passed at the AGM.

We also congratulated:

- Jessica Waito received the MVTAs Compassionate Care award that was given to her in June 2020.
- Kyra Friesen received the MVTAs Academic Award that was presented to her in October of 2020.
- Dr. Liz Andree on receiving the 2021 MVTA DVM of the Year Award.
- Trish Lobaton, RVT on receiving the 2021 MVTA RVT of the Year Award. [CLICK HERE](#) to read Trish's award acceptance.

We also introduced our 2021 Board of Directors:

- Elizabeth Greber - President
- Lisa Rea - Past President
- Jenesis Caughy
- Jesse-Lee LeBlanc
- Desiree Majure
- Shailynn Fuz
- Ainsley Clearwater
- Hannah Matias



MVTA Advancement Fund

The MVTA received one entry for the advancement fund. Congratulations Kaitlynn Cooper, RVT! Kaitlynn applied for the 2020 Advancement Fund and was awarded \$1300 towards her education. We also awarded 13 members passes to our Virtual and On-Demand CE Event. We postponed the start date for the 2021 Advancement Fund submissions to September and look forward to providing more assistance to our members to advance their careers.



ONTARIO ASSOCIATION OF VETERINARY TECHNICIANS (OAVT)



ONTARIO
ASSOCIATION OF
VETERINARY
TECHNICIANS

Submitted by: Cally Merritt RVT & Nancy MacFarlane RVT

Covid!!! Need we say more?

What a year this has been for the OAVT. Everyone has experienced the covid situation and Ontario has been hard hit with 2 long-term stay-at-home orders. We are currently in our third lockdown which has now been extended to June 2nd 2021. The covid pandemic created many challenges not only for clinics and staff but also for the OAVT Association. COVID-19 has great potential to impact the financial health and stability of an organization. Quickly recognizing this in the spring, the Board of Directors went back to the drawing board and poured over the planned activities, the anticipated revenues and expenses and reconsidered each one to ensure the OAVT could weather the pandemic. Changes or delays to programming occurred including in-person events transitioning to fully online virtual events, pausing the planned dues increase and extending the membership renewal grace period without penalty. The Directors also looked for new ways to connect and support the membership while remaining focused on the big picture of legislative reform.

OAVT goes Virtual

- OAVT had many new plans to hold more OAVT-led CE events than ever, continuing to grow our membership.
- The Virtual CE Road Show was a huge success with 1116 OAVT members and 100 SAVT members who took part for free.
- The OAVT conference went virtual and offered 5 days of training with 9 CE tracks, more than 20 speakers and over 40 hours of online learning. Registrants May continue to access the CE tracks on-demand through the VIN platform.
- The OAVT Professionalism and Ethics course, a requirement to become registered in Ontario, was carried out via Zoom meetings.
- Large in-person meetings will not be possible for some time yet. Virtual format will continue until it is safe for us to be together in person again.

RVT's and Veterinary Medicine is now an Essential Service.

- OAVT gets RVT's and veterinary medicine on the list of essential services. OAVT believes that the letters from Justin Trudeau and Doug Ford that we received last year congratulating us on our 50 year anniversary were instrumental in having Veterinary Medicine added to the list of Essential Services here in Ontario.



ONTARIO ASSOCIATION OF VETERINARY TECHNICIANS (OAVT) continued

The proposed modernization of the Veterinarian's Act will only legislate what we already know: RVTs are regulated professionals, respected animal healthcare providers, and an essential part of the animal healthcare team. The OAVT Board, along with OVMA and CVO, will continue to lobby the Ontario Government to make us a priority and make it happen!

Annual Wage Survey

- Survey results were released in January 2021 showing the average wage for RVT's in Ontario rose about 7% bringing the average hourly wage to \$23.93
- OAVT has surpassed the 4000 member mark.

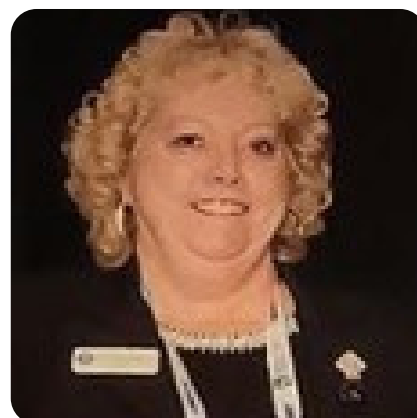
OAVT said goodbye to our communications manager Natalie Thomas. Many of you know Natalie as she was the brains behind the RVT Month campaign. Also after 6 years on the RVTTC Board, RVT Nancy MacFarlane will be superseded by RVT Hailey Farka. Welcome Hailey to the RVTTC family and thank you Nancy for your years of dedication and service.

"COVID-19 has taught us a lot, perhaps most importantly the value of the OAVT membership. The community created in coming together to face adversity is strong, our understanding of each other has deepened and together we continue to push forward in achieving the shared mission and vision for the future of the RVT profession". – Elise Wickett RVT & OAVT Executive Director.

Stay safe everyone, we are all in this together!



Cally Merritt RVT



Nancy MacFarlane RVT



ASSOCIATION DES TECHNICIENS EN SANTÉ ANIMALE DU QUÉBEC (ATSAQ) continued



Submitted by: Francis Rousseau TSAC and Brigitte Couturier, TSAC, VTS ECC

2021 marked a great celebration as the [Association des Techniciens en Santé Animale du Québec](#) (ATSAQ) returned as members of the national RVT association, RVTTC, making it a truly national association. With supporting collaboration, we look forward to expanding the French language communications across Canada, increasing TSAC resources in Quebec and promoting the certification of AHTs in Quebec.

ATSAQ is the provincial association representing Certified Animal Health Technicians (TSAC) (RVT equivalent) and Animal Health Technicians across the province of Quebec. Currently there are approximately 290 TSAC members and 240 TSA members in Quebec.

We have a dynamic executive team and committee members hard at work for our members. At last, ATSAQ received notice, after many months of advocating, the Quebec Ministry of Health and Social Services announced that animal health technicians and certain animal health students are now allowed to contribute to the vaccination campaign of the population against COVID-19. Amazing recognition and engagement opportunity for our TSA professionals!

Spring marked another advancement for ATSAQ with the launch of a new website. This will allow for better communications and sharing information to our members. As with any big change, there are some challenges. Many thanks to our Executive Director Élisabeth Lebeau, TSA for her expertise. Thank you to our members for their support and patience during this transition. It is definitely a team effort.

While the COVID-19 pandemic curbed some of our events, our ATSAQ executive welcomed new members. Meet our complete [ATSAQ Executive](#):

ATSAQ Board of Directors:

President: Francis Rousseau TSAC

Past President: Brigitte Couturier, TSAC, VTS ECC

Treasurer: Kevin Desjardins-Rodier, TSAC

Directors: Émilie Roussel, TSAC, Valérie Fronterotta, TSAC, Noémie Raymond-Gingras, TSAC, Samuel Pépin, TSA

Executive Director: Élisabeth Lebeau, TSA

Director of Development: Danny Ménard, TSA

Welcome to the new members to the ATSAQ Executive!



ASSOCIATION DES TECHNICIENS EN SANTÉ ANIMALE DU QUÉBEC (ATSAQ)

We would like to introduce our ATSAQ representatives to RVTTC Board of Directors.

Francis Rousseau TSAc and Brigitte Couturier, TSAc, VTS ECC. “We are excited to meet the RVTTC Board and see what we can do together!!”

Francis graduated from the Animal Health Technology program in St-Hyacinthe in 2010 and he works with small animals. An obvious interest for animal behaviour encourages him to pursue CE on this topic to eventually join Éduchateur, a team of feline behaviour specialist, in 2012 as the internal training director. For 2 years, he worked as a technician with the behaviour specialist team at the DMV Veterinary Centre. Since 2016, he has been involved with the Board of directors of ATSAQ (Association des techniciens en santé animale du Québec) and he was recently elected as president. Since last fall, he is also active as an administrator with RQIEC (organization representing canine education and behaviour professionals). That being said, he is the utmost generous when it comes to giving time and sharing knowledge, so never hesitate to reach out if you have any questions!

Brigitte Couturier, TSAc, VTS ECC is the Continuing Education Coordinator and Intensive Care Team Leader at Center Vétérinaire Laval.

Brigitte has been an RVT since 2009 and specialized in emergency critical care VTS (ECC) since 2017. Brigitte has been highly involved in ATSAQ's board of directors since 2010. Holding many positions including manager, treasurer, secretary, president, and currently the ATSAQ past president. Brigitte has also been involved in many activities and committees supporting RVTs/TsAs in Quebec including RVT week/month, VTNE committee and position statement committee (alternatives to declawing).

We look forward to representing ATSAQ on the RVTTC Board of Directors.



Francis Rousseau TSAc



Brigitte Couturier, TSAc, VTS ECC



EASTERN VETERINARY TECHNICIANS ASSOCIATION (EVTA)



Submitted by: *Christine Masson, RVT, EVTA Senior RVTCC Representative*

The EVTA is a special association that has members from all 4 Atlantic provinces. We have 648 members at this time. Our members start their renewal process in May so this number may change by June. Most of our members are from Nova Scotia, followed by New Brunswick and then Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland.

We have a few BOD that have/will be stepping down this year. We are still looking for directors to take on the various open positions on our board: Vice President, Secretary, Discipline and Ethics, Media Coordinator, and Junior RVTCC representative. At our GM held in May 2021, 2 new members were voted in by our membership: Heather T. and Mary Ritchie. Welcome!

In-person BOD meetings

Our last face-to-face BOD meeting was Dec 2019. We always have an annual FTF meeting at the beginning of December, but Covid19 regulations have prevented one so far. We attempted to have one in the fall but with BOD in every province it makes it difficult for us to travel across provincial borders. Another issue is the restriction with the number of people in a group outside your “bubble”. With vaccines well underway, we are hopeful a face-to-face meeting will happen at the end of the year.

AGM Oct 2020

We had our first virtual AGM on a Zoom platform. It was well attended and still allowed our members to generate discussions on the topics at hand. Modifications and voting were made to our by-laws. We added that a minimum of 1 member from each Atlantic province is required for our min 10 to max 15 directors. The Executive officers shall include President, Vice president, Past President and now Treasurer. We voted to remove the Associate Membership title from the by-laws document.

A number of EVTA members expressed interest in joining the new Media and Policy committees.

Awards

Our Tech of the Year awards were announced during RVT Month. Crystal Hunt - NS, Patsy Osmond - NB, Laura Stapleton - PE, and Amanda Maloney - NL.

One of our EVTA members, Brittany MacLean, was awarded the 2021 RVTCC/TTVAC Student Bursary award. Dalhousie Agricultural Campus bursary winner is Kelly Amirault.



EASTERN VETERINARY TECHNICIANS ASSOCIATION (EVTA) continued

Continuing Education

Nova Scotia and New Brunswick EVTA members are also required to be a member of their regulatory provincial VMA. The VMAs have made changes to CE requirements so DVM and RVTs are both collecting the same amount of CE. Originally our members were to collect 15 hours of CE yearly. Recently the VMAs made changes to their requirements and they would like their members to submit 30 hours of CE every 2 years. This has caused confusion for our members, and we made the decision to follow suit with the VMAs. Our PE and NL members will continue to submit 15 hours of CE annually.

VTNE

We have had concerns with PSI centers being closed during the Covid19 pandemic. A center had closed in Newfoundland and the window to write the VTNE had to be pushed to a later date. Since then a new center has opened. There have been delays with students receiving their final results.

RVT Month

Various days of the month we would post a question for our members to answer and participate in a draw. Prize bags were created by one of our BOD Nicole B. She did a fantastic job! Thank you Nicole! Everyone loved their prize pack.



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF VETERINARY STATE BOARDS (AAVSB)



Submitted by: Scarlett Wong, RVT (Eastern Rep) & Susan Thiessen, RVT (Western Rep) American Association of Veterinary State Boards (AAVSB) VTNE Committee RVTTC/TTVAC Representatives

[AAVSB 2019-2020 AAVSB Report to Allied Organizations](#)

The Veterinary Technician National Examination (VTNE) is owned and administered by the American Association of the Veterinary State Boards (AAVSB). The VTNE program is one of the AAVSB's key programs for its membership as it is relied on to evaluate entry-level veterinary technicians' competency to practice. The VTNE Committee is responsible for the development and administration of the Veterinary Technician National Examination. Members serve as advocates of the VTNE with veterinary licensing boards, regulatory agencies, veterinary technician associations, veterinary technician schools, and the general public. They provide subject matter expertise while maintaining current standards of the veterinary technician profession in the continued development of the exam, as well as participating in annual item writing/reviewing and test construction workshops, and remote item writing and approval drives.

The AAVSB VTNE committee comprises 12 representatives from AAVSB (4), AVTE (2), NAVTA (2), CVTEA (2) and RVTTC (2). There is a mixture of Veterinary Technicians and Veterinarians, from both large and small animal practice, and education, representing stakeholders from a broad geographical area in both Canada and the US. Committee members are recommended/appointed by the organization they represent and are then approved by the AAVSB board of directors.

The Committee recommends two three-year terms for members with the option to recommend appointment to a third term when necessary. The RVTTC's Eastern representative's 1st term expires in Dec. 2023 and the Western representative's 1st term expires in Dec. of this year. All expenses incurred by the committee members are paid by the AAVSB.

Description of role for the RVTTC representatives

As well as fulfilling the responsibilities listed above, the RVTTC representatives ensure that the questions on the VTNE are relevant and applicable in both the US and Canada (pounds/kilograms, drug names and classifications, regulations etc.). Susan sits on the reference textbook sub-committee, which reviews and recommends the textbooks that are used as references in the VTNE exam development.



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF VETERINARY STATE BOARDS (AAVSB) continued

Jurisdictions and Associations that use the VTNE

Of the 62 AAVSB boards, 46 regulate Veterinary Technicians and use the VTNE, 14 of the 16 boards that do not regulate Veterinary Technicians, use the VTNE, and 4 are in various stages of the legislative process towards regulating veterinary technicians. AAVSB is also in discussions with Puerto Rico on utilizing the VTNE to replace their state exam for credential requirements.

In Canada, the VMA's of Alberta, Manitoba, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Saskatchewan are AAVSB Member Boards and regulate veterinary technicians. The OAVT, is a provincial veterinary technician association, that self regulates veterinary technicians. Newfoundland, Labrador and Prince Edward use the VTNE through the EVTA membership. The ATSAQ uses the VTNE in Quebec. The BCVTA uses the VTNE in British Columbia.

Impact of COVID-19

In 2020, with the current outbreak of COVID-19 and the health and safety concerns of volunteers and employees, the AAVSB decided to hold all meetings via teleconference and Webex. The committee held two teleconference meeting and 2 virtual workshops via Webex. The teleconference meetings were business meetings which occurred in May and October. The first Webex was an item writing and review workshop, held over 2 days in June. The second was an exam construction workshop held over 2 days in September. During these workshops the committee places a strong focus on question quality, avoiding duplication, and ensuring currency/relevance.

COVID-19 also had an impact on the ability to deliver the VTNE exam to candidates. As such, all exam windows were extended. The practice of extended exam windows continues as we begin 2021.

The VTNE was administered via paper/pencil in October and December 2020 in Canada when the mobile test unit was prevented from entering Canada. Proctors included Ms. Shannon Brownrigg and an additional member of the Registered Veterinary Technologists and Technicians of Canada as well as Dr. Gary Morgan, Registrar of the Prince Edward Island Veterinary Medical Association.

Overall, 6,924 candidates took the exam in 2020 compared to 8,120 candidates in 2019. Some of the decrease in candidates can be attributed to closed test centers across the U.S. and Canada, and other COVID-19 related restrictions and challenges.



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF VETERINARY STATE BOARDS (AAVSB) continued

Highlights/activities to share with the public over the past year.

2020 marked the **AAVSB's 60th anniversary**.

The **VTNE Celebrating Diversity Award** was announced December 2020. This award is available to graduates of AVMA-CVTEA and CVMA accredited veterinary technician/nursing programs. The recipient receives a VTNE voucher for the exam administration. **VTNE Celebrating Diversity Award Selection Committee** was appointed by the AAVSB Board of Directors and is comprised of the current VTNE Committee Chair and two veterinary technician professionals recommended by the VTNE Committee.

The AAVSB completed a **Veterinary Technologist Job Analysis Survey** with the assistance of PSI in 2020. The survey was conducted to identify differences between job descriptions of 4-year degree (classified as Veterinary Technologists in the US) and 2-year degree (classified as Veterinary Technicians). The results indicated there were no significant differences in responses between the two groups. The survey also identified additional general courses (not offered in Veterinary Technician program) beneficial as a veterinary professional. If you would like further details regarding this survey, an **Executive Summary Overview is available through RVTTC**.

The AAVSB Regulatory Policy Task Force also completed the Model Regulations – **Scope of Practice for Veterinary Technicians and Veterinary Technologists** approved by the AAVSB Board of Directors. The model regulations were sent to Member Boards and allied organizations in December 2020. More information can be found on the AAVSB website under board services – practice act model, **or through the RVTTC office**.

RACEtrack (Registry of Continuing Education tracking)

This service, launched in October 2020, allows veterinary professionals to record continuing education into a centralized database for easy transmission to their licensing boards. Member Boards utilize the RACEtrack database to validate CE compliance for licensure renewal.

PAVE (Program for the Assessment of Veterinary Education Equivalence) for VT's

The Committee finalized the PAVE for Veterinary Technicians Standards and Policies which was approved by the board in December 2020 and sent to Member Boards, AVMA-CVTEA and CVMA accredited veterinary technician/nursing programs, and allied organizations. The AAVSB staff is finalizing the candidate application for education equivalence review with the Academic Credentials Evaluation Institute (ACEI). The program is expected to launch in late 2021.



CANADIAN VETERINARY MEDICINE ASSOCIATION (CVMA)



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (PDC)

Submitted by: Carolyn Cartwright RVT, VTS (Anesthesia/Analgesia), Shannon Brownrigg RVT

The CVMA Professional Development Committee is a committee of the CVMA. Through the Memorandum of Agreement with CVMA and RVTTC, two representatives from RVTTC join this committee to collaborate on the PDC to bring professional education to the convention for RVTs and all members of the veterinary team.

Mandate: To address “post-graduation” continuing education issues, including the CVMA Annual Convention.

Objectives: Continue to strengthen the image of the CVMA Convention and the value it offers Canadian veterinarians and RVTs through marketing and promotion.

Objectives: Continue to strengthen the image of the CVMA Convention and the value it offers Canadian veterinarians and RVTs through offering a virtual convention model.

RVTTC representatives meet throughout the year with the PDC. This committee is responsible for all planning, marketing, CE selection and delivery of the annual CVMA Convention. Our RVTTC representatives are instrumental in all of these stages.

CVMA Convention 2021

- Host site for the 2021 CVMA Convention is planned for Calgary, Alberta, July 22 - 25, 2021.
- Original planning began with a hybrid convention format in mind. Understanding that this could change to a full virtual closer to the convention date due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- All meetings including the annual CVMA Committee Weekend were held virtually.
- We begin each year reviewing past conventions, attendance, and feedback evaluations.
- A Call for Speakers and initial marketing plans are confirmed in March 2020.
- Review of all speaker proposals is made with each PDC committee member providing a rating of all proposals.
- Final selection of all speakers and the CE schedule is held in November 2020.
- The CVMA is excited to offer registration to the 2021 Convention at significantly reduced rates AND at no charge to VT and DVM students!!! Thank you CVMA!!



Future CVMA Conventions



- The PDC Committee is also responsible for the planning of future conventions and site selection. Conference planning for sites is approximately 4 years in advance.
- Currently the sites are confirmed for:
 - 2022 - Halifax, Nova Scotia - July 20-24, 2022
 - 2023 - Quebec City, Quebec
 - 2024 - Calgary, Alberta

**** If you see a great speaker or attend an exciting session, please share this with Carolyn & Shannon for future convention consideration!!!*

COUNCIL LIAISON ANNUAL REPORT

Submitted by: Lois Ridgway, RVT RVTTC - CVMA Council Liaison

The CVMA is the national and international voice for Canadian Veterinarians, providing leadership and advocacy for veterinary medicine. The CVMA is committed to involving RVTs in its activities and our evolving relationship serves both the RVTTC and the CVMA in advancing our shared organizational goals, promoting career wellness and supporting the best animal care nationwide.

The CVMA has reached an all-time high in membership with 7,769 members and 9,472 affiliated veterinary technicians. The CVMA continues to examine the value of membership and to ensure its value, including ways to be attractive to corporate veterinary practices and consolidators. With this in mind, the CVMA Council meets to determine strategic directions and policy decisions for the organization. My RVTTC Liaison role within the CVMA Council is focused on representing and promoting RVT perspectives, with all of our regional similarities and differences, in the matters presented to Council for consideration, discussion and decision making. I represented the RVTTC at three CVMA Council meetings during this fiscal year: July 15, 2020; November 23 – 24, 2020, and March 2021 – all via videoconference.



COUNCIL LIAISON ANNUAL REPORT continued

Listed below are a few of the noteworthy CVMA accomplishments of interest to the RVTTC:

National Issues and Animal Welfare:

- **COVID-19 response:** From the outset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the CVMA has focused on providing the profession with pertinent, timely and credible information, particularly in the areas of finance, legal, veterinary wellness, and animal issues. On the latter, the CVMA has been part of the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) led COVID Working Group, including federal and provincial government experts, that provided a unified, reliable voice on COVID -19 and animal-related topics.
 - The CVMA has harnessed the energy of CVMA staff, Committees, and over 600 volunteers to leverage regional, national and international networks in delivering messages, information, and advice to the veterinary community and the public.
 - The CVMA continues to offer interactive Town Hall Sessions on evolving issues. All recorded webinars are located on the [COVID-19 section of the CVMA's website](#).
- **Stewardship of Antimicrobials by Veterinarians Initiative (SAVI):** This initiative was previously called National Veterinary Oversight of Antimicrobials (NVOS). SAVI is underway through March 2023 and is in its first year of a 4-year Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC)-funded project. The objectives of this project include:
 - Developing and testing a prototype of electronic antimicrobial use data collection.
 - Analyzing the Antimicrobial Use (AMU) prescription data from the major food animal veterinary practices and feed-mill dispensing (beef, swine, and poultry).
 - Collecting and documenting alternatives to AMU.
 - Increasing awareness of AMU stewardship. The current focus of work is on establishing prudent use guidelines (PUGs) for beef, swine, poultry, dairy, equine, aquaculture, small ruminants and companion animals.
 - Establishing data-warehousing and collection requirements and options.
- **Importation of animals:** The final report associated with a project entitled "*Identification of Data Sources to Support Risk Assessment of Public Health Implications of Importation of Dogs into Canada*" has been received by the CVMA.
 - This issue was brought to public attention when a shipment of puppies from the Ukraine resulted in a large number of deaths. The CFIA has since reviewed its policy options and public education marketing regarding the importation of dogs and has formed a working group including the CVMA and PHAC.
 - November 23, 2020 – The CVMA reaffirmed its stance calling for a halt on mass commercial dog importations following a CBC Marketplace investigation on this industry.



COUNCIL LIAISON ANNUAL REPORT continued

The CVMA Animal Welfare and National Issues Committees, in consultation with subject matter experts, prepare **Position Statements** to serve as guidance documents on current and evolving veterinary issues. Position Statements are founded on scientific evidence and/or ethics; they undergo a membership consultation process, follow a scheduled review timeframe, and are intended to be used by veterinary professionals and the public. All new and revised [Position Statements are approved by Council prior to being posted on the CVMA website.](#)

CVMA Workforce Study 2020: This study provides an outlook for the current supply and demand of veterinary services in Canada. The research was conducted pre-COVID Kynetec consultants and economists and includes post-COVID forecasts. The primary mandate for this research was to examine the equilibrium between supply capacity and demand for veterinary services across the Canadian companion animal, food animal, and equine sectors now and into the future. CVMA has struck a Working Group to develop an action plan and identify ways to use and implement the information identified.

Diversity and Inclusion: *“The Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) commits to diversity and inclusion and rejects discrimination or harassment based on grounds such as race, color, ancestry, ethnic origin, place of origin, age, creed, religion, sex, gender identity, family status, marital status, or disability”.* The CVMA is committed to continuing the accessibility of its services without bias and to promoting diversity and inclusion.

- The CVMA also supports existing veterinary college programs that encourage inclusivity and diversity and allow for the equitable selection of students. The CVMA supports continued actions taken by associations, government and educational institutions to make veterinary education more accessible for underrepresented and minority groups.

Did You Know?

The CVMA has reached an all-time high in membership with 7,769 members and 9,472 affiliated RVTs/TSAs.



COUNCIL LIAISON ANNUAL REPORT continued

The CVMA canceled its **2020 Convention** planned for Quebec City due mainly to travel restrictions and allowable group size limitations in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. Instead, all meetings were held virtually including the CVMA AGM, Council and Executive meetings, meetings with the deans, RVTTC, Students of the CVMA, and the National Examining Board (NEB). Some 139 members participated virtually in the **CVMA's 72nd AGM**.

President, **Dr. Melanie Hicks**, provided an update on the CVMA's broad number of initiatives serving the profession and thanked Council members, all volunteers, and staff for a successful year including the adaptations needed to serve members during the pandemic.

- **Dr. Enid Stiles**, a small animal practitioner from Montreal, Quebec, serves as President beginning July 2020 until July 2021. Joining Dr. Stiles on Executive are **Dr. Louis Kwantes**, president-elect; **Dr. Chris Bell**, vice-president; the new executive member, **Dr. Trevor Lawson**, and **Dr. Melanie Hicks**, immediate past-president.
- The **CVMA Award** recipients were honored in video presentations posted through CVMA social media platforms. **The 2020 CVMA Awards recipients were:**

Animal Practitioner Award: **Dr. Suann Hosie**

Merck Veterinary Award: **Dr. Egan Brockhoff**

Humane Award: **Dr. Bettina Bobsien**

Practice of the Year: **Delaney Veterinary Services Ltd**

Industry Award: **Dr. Daniel Venne**

Life Membership: **Dr. Eugene David Janzen**

RVL Walker Award: **Ms. Audrey Roy**

President's Award: **Dr. Jack Wilson**



AHT/VT PROGRAM ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE (AHT/VT PAC)

Submitted by: *Erin Young RVT & Heather Quilty RVT*

The CVMA Animal Health Technologist Veterinary Technician Program Accreditation Committee (AHT/VT PAC) has the responsibility to assess programs in veterinary technology on behalf of the CVMA. To become accredited, programs must meet the Standards of Accreditation approved by the CVMA. The standards are designed to ensure that the educational experience offered by the program will produce a graduate with the appropriate knowledge and skill to be a competent veterinary clinical technician/technologist.

CVMA approval serves to inform the public that a program offers an acceptable standard of education and training for animal health technologists and veterinary technicians. The graduates benefit by having their competence recognized and prospects for employment mobility enhanced.

The committee reports to CVMA council and is comprised of six members that can be appointed for a maximum of six years. There are two RVTTC selected members to this committee, Erin Young RVT and Heather Quilty RVT.

Currently, there are nineteen accredited colleges in Canada. Under normal circumstances, accreditation site visits occur approximately every five years. Due to COVID guidelines and restrictions the AHT/VT PAC were not able to complete any site visits since February 2020. The committee completed its first virtual site visit in May 2021 of the Veterinary Technology program at Saskatchewan Polytechnic and endeavours to use this format and technology to complete accreditation visits until safe travel is possible.

The CVMA AHT/VT PAC met via video conference on March 21st and 22nd, 2021. The committee reviewed all annual reports and continues to evaluate the COVID-related changes to ensure students continue to fulfill accreditation requirements during the pandemic. All colleges have been working hard throughout the 2020-2021 academic year to meet the challenges that have come from delivering such high-touch program during COVID.

If you have any questions regarding this committee or this report, please contact either Erin or Heather, your RVTTC representatives via email.



ANIMAL WELFARE COMMITTEE (AWC)

Submitted by: Kate Cooper RVT

The [Canadian Veterinary Medical Association \(CVMA\) Animal Welfare Committee \(AWC\)](#) advocates for animal welfare improvements within various animal-based industries, government and the general public. The AWC also works to develop science-based guidelines, standards and position statements that address the welfare and humane treatment of animals. The committee is comprised of veterinarians from various disciplines and areas of expertise, as well as ex-officio members from organizations such as the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), Humane Canada (HC), the Canadian Association of Laboratory Animal Medicine (CALAM), the Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC) and, of course, the Registered Veterinary Technologists and Technicians of Canada (RVTTTC).

2020-2021 has been an incredibly busy time for the Animal Welfare Committee with a focus on a wide variety of projects intended to enhance and promote the humane treatment and care of animals. The AWC is involved in a number of initiatives advocating on behalf of Canadian veterinarians to influence relevant legislative and policy issues which may threaten animal welfare. Recent examples include working with other major stakeholders on enhancing the awareness of the welfare effects of extreme breeding (e.g., brachycephalic breeds) as well as communicating with Health Canada around the lack of consideration for humaneness in the use of strychnine and similar compounds as agents to kill nuisance animals.

Another initiative that the AWC is always busy with is the development of [position statements](#). These statements serve to guide the veterinary profession and to educate the public on the veterinary viewpoint of specific issues.

Recently updated position statements include:

- [Elective and Non-Therapeutic Veterinary Procedures for Cosmetic or Competitive Purposes](#)
- [Free-roaming owned, Abandoned, and Feral Cats](#)
- [Humane Slaughter of Farm Animals](#)
- [Partial Digital Amputation \(Onychectomy, Declawing\) of Non-Domestic Felids and Other Carnivores Kept in Human Care](#)
- [Induced Moulting of Poultry](#)



ANIMAL WELFARE COMMITTEE (AWC) continued

There are also several new position statements currently under development including:

- Neonatal Dairy Calf Management
- Auction Markets
- Animal Sentience

RVT's now have the opportunity to contribute to the development of position statements by providing feedback through their provincial associations (contact your respective provincial association for details on how to do this).

In addition to position statements, the committee is also integral in developing the CVMA Codes of Practice, which serve as resources for both industry and the general public around species-specific best practices. The [Cattery Code](#) is currently being revised and the [Kennel Code](#) was updated in 2018.

The CVMA AWC is also involved with a wide variety of external organizations including, but not limited to, the National Farm Animal Care Council (NFACC), the Canadian Association of Zoos and Aquariums (CAZA), the National Companion Animal Coalition (NCAC), the Advisory Board of the Animal Welfare Judging and Assessment Competition (AWJAC) and the Canadian Association of Fairs and Exhibitions (CAFE).

The inclusion of the Registered Veterinary Technologists and Technicians of Canada on the CVMA AWC emphasizes the valuable contribution that RVT's make to animal welfare in their daily work. All RVT's are encouraged to bring forward welfare-related ideas or concerns using the RVTTC [Contact Us](#) page. Please include 'Animal Welfare Topic' in the first line of the comments, to ensure your request goes straight to our Animal Welfare Representative, Kate Cooper.

Did You Know?

RVT's now have the opportunity to contribute to the development of position statements by providing feedback through their provincial associations.



CANADIAN VETERINARY RESERVE (CVR) REPORT



Submitted by: Shannon Brownrigg RVT with an excerpt from CVMA Annual Report

The Canadian Veterinary Reserve (CVR) program launched in November 2006 as a program of the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) in a joint partnership with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA).

The program was established in response to a number of concerning animal disease events including:

- 2020 COVID response to support livestock processing inspection
- A 2004 outbreak of Avian Influenza in British Columbia,
- 2003's outbreak of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) in Canada, and
- the 2001 outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease in the UK and Europe, demonstrated the need for Canada to be increasingly prepared for animal disease outbreaks affecting both animals and humans.

The Canadian Veterinary Medical Association's, Canadian Veterinary Reserve (CVR) is a national, volunteer membership of qualified Canadian veterinarians who make themselves available to rapidly assist governments in responding to outbreaks of foreign animal disease and other large-scale emergencies and disasters that affect animals.

The RVTTC has one representative sitting on the CVR Advisory Board to provide input and perspective of RVT as integral member of the veterinary team. The CVR membership is open to all veterinarians in Canada with 300 registered reservists and active registration is ongoing. Annual drills are performed proving the CVR has knowledge and capacity to respond within 24-48 hours to provide veterinary surge capacity to first responders in emergency situations involving animals.

'In early April of 2020, the CFIA approached the CVMA to discuss a possible call up of CVR members to support CFIA veterinarians in circumstances arising due to the COVID-19 outbreak. The Call Up Notice was sent to all non-government employed CVR members (249 members in total). A total of 56 CVR veterinarians offered to serve.

The CVR continues to offer on-line training courses on incident command and civil emergency response. Furthermore, the CVR maintains a detailed database of reservists allowing it to reach individuals in critical times, and to identify those with the right skills for a given purpose.' CVJ / VOL 62 / JULY 2021



INTERNATIONAL VETERINARY NURSES & TECHNICIANS ASSOCIATION (IVNTA)



Submitted by: Shannon Brownrigg, RVT & Carolyn Cartwright, RVT,VTS (Anesthesia/Analgesia)

RVTTC is a Core Member of the IVNTA. The IVNTA is a federation of national veterinary nurse/technician associations. It seeks to; foster and promote links with veterinary nursing/technician staff worldwide by communication and cooperation, raise the international profile of veterinary nurses and technicians, and raise the standard of veterinary nurses and technicians internationally.

The International Veterinary Nurse and Technicians Association exists to:

- Maintain contact with veterinary nurse & technician associations around the world,
- Provide a channel of open communication for members,
- Offer help and advice to enquirers

IVNTA membership includes:

- Australia (VNCA), Britain (BVNA), Canada (RVTTC), Ireland (IVNA), New Zealand (NZVNA), United States of America (NAVTA).
- Each member country has two representative positions.

IVNTA Activities 2020-2021

- Primary focus for IVNTA this year is to establish as a NFP association in a host country.
- A task force was created for this initiative. This included a consultant position - Harold Davis BA, RVT, VTS (ECC)(Anesthesia & Analgesia).
- With the task force research and recommendations, the IVNTA has elected to register as a Not For Profit Association in New Jersey, U.S.A.
- In conjunction with this process, priorities will include bylaws & policy review, financial process review and banking location transfers.
- This will provide the foundation for IVNTA to expand membership and offer support to foster growth in our global veterinary community.
- All association meetings are held virtually.
- Planning for in person meeting bi-annually.
- Identified an International Veterinary Nurse & Technician Day - Second Friday of October - ***Celebrating and promoting IVNT Day!***



INTERNATIONAL VETERINARY NURSES & TECHNICIANS ASSOCIATION (IVNTA) continued

Join us on October 8th, 2021 for our 2nd Annual International Veterinary Nurse & Technician Day!



The IVNTA has recognised the second Friday in October each year as International Veterinary Nurse and Technician Day.

Thank you to Ivana Novosel B.Sc., RVT for completing her term as IVNTA representative for RVTTC. Thank you for your contribution and support to assist IVNTA in its progression.

RVTTC representatives Carolyn & Shannon are excited to be a part of this exciting time with our international colleagues.

The IVNTA Board of Directors sends well wishes to all the VN/VTs around the world as everyone deals with our current pandemic restrictions. We are ever so grateful for the ability to communicate and connect via social media ([Facebook](#)) and our website (<https://www.ivnta.org/>) for the members of this great profession.



Shannon Brownrigg, RVT



Carolyn Cartwright,
RVT, VTS
(Anesthesia/Analgesia)



WORLD VETERINARY ASSOCIATION (WVA)



WORLD VETERINARY ASSOCIATION

Submitted by: Shannon Brownrigg RVT

The World Veterinary Association (WVA) is the world's largest family of veterinarians, as well as the common voice for them all. Representing more than 500,000 veterinarians through 95 veterinary member associations on six continents, the WVA unites the veterinary profession at a global level. The WVA supports the work of veterinarians in diverse areas of medicine, research, practice, and outreach and is guided by its belief in One Health, which recognizes that humans and animals share the natural environment and create harmony with and for each other. The WVA envisions that collaboration between the veterinary profession and other professions can ensure that humans, animals, and the environment prosper together. <http://www.worldvet.org/>

The RVTTC has been an Observer Member of the WVA since 2016 – the first veterinary technician association to join the WVA.

WVA Highlights:

- WVA Strategic Plan 2020-2025 - In March of 2020, the WVA Council adopted the WVA Strategic Planning Working Group's proposal for the 2020 – 2025 WVA Strategy. Four priority areas of focus are: Animal Welfare, Pharmaceutical Stewardship, Veterinary Education and One Health.
- Celebrate World Veterinary Day – April 24, 2021 The WVA and HealthforAnimals are delighted to announce the 2021 World Veterinary Day theme: Veterinarian response to the Covid-19 crisis
- Resources for COVID-19 Information - Veterinarians, as trained health professionals and One Health advocates, are an important source of information regarding SARS-CoV-2, the causative agent of COVID-19. The WVA is pleased to provide this list of resources compiled from national and international veterinary groups, public health agencies, and intergovernmental organizations.
- RVTTC Attended the Virtual WVA General Assembly April 28, 2021. Planning in place for a hybrid congress for 2022.
- WVA celebrates World Food Safety Day June 7, 2021, plus newly released of the report of the WVA Virtual Seminar on Food Security.

WVA Info news is shared within the RVTTC E-newsletter RVT Talk each month sharing veterinary news from around the world. The RVTTC continues to share information and offer RVT collaboration.



WORLD SMALL ANIMAL VETERINARY ASSOCIATION (WSAVA)



Submitted by: Shannon Brownrigg RVT

Mission: *'To advance the health and welfare of companion animals worldwide through an educated, committed and collaborative global community of veterinary peers.'*

The WSAVA is a global community of more than 200,000 veterinarians worldwide drawn from our 114 member associations. Together, we are working to advance the health and welfare of companion animals throughout the world and to speak on behalf of companion animal veterinarians globally. <https://wsava.org/about/mission-plan/>

The RVTTC has worked collaboratively with WSAVA as an Affiliate Member since 2018. RVTTC has participated in regional member meetings plus attended the Annual General Assembly.

In November 2020, WSAVA in collaboration with CM Research release VetSurvey 2020 – Global impact of COVID19 on the Veterinary Profession. Part 1 the past, the present and future was presented at WSAVA Virtual Congress March 24, 2021. RVTTC Representative Shannon Brownrigg was invited to participate in the presentation to share the perspective and voice of RVTs and team members. Of the 5000 veterinary professionals responding, 500 veterinary technicians and nurses had their voices heard. Full report and presentation can be viewed [HERE](#).

In June 2021, RVTTC Representative Shannon Brownrigg was invited to participate in WSAVA presentation at PreConnect by Petfair, sharing How Covid-19 Opens Up a New Future for the Veterinary Profession and Industry by highlighting findings of the VETSURVEY 2020 Part 2.

Did You Know?

The WSAVA is a global community of more than 200,000 veterinarians worldwide drawn from our 114 member associations.



WORLD SMALL ANIMAL VETERINARY ASSOCIATION (WSAVA)

A promotional banner for a webinar. The background is dark blue with a white silhouette of a city skyline at the bottom. The text is in white and orange. It includes a QR code, logos for WSAVA, VNU Asia Pacific, and PreConnect by petfair, the webinar title, date, time, and a list of highlights. Three speakers are featured with their names, titles, and national flags.

SCAN TO REGISTER

Powered by **WSAVA** Global Veterinary Community
VNU ASIA PACIFIC

For **PreConnect** by **petfair**

2nd PRECONNECT WEBINAR HIGHLIGHTS

How COVID-19 Opens Up a New Future For the Veterinary Profession and Industry

The World Small Animal Veterinary Association (WSAVA)

25th June 2021 **11.00 A.M. – 12.00 P.M. (UTC+7)**

Highlights:

1. Impact on the veterinary profession and industry
2. Adoption rates and animal welfare
3. Future Opportunities and role of veterinary communities

PANEL DISCUSSION

Shannon Brownrigg
RVT
CEO & Executive Director for the RVTTC

Dr. Siraya Chunekamrai
D.V.M., Ph.D.
President, WSAVA

Dr. Natasha Lee
D.V.M., MSc
Animal Wellness and Welfare Committee,
WSAVA

RVTTC submitted nominations for both the Animal Welfare committee and Professional Wellness Group in 2020-2021.

RVTTC continues to collaborate to include RVTs within WSAVA committees, if you are interested in representing RVTs on an international level please contact RVTTC Executive Director Shannon Brownrigg sbrownrigg@rvttcanada.ca for more information and discuss upcoming opportunities.

The WSAVA Bulletin is shared with all RVTTC members via our RVT Talk E-Newsletter. Check out the latest edition for up to date news on the global veterinary community.





**RVTTTC
TTVAC**

YOUR **VOICE** in animal healthcare.



**REGISTERED VETERINARY
TECHNOLOGISTS
AND TECHNICIANS OF CANADA**

P.O. Box 961, Kemptville, ON K0G 1J0

Website: www.rvttcanada.ca

Email: info@rvttcanada.ca

Telephone: 613.215.0619