



RVTTC/TTVAC ANNUAL REPORT

2017-2018



YOUR **VOICE**
in animal healthcare.

President's Report

Another banner year has passed for the Registered Technologists and Technicians of Canada (RVTTC). We continue to unite, strengthen and advance the RVT profession in Canada and provide leadership and visibility for this profession worldwide.

Our Annual General Meeting coincided with the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association's annual conference in beautiful Charlottetown, PEI. It is at this meeting that we put forth our goals and plans for the upcoming year. The focus of the 2017 gathering was to strengthen our internal structures so that we are better able to provide support and member services and benefits to our colleagues across Canada. The creation of four internal committees will strategically align our goals and provide support to our CEO, Shannon Brownrigg in the successful operations of RVTTC. The committees are;

- Finance
- Communications
- By-law and Policy
- Welcome

We welcomed Nancy MacFarlane to the RVTTC executive as our new financial officer and thank Tina Douglas for her many years of dedication to the fiscal management of RVTTC. We again welcomed representatives from Association des Techniciens en Santé Animale du Québec (ATSAQ), President Daniel Menard and Executive Director Elisabeth Lebeau who brought greetings from their association and indicated that they look forward to working toward our common goal of national unity for the RVT profession.



President's Report

Another goal of the AGM is to set priorities for our conference representation. With such a vast country to traverse is it often a challenging task to ensure that we are able to reach our members on a personal level and conference attendance is the most effective way to accomplish this. With domestic conferences including CanWest, APVC and the OAVT conference (among others) it was also important to celebrate that RVTTC was a recipient of the Korean Veterinary Medical Association "Friendship Travel Grant" and for the first time in our associations history we were able to send a representative to the World Veterinary Congress in Incheon, South Korea. Ivana Novosel of the ABVTA attended on our behalf and was incredibly effective at highlighting the importance of credentialed veterinary technicians/technologists/nurses on the world stage.

One way to keep momentum going is to have constantly greater goals.
Michael Korda

As we moved in to the fall of the year RVTs across the country geared up for the inaugural RVT Month. Spearheaded by RVTTC member association, the Ontario Association of Veterinary Technician, this month was a time to again highlight how invaluable RVTs are to an effective and successful veterinary healthcare team. The month was a resounding success and we look forward to celebrating and growing this initiative in the coming years.

In addition to our work elevating the visibility of the RVT profession we have also been hard at work improving and creating our member benefits. The second year of our #ProudlyRVT campaign was again supported by PetPlan and the t-shirts have been a resounding success. PetPlan has also sponsored the RVTTC Student Bursaries for the second year in a row and we are once again proud to celebrate veterinary technology/technician students as they work towards their academic and professional goals. A new addition to the #Proudly RVT initiative is the, PetPlan sponsored, RVTTC Travel Bursary program. To support and encourage our RVT members to travel and attend continuing education opportunities we will be awarding travel bursaries to help offset the cost of these events. Dedication to continual learning is the cornerstone of what makes the RVT profession so dynamic and progressive.

As my tenure as RVTTC President is coming to a close I am honoured to have been involved in such a strong, supportive and unifying group of dedicated professionals. As RVTTC moves into its 30th anniversary year on 2019 the momentum for all Canadian RVTs will grow.

Sincerely,

Heather Quilty

Heather Quilty, RVT
President, RVTTC



Executive Director's Report

The Registered Veterinary Technologists & Technicians (RVTTTC) of Canada and its affiliated member associations (BCVTA, ABVTA, SAVT, MVTA, OAVT, EVTA) join July 4-6th, 2018 in Vancouver, BC to work in partnership for our RVT members. We are also meeting to celebrate our growth and achievements of this collaboration. Our membership over the past 3 years has flourished with a 35% growth, fantastic new programs and offerings for our members and advancements in our provincial associations like never before.

Our mission to unite, advance and strengthen the RVT profession is the foundation of all decisions and goals made by the Registered Veterinary Technologist & Technicians (RVTTTC) board of directors. Little did we know 2 years ago the strength, passion and opportunity this mission would have for not just the RVTTTC but also to our affiliated members, the provincial veterinary technician/technology associations.

The strength and success as we unite together for RVTs is reflected at each AGM. Greetings from each provincial association sharing their success while promoting each other imbeds an impact in each RVT in attendance concretizing that they are one of 7800 RVTs across Canada and we stand together.

The collaboration of resources of all our provincial resources has risen and advanced each association at a rate that is unheard of in our history. Launching RVT Month across Canada with a united message "Because one week just wasn't enough" reached epic proportions with engagement at the workplace, association and government levels. For the first time we had provincial legislatures recognizing RVT Month within their provinces. We are stronger when we work together.

Our voice representing Canadian RVTs has strengthened with our stakeholder expansion into global and national animal health and welfare platforms. It is relationship building that is our strength, with members, colleagues, industry partners, stakeholders and the public as together we strive for animal health excellence.

Celebrating some of this past year's successes:

Unite:

- With 7851 members in six affiliated member associations
 - RVT membership yearly increase of 6%.
 - An increase of 35% in the past 3 years!
- RVTs supporting RVTs
 - Provincial Associations committed to sending representatives to conferences outside their province supporting their fellow RVT associations.
 - NEW - #Proudly RVT t-shirt campaign saw 700 t-shirts distributed across Canada and raising \$1,849.90 in donations by RVTs for our new Travel Bursary (to be launched July 2018)
 - Our partnership with Petplan Pet Insurance expanded this year to sponsor 700 #ProudlyRVT t-shirts and MATCHING our donations raised by adding \$1,849.90 to our new Travel Bursary!!
- Personally, connecting with our RVT membership was an important strategic goal for RVTTTC. RVTTTC participated in 5 provincial association conferences to support our associations and our members:



Executive Director's Report

- o CanWest 2017 – ABVTA conference
- o CenCan 2018 – MVTA conference
- o OAVT 2018 conference
- o APVC 2018 conference – EVTA meeting
- o BCVTA Spring Conference 2018
- With our website, and social media platforms, RVT's are more engaged and more confident to reach out when concerns arise. A significant rise in RVT job postings on our website – sharing opportunities across Canada.
- With 2768 page likes and daily averages of 10,000 post reach on our Facebook platform. Encouraging member and student engagement, sharing events & education, expanding knowledge of veterinary community and inviting action.
- Communications continue with ATSAQ and growing relationship to consider re-joining national association. ATSAQ joined our AGM 2018 continuing to build our relationship.

Advance:

- Our RVTTC representatives have attended 20 in-person meetings, over 40 teleconference meetings across Canada and the U.S.A. representing the Canadian RVT profession.
- Celebrating inaugural RVT month in October 2017 – sharing a united, national voice "Because one week just wasn't enough"
- Strengthening relationships with industry partners and stakeholders. Attending CAHI Annual General Meeting for the 4th year, new position on board of directors of the Canadian Animal Health Coalition, submitting application to World Small Animal Veterinary Association.
- Renewing relationships with National Association of Veterinary Technicians in America (NAVTA) to collaborate - add the veterinary technician/technology/nurse profession to the North America Free Trade Agreement to allow RVTs mobility across our borders and renewing our relationship to work together for RVTs & RVNs in North America.
- The second RVTTC Student Bursary program awarded 6 senior AHT/VT students with \$500.00 each – sponsored by Petplan Pet Insurance
- Planning for new Travel Bursary to launch July 2019 – minimum of three \$1000 bursaries to RVTs to attend CE events.

Strengthen:

- Advanced board training planned for AGM 2018
- Developing an extensive policy update and strengthen the operations and sustainability of the association
- Successfully completed a full independent financial review to insure efficient and effective operations
- Continue development of member benefits offered to RVTTC Members – The Personal Group Home & Auto insurance & Sunlife Health and Life Group Benefits
- Collaborating meetings (q 2 months) of provincial and national OA's/ED's to elevate the success of our associations alliances
- Continued development of website
- Producing 2nd Annual Report to share with membership and, stakeholders
- Expanding sponsorship opportunities for 2018 – Strategic partner & bursary matching opportunities plus expansion in our donor program.



Cheers! #ProudlyRVT

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shannon Brownrigg".

Shannon Brownrigg, RVT

2017-2018 Financial Statements

**REGISTERED VETERINARY TECHNOLOGISTS AND TECHNICIANS
OF CANADA**

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
MAY 31, 2018



INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Board of Directors,

Registered Veterinary Technologists and Technicians of Canada:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Registered Veterinary Technologists and Technicians of Canada, which comprise the statement of financial position as at May 31, 2018, and the statements of changes in net assets, operations and cash flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management's responsibility for the financial statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditors' responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Registered Veterinary Technologists and Technicians of Canada as at May 31, 2018, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

OHCID LLP.

OUSELEY HANVEY CLIPSHAM DEEP LLP
Licensed Public Accountants

Ottawa, Ontario

July 6, 2018

2017-2018 Financial Statements

REGISTERED VETERINARY TECHNOLOGISTS AND TECHNICIANS OF CANADA

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS AT MAY 31, 2018

	2018	2017
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash	\$ 95,940	\$ 90,813
Short term investments (note 2)	75,320	75,524
Accounts receivable	60	495
Prepaid expenses	6,160	6,801
	\$ 177,480	\$ 173,633
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 8,054	\$ 5,673
Deferred revenue (note 3)	58,231	54,349
	66,285	60,022
NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted net assets	111,195	113,611
	\$ 177,480	\$ 173,633

Approved on behalf of the Board:

Heather Quilty



2017-2018 Financial Statements

REGISTERED VETERINARY TECHNOLOGISTS AND TECHNICIANS OF CANADA

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MAY 31, 2018

	2018	2017
<hr/>		
UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS		
Balance beginning of year	\$ 113,611	\$ 112,273
Net revenue (expenditure) for the year	(2,416)	1,338
<hr/>		
Balance end of year	\$ 111,195	\$ 113,611
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2017-2018 Financial Statements

REGISTERED VETERINARY TECHNOLOGISTS AND TECHNICIANS OF CANADA

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MAY 31, 2018

	2018	2017
<hr/>		
REVENUE		
Membership dues	\$ 95,943	\$ 86,759
Sponsorship and other	26,892	16,771
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	122,835	103,530
<hr/>		
EXPENDITURE		
Administration	21,027	11,591
Annual general meeting	9,801	7,088
Charitable contributions	-	100
Executive Director	697	722
Marketing	16,493	19,902
Payroll expense	44,564	47,889
Representation	27,310	11,353
Bank charges	342	427
Website	975	272
Miscellaneous	4,042	2,848
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	125,251	102,192
<hr/>		
NET REVENUE (EXPENDITURE) FOR THE YEAR	\$ (2,416)	\$ 1,338
<hr/>		

2017-2018 Financial Statements

REGISTERED VETERINARY TECHNOLOGISTS AND TECHNICIANS OF CANADA

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED MAY 31, 2018

	2018	2017
<hr/>		
CASH PROVIDED BY (USED FOR)		
OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Net revenue for the year	\$ (2,416)	\$ 1,338
Change in non-cash working capital items:		
Accounts receivable	435	(375)
Prepaid expenses	641	(6,123)
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	2,381	1,615
Deferred revenue	3,882	6,411
	<hr/> 4,923	<hr/> 2,866
INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Decrease (increase) of short term investments	204	(44,888)
	<hr/> 204	<hr/> (44,888)
Net change in cash	5,127	(42,022)
CASH BEGINNING OF THE YEAR	90,813	132,835
CASH END OF YEAR	<hr/> \$ 95,940	<hr/> \$ 90,813

2017-2018 Financial Statements

REGISTERED VETERINARY TECHNOLOGISTS AND TECHNICIANS OF CANADA

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

MAY 31, 2018

The Registered Veterinary Technologists and Technicians of Canada (originally called The Canadian Association of Animal Health Technologists and Technicians) was founded in 1989 by representatives of the provincial associations in Canada. It is the national voice for animal health technologists/technicians providing leadership to strengthen the profession in Canada. The Organization is a not-for-profit organization and is not subject to income tax.

1. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations and include the following significant accounting policies:

(a) Revenue recognition

Revenue is recognized using the deferral method. Membership fees are recognized in the year to which they pertain. Other revenue is recognized in which they are received or receivable.

(c) Use of estimates

The preparation of these financial statements in conformity with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates. These estimates are reviewed annually and as adjustments become necessary, they are recorded in the financial statements in the period in which they become known.

(d) Financial instruments

Financial instruments consist of cash, short term investments, accounts receivable and accounts payable. Unless otherwise noted, it is management's opinion that the Association is not exposed to significant interest rate, currency, credit or liquidity risks arising from its financial instruments and the carrying amount of the financial instruments approximate their fair value. Investments are initially recognized at fair value and are subsequently measured at the year-end fair value. Other financial instruments are initially recognized at fair value and are subsequently measured at cost, amortized cost or cost less appropriate allowances for impairment.

2. SHORT TERM INVESTMENTS

Short term investments consist of Guaranteed Investment Certificates bearing interest from 2.0% to 2.1% per annum, with maturity dates of February 2019 and August 2019.

3. DEFERRED REVENUE

Deferred revenue consists of membership dues relating to the next fiscal year.



RVTTC/TTVAC Sponsors 2017-2018

Thank you to our amazing sponsors for all their support over the past year!



**#ProudlyRVT Campaign, Travel Bursary,
Student Bursary and AGM Sponsor**



AGM Sponsor



Anesthesia



Antimicrobials



Pet First Aid



Surgery

RTV Month - discount and set giveaway



Door prizes for CALAS, CVMA convention



Sponsored by Petplan Pet Insurance



British Columbia Veterinary Technologist Association

Kathryn Douglas

Alberta Veterinary Technologist Association

Blaire Toop

Saskatchewan Association of Veterinary Technologists

Katrina Diamond

Manitoba Veterinary Technologist Association

Katherine Dow

Ontario Association of Veterinary Technicians

Joanna Hopkins

Eastern Veterinary Technician Association

Jenna Willis

American Association of Veterinary State Boards (AAVSB)

VTNE Committee RVTTC/TTVAC Representatives' 2017/18 Annual Report

Submitted by: *Amanda Maknyik, RVT and Sandy Parsons, RVT*

Description of the committee:

The AAVSB VTNE committee is made up of 12 representatives from AAVSB (4), AVTE (2), NAVTA (2), CVTEA (2) and RVTTC (2). There is a mixture of Veterinarians and Veterinary Technicians, large and small animal practitioners and members come from a wide variety of geographic areas. Committee members are recommended by the organization they represent and are then approved by the AAVSB board of directors. Representatives serve a maximum of 2 three-year terms. The RVTTC's eastern representative's 2nd term expires in Dec. 2020 and the western representative's 2nd term expires in Dec. of 2018. All expenses incurred by the committee members are paid by the AAVSB.

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.

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 as relevant in Canada as they are in the US (pounds/kilograms, drug names and classifications, regulations etc.) Amanda sits on the abbreviations sub-committee which reviews and approves the list of abbreviations that can appear on the VTNE to ensure that they are widely used, accepted and understood throughout the profession. Sandy sits on the reference sub-committee which reviews and approves or rejects the list of text books that may be used in the creation of new exam questions and that give exam candidates a list of references they can use to prepare for the VTNE.

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

Due to the job-analysis results collected in 2016/17, the committee met more than their usual two teleconference and two in-person meetings per year. Conference calls took place in May, July, August of 2017 and April and May of 2018 and in-person meetings took place in August, Sept., and Oct. 2017, and Feb. 2018.

August 2017 saw us meeting in Olathe, Kansas to review questions in the exam bank to ensure that their references were up to date, that they were still relevant, and that they were in the correct exam domain. In Sept. 2017 at the AAVSB annual conference in San Antonio, Texas we had our annual meeting and reviewed exam questions that had been submitted by item writers on-line and created questions for specific domains. We returned to Olathe in Oct. 2017 where we constructed the exams to be used for the three exam windows for 2018/19 (starting with the July-August window). Exam questions are selected randomly by computer from the designated domains. Every question to appear on an exam is reviewed by members of the committee. In New Orleans in February 2018 we worked toward setting the new pass-point for the exam taking into account the changes resulting from the job-analysis. The pass-point was finalized during the April teleconference. Committee members also reviewed the new questions selected by the computer to appear on the exams for the next year in order to generate statistics on those questions before they are considered for inclusion in our exam bank. We will meet in Kansas City in June 2018 for further item writing and review.



The Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) Council Liaison Annual Report For Fiscal Year 2017 - 2018

Submitted by: Lois Ridgway, RVT

My RVTTC Liaison role within the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (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.

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 and in promoting career wellness and the best animal care nationwide.

I have represented the RVTTC at three CVMA Council meetings during this past year: July 2017 – Charlottetown, PEI; December 2017 – Ottawa and March 2018 – Ottawa. Here are a few of the CVMA highlights that occurred during 2017 – 2018:



- Animal Health Week, October 1 to 7, 2017 – Approximately 200 veterinary hospitals across Canada participated in introducing thousands of animal families to the theme of “Animal Welfare: Safeguarding the Five Animal Freedoms.” This event highlighted the five basic freedoms animals require to survive and thrive: adequate shelter, proper nutrition, appropriate veterinary care, proper socialization, and the ability to exhibit normal behaviors.
 - 2018 - Animal Health Week will be held September 30 to October 6, 2018 and the theme is “Vaccines Save Lives”. Please plan to include this topic in your National RVT Month celebrations and in your veterinary workplaces.
- Endorse and promote National RVT Month, October 2017 – To ensure public awareness of the value and importance of RVTs within veterinary healthcare.
- CVMA Position Statements - The CVMA National Issues Committee (NIC) and Animal Welfare Committee (AWC) review and monitor veterinary and animal welfare issues on an ongoing basis; these committees develop position statements on issues or matters judged to be of concern to the veterinary community. Scientific evidence and/or ethics form the basis of all position statements. I have encouraged inclusion of RVTs in the consultation process for Position Statements and hope that RVTs will add their voice and experience in shaping these documents. The final draft of each position statement is presented to CVMA Council for approval and adoption. Current CVMA position statements are available at:

The Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA)

Council Liaison Annual Report For Fiscal Year 2017 - 2018

<https://www.canadianveterinarians.net/policy-advocacy/statements>

- Codes of Practice – The CVMA partners with stakeholders to produce guidelines for the care and handling of animal species. Codes of Practice are available to the public and become a basis for many veterinary medicine based decisions. These resources are available at:

<https://www.canadianveterinarians.net/resources/animal-owners-guides>

- Advocacy on behalf of Canadian veterinarians to influence Legislation and Policy development on topics within the scope of veterinary practice. Some examples include providing Ministers of Parliament with the veterinary perspective on regulation of cannabis, fees for drugs, antimicrobial resistance and necessary changes to legislation on animal fighting, abuse, regulation of dogs and importation of animals.
- AHTVT Program Accreditation –
 - The AHTVT Program Accreditation Committee performed several site visits in 2017 – early 2018. Program accreditation was approved by CVMA Council for: Grand Prairie Regional College (Fairview Campus; Fairview, AB), Thompson Rivers University (on Site and Distance Programs; Kamloops, BC), St Lawrence College (Kinston, ON) and Douglas College (New Westminster, BC).
 - AHTVTPAC – 2018 Site visits will also include: Lakeland College (Vermillion, AB); Maritime Business College (Lower Sackville, NS); Olds College (Olds, AB) and Algonquin College (Ottawa, ON).
- Promote antimicrobial stewardship initiatives at the global and national level which support the overall reduction of antimicrobial use, prudent use of antimicrobials and surveillance of antimicrobial resistance in animals. The CVMA also recognizes there will be a role for RVTs in delivering and supporting the upcoming Canadian Regulatory changes for antimicrobial use at the veterinary practice level.

The CVMA also works on Global issues and has developed relationships with international veterinary and animal health organizations, such as the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE), World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), World Veterinary Association (WVA), and World Small Animal Veterinary Association (WSAVA) all of whom, collectively, represent more than 300,000 veterinarians. In this work, tools and programs are exchanged which enhance veterinary practice, promote highly trained veterinary healthcare personnel and the benefits of animal health around the globe. It is my opinion that RVTs (RVNs) have a role to play in this arena – an area of growth for the RVTTC to explore, perhaps alongside the CVMA.

RVTTC/TTVAC Professional Development Committee (PDC)

Annual Report

Submitted by: *Nadine Schueller, RVT and Shannon Brownrigg, RVT*

The Professional Development committee's mandate is to "Address "post-graduation" continuing education issues to develop and implement the CVMA annual convention and other CE activities."

As the CVMA Professional Development Committee representatives our mandate is guided by the CVMA objective to continue to build and strengthen the image of the CVMA Convention and the value it offers Canadian veterinarians. RVTTC works in collaboration with the CVMA and the convention committees to promote RVT attendance and engagement while ensuring that the RVTs in attendance have access to engaging, relevant and informative continuing education. When RVTs have access to such a high quality of sessions they elevate, not only their own skills and knowledge, but also the skills and knowledge of those they work alongside. As RVTTC representatives, we ensure RVT's are heard, included and valued. For 2017, we participated in multiple conference calls, and email correspondence as well as the March committee weekend as your voice.

The 69th Annual CVMA Convention was held July 13 to 16, 2017 in Charlottetown PEI. It has been 21 years since the CVMA Convention has been held in Charlottetown and it was a success. The Convention was organized in cooperation with the Registered Veterinary Technicians and Technologists of Canada (RVTTC), with this year doubling the number of RVT's attending!

The convention again offered over 128 RACE accredited CE hours of which more than 72 were approved for RVTs. Over 43 speakers presented sessions in companion and large animal, ruminant, equine, bovine, practice management and animal welfare tracks. Disciplines included dentistry, soft issue surgery, anesthesia and pain management, dermatology and more. Of particular interest to RVT's was the wet lab "Small Animal Hematology – Examining Reds and Whites" presented by Drs. Cornelia Gilroy and Shelley Burton. The Continuing Education topics are brainstormed each year; the balance of inclusion is always discussed. How do we make a convention appealing to such a wide range of registrants; large animal, small animal, business, new veterinary grads as well as RVT's with the wide range of experience each registrant brings? To ensure we have a voice, RVTTC representatives' research, ask and listen to topics and speakers that RVT's find important.

The CVMA flagship programs – the CVMA Summit and CVMA's Emerging Leaders Program (ELP) continue to be open to RVTs. The 2017 CVMA Summit featured the topic "The Future of Veterinary Medicine: Embracing Change & Innovation" which discussed the rapidly evolving face of the veterinary profession.

The Convention provided an opportunity for many ancillary groups and organizations to hold meetings onsite including our own Registered Veterinary Technicians and Technologists of Canada (RVTTC) AGM as well as the Canadian Council of Veterinary Registrars, deans of the veterinary medicine facilities and the Christian Veterinary Missions of Canada. The CVMA AGM and Awards luncheon was also held and we were proud to see, Elise Wickett RVT presented with the 2017 RVTTC RVT of the Year Award.

The Saturday night social event attracted 184 delegates. Delegates were greeted by local fiddler, Courtney Hogan and an oyster shucking presentation by the owner, Steve Larkin. Delegates enjoyed the view from the patio while engaging



RVTTC/TTVAC Professional Development Committee (PDC)

Annual Report

with friends over oysters and drinks. Dinner was a pre-selected meal of lobster, steak, chicken or pasta. The venue had seating options on the upper and lower dining rooms. The Veterinarians without Borders held their live auction again this year in the pre-function room. Courtney Hogan and the Fiddlers Sons closed the evening off with live entertainment.

The 2018 CVMA Convention takes place in Vancouver, BC July 5-8th, with the program and speaker information available online. We look forward to an increased RVT presence!

The 2019 CVMA Convention is in partnership with the World Small Animal Veterinary Association (WSAVA) July 16-19, 2019 and the theme for the Congress is "Visit Toronto, Discover the World" as Canada is multi-cultural pre-congress event. WSAVA is planning for the first time a full Vet Tech track for all 4 days and as RVTTC representatives we have been given a voice to help develop this track!

Canadian Veterinary Reserve (CVR) Report



Submitted by: Shannon Brownrigg, RVT

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:

- *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. Which demonstrated the need for Canada to be increasingly prepared for animal disease outbreaks affecting both animals and humans.*

The CVR was established to assist federal, provincial, and territorial governments in responding to large-scale emergencies in Canada affecting large numbers of animals. <https://www.canadianveterinarians.net/science-knowledge/cvr>.

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 288 registered reservists (April 2017) and active registration is ongoing. Currently, there are no RVTs as part of the CVR.

To date there has not been an active call up of the CVR. Annual practice call ups occur to verify engagement of reservists and evaluate call up processes. Discussions continue with stakeholders and CFIA to identify areas where CVR members can participate or observe in non-emergency situations to build relationships and investigate potential deployment opportunities.



International Veterinary Nurses & Technicians Association (IVNTA)

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

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 co-operation, 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.

Despite contrasts between veterinary nursing and technician training and varying conditions in member countries, there are similarities which unite them:

- Veterinary nurses/ technicians are a valuable part of the veterinary team,
- Veterinary nursing / technology is developing and progressing rapidly on a global basis,
- Many countries have established a professional body to represent veterinary nursing / technician staff with the aim of developing professional standards and career structure for VNs and VTs in their country,
- Veterinary nursing / technology is becoming increasingly valued worldwide

Permanent members

Australia
Canada
Ireland
New Zealand
United Kingdom
United States of America

Affiliate members

Japan
Malta
Nepal
Norway
Pakistan
Spain
Turkey

The RVTTC/TTVAC is a Permanent Member of the IVNTA. We currently have one representative, Carolyn Cartwright, RVT, on the Board of Directors and are in the process of having a second representative from RVTTC/TTVAC.

The IVNTA meets quarterly via teleconference and in person every 2 years for the General Meeting. The next in person meeting is scheduled in conjunction with the VNCA annual conference 2019. The dates of the VNCA conference are April 3-5, 2019 and the conference will be held in Brisbane, Australia. The VNCA is kindly offering complimentary conference registration to IVNTA members.

The IVNTA held a strategic planning meeting in April, which included a new vision and mission statement. It is in the process of reviewing its purpose and goals, and documentation requesting input has been circulated to all permanent members

International Veterinary Nurses & Technicians Association (IVNTA)

outlining the IVNTA's aims and clarifying its role, function and purpose. A "position statement" will be developed. At the April 2019 General Meeting an in depth strategic planning session will be held. With this in mind the IVNTA is creating a strategic plan to ensure that it's working as effectively as possible for the future of the profession internationally and so that it best represents its member associations.

IVNTA is an 'association of associations', comprised of permanent and affiliate members (see <http://www.ivnta.org/ivnta-member-countries/>). While there is not yet a formal strategic plan for the future, there is an aspiration to become more actively involved in veterinary nursing standard setting and be the go-to voice for veterinary nurses globally. Although the IVNTA is not yet formally registered in any specific country it does have a constitution and regular meetings. They are in the process of registering in the USA. Ginny Thomas, VN is acting as Secretary General with the leadership being comprised of representatives from individual member associations. The IVNTA is working towards establishing a larger committee with other officers (ex: chair, secretary, treasurer). The IVNTA is wholly dependent on volunteers and currently has no sponsorship and a minimal income from subscriptions although overall costs are low and principally associated with website maintenance.

The IVNTA, WVA and WSAVA are working on collaboration possibilities. Some items discussed at this time include:

- Veterinary nurse/technician representation on WSAVA guideline groups and potential nursing standards as a subset of WSAVA guidelines
- Facilitating/involvement in nursing streams at WSAVA congress and other CE events
- A more active presence within the WSAVA global veterinary community, possibly through our soon-to-be launched on-line member's community
- Possible affiliate membership within the WSAVA

Closer links with the WVA and the WSAVA will give the IVNTA a stronger voice to advocate for veterinary nurses and technicians at a global level.

Moving forward, the permanent members of the IVNTA will file an annual membership report.

There are discussions to coordinate the timing of national VN/VT awareness programs to increase their impact and raise the profile of VNs/VTs internationally.

IVNTA is improving communication by developing regular newsletters which are shared with the membership. The IVNTA website is <http://www.ivnta.org/> and the Secretary General Ginny Thomas, VN can be contacted by email: ivnta@ivnta.org



Canadian Animal Health Coalition (CAHC)



Submitted by: Shannon Brownrigg, RVT

The CAHC is a not for profit organization serving Canada's farmed animal industry. The organization is a partnership of organizations all recognizing a shared responsibility and a collaborative approach for an effective Canadian animal health system.

Industry organizations and other non-government organizations with an interest in farmed animal health and welfare have a role to play with the federal and provincial/territorial governments in the animal health and welfare system.

The CAHC is resourced to ensure the expertise and information required to provide Canada's farmed animal industry the capacity to build consensus, share information, provide expertise and project management.

<http://www.animalhealth.ca/asp/public/>

In January 2018 the CAHC Board of Directors approved RVTTC as an active board member to the Canadian Animal Health Coalition. The CAHC meets every two months with three in-person meetings and three teleconference meetings throughout the year.

The benefits of membership to the CAHC allow for collaboration of industry producers and government agencies to work together. This has been a significant learning opportunity for RVTTC to expand involvement in the farmed animal industry and government agencies.

Current projects of the CAHC include:

- CAHC projects (in partnership with NFACC) include:
 - Market Relevant Codes and Communication Leadership
www.nfacc.ca/achievement-reports - Finalized
- Informative video production "How Codes are Used"
- Five new codes released: Bison, Rabbits, Veal Cattle, Pullets & Laying Hens, Handling of Hatching Eggs, Breeders, Chickens & Turkeys
 - Transportation Code for all livestock species – in progress
 - Animal Health Emergency Management II - progress
- Canadian Livestock Transport Certification training, available in class and online
 - Biosecurity program also to be included (July 2018)
- Collaboration on future animal health & welfare projects with National Farmed Animal Health & Welfare Council (NFAHWC) and the National Farmed Animal Care Council (NFACC)

Animal Welfare Committee (AWC)

Submitted by: Christine Archer, RVT, RLAT

The CVMA Animal Welfare Committee includes a position for a RVT ex-officio member to represent RVTTC nationally. RVT Christine Archer began her second year in this position as of January 2018.

The Animal Welfare Committee's mandate is to "Advocate and promote animal welfare within the animal industry, to government and the public, advise the CVMA on animal welfare issues, develop pertinent position statements."

As the AWC is made up of largely DVMs, an RVTTC member is valued as an additional diverse viewpoint for animal welfare issues, and to support the mission and vision of RVTTC and its members as a representative.

The AWC conducts a few meetings each year, including an annual committee weekend, when all CVMA committees meet to network, interact, and plan for the year's work. The AWC also conducts at least two teleconferences each year, with members discussing proposed changes to position statements, developing comments to send to regulatory bodies on various animal welfare issues, and also to delegate to members when additional research, writing, or public speaking is required.

The AWC has updated or published three position statements in the past year. These are:

- Updated Transportation of Dogs and Cats
- Published Responsibility of Veterinary Professionals in Addressing Animal Abuse and Neglect
- Published Capture of Wild Animals for the Pet Trade



All Position Statements can be found on the CVMA website. Several additional position statements are currently under review.

The AWC also provides comments to agencies associated with animal welfare on their position statements and codes of practice. An example of such organizations is the National Farm Animal Care Council, which this year published its first ever code of practice for rabbits, with the input of the AWC.

The CVMA AWC will continue its work on evidence-based welfare position statements and policy into the future, with new and updated position statements scheduled in the next several months and early in 2019.

Also in late 2017, RVTTC attended the National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council Forum 2017 in Ottawa. This meeting serves as a means for stakeholders to update members on progress and strategy for farmed animal welfare changes. At this meeting, there was a focus on the topics of improving emergency management, the concept of One Welfare, as well as improving and continuing to

Animal Welfare Committee (AWC)

develop antimicrobial stewardship. RVTTTC is thankful to be included in these forums and hopes to continue to develop connections and partnerships with farm stakeholders in the future.

RVTTTC attended the 2018 Canadian Federation of Humane Societies (Now Humane Canada) National Animal Welfare Conference in Calgary, AB in spring 2018. We shared booth space with ABVTA and it was a pleasure to meet and discuss issues with fellow RVTs working in shelter medicine.

Positive momentum is occurring in Canada with regards to improving the welfare of all animals. For example, two provinces have banned feline declawing in the last year (British Columbia and Nova Scotia), and more and more stakeholders are taking notice. Two veterinary corporations have stated this year that they plan to phase out the procedure in their hospitals. This is likely due to the work done and the wording found on the CVMA declawing position statement, coupled with changing public perception about feline pets. We can all look forward to the remainder of 2018 and on to 2019 as animal welfare advocates, as more changes and improvements are in store.

World Veterinary Association (WVA)

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/>

As of June 8, 2016, the RVTTTC became an Observer Member of the WVA – the first veterinary technician group to join the WVA.

RVTTTC Activities with WVA:

- Request to provide pictures for State of Global Animal Health Report
- Contribute to the revision of WVA Policy Statements – Veterinary Para-Professionals (new position paper)
- Share information from WVA with RVTTTC Affiliation Members
- Request to participate in survey for VET VISION 2050
- Participated and was awarded World Veterinary Congress Travel Grant Poster Contest featuring OAVT Rabies Response Program. RVTTTC Director Ivana Novosel (AAAHT member) attended in person the WVC2017 in South Korea in August 2017 proudly representing Canadian RVTs on this world stage.

2017-2018 RVTTTC/TTVAC Awards

On a yearly basis RVTTTC chooses a deserving recipient for the following three awards:

***Canadian RVT of the Year
RVTTTC Recognition Award 'Making a Difference'
Sandy Hass Appreciation Award.***

2018 Canadian RVT of the Year Award

Awarded to a RVT who exemplifies the definition of an outstanding individual in the Veterinary Technology profession.

The Winner for 2017-2018 is Elise Wickett (OAVT), RVT



This award is sponsored by Hill's Pet Nutrition Canada.

2018 RVTTTC/TTVAC Recognition Award: 'Making a Difference'

Formally recognizes a RVT who has contributed to the RVT profession as part of their national association.



The Winner for 2017-2018 is Tina Douglas (BCVTA), RVT

This award is sponsored by RVTTTC

2018 RVTTTC/TTVAC Sandy Hass Appreciation Award

Formally recognizes an individual or organization for their contribution to the Registered Veterinary Technologists and Technicians of Canada.



The Winner for 2017-2018 is Sandy Parsons (SAVT), RVT

This award is sponsored by RVTTTC

All nominations are reviewed and selected by the RVTTTC Board of Directors at the RVTTTC Annual General Meeting.



CVMA Animal Health Technician/Veterinary Technician Program Accreditation Committee

Submitted by: Erin Young, RVT (Western Rep) and Tammy MacLeod, RVT VTS (ECC) (Eastern Rep)

The CVMA - Animal Health Technologist/Veterinary Technician Program Accreditation Committee (AHTVTPAC) meet in person once yearly in March during the CVMA's Committee Weekend. Teleconference meetings are held at various times throughout the year as needed. This committee is comprised of 5 veterinarians and 2 veterinary technologists which have been recommended by RVTTTC. There is one VT representative from eastern Canada and one VT representative from western Canada. There are currently 19 CVMA accredited colleges across Canada.

The objective of the AHTVT committee is to identify and certify animal health technology and veterinary technician education programs whose graduates are considered to be competent to assist veterinarians in clinical practice and to encourage further development of such programs in Canada. The AHTVT committee mandate is as follows; "Under the guidance of, and having responsibility to, the council of the CVMA, the committee shall;

- Recommend the accreditation standards for animal health/veterinary technology training programs for CVMA Council approval.
- Regularly review and propose amendments to the standards to keep the process current with technological changes in veterinary clinical practice.
- Respond to requests from animal health and veterinary technology training programs for CVMA accreditation.
- Provide a consultation service, on behalf of the CVMA, concerning the status of programs in Canada, the procedure to follow in establishing new programs to meet accreditation standards and respond to queries regarding technician training.

Colleges are visited every 5 years by a "site team" consisting of 3-4 people to ensure that the 11 standards of CVMA Accreditation continue to be met. Information is gathered and a report is sent to the CVMA for CVMA council approval. CVMA Council makes the final accreditation status decision. Accredited programs are required to submit an annual report once yearly to comment on any deficiencies noted from the previous site visit to maintain accreditation and report on a number of parameters around their educational program. Programs with full accreditation may be eligible for an extension of the 5 year accreditation period based on the submission of satisfactory annual reports.

The CVMA and the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) have a reciprocity agreement that mutually recognizes our respective accreditation processes. One committee member from Canada sits on the AVMA's Committee on Veterinary Technician Education and Activities (CVTEA) and one committee member from CVTEA sits on the AHTVTPAC committee.

Site visits already completed or scheduled for 2018 are:

- Grande Prairie Regional College, Fairview, Alberta
- Algonquin College, Ottawa, Ontario
- Lakeland College, Vermillion, Alberta
- Olds College, Olds, Alberta
- Maritime Business College, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia



Affiliated Associations of RVTTC/TTVAC



**SASKATCHEWAN
ASSOCIATION
of Veterinary Technologists**



**Manitoba
Veterinary
Technologists
Association**



British Columbia Veterinary Technologists Association (BCVTA)

2017 - 2018 Annual Report

Submitted by: Heather Shannon - President, Amanda Morris - RVTTC BC Representative, Denise Hitt - Executive Director, Brynne Trites - Vice President, Tina Douglas - Treasurer, Kirsten Wilson - CVBC Liaison, Jenn Rabinovitch - Secretary

The BCVTA has had a very productive year which included hiring a new Executive Director; Denise Hitt, organizing two conferences, an in person strategic planning meeting with the Board of Directors, two meetings with our members, and setting up the business portion of the BCVTA Association.



For our members please watch for Denise's quarterly email with BCVTA updates, RVT tips and CE ideas! If you wish to receive the BCVTA quarterly newsletter or to contact Denise please email bcvtaboard@gmail.com or send a note through Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/BCVTA/>.

We are very proud of the advancements our provincial association has taken this year. The hard work of the Board has included creating a business plan to help our members and advance the Registered Veterinary Technologist name throughout British Columbia. This forward movement started with the creation of a Mission, Vision, Strategic Statement and Strategic Pillars for the BCVTA.

This year the BCVTA board sent out a survey asking what British Columbia RVTs are looking for with regards to employment, and how it balanced with what they were currently being offered by employers. What did we find out?

- Over 50% of respondents have been in their current job for less than 5 years and have been employed at less than 3 clinics.
- The majority of clinics in BC do NOT hire Non-Registered VTs (57%) or on the job trained techs (64%).
- Only 31% of employers lay out goals and incentives, and it is **uncommon** for employees to receive an exit interview when they leave. This is a missed opportunity by employers, as they could use this chance to make clinic improvements.
- Of those RVTs who completed the survey, 53% earn \$20-\$25/hr, 27% earn less than \$20/hr and 19% earn over \$25/hr.

From the short answer questions we learned that **the top reasons employees leave** are: low wages, long hours, poor management, feeling unappreciated, stress and career change/maternity.

What employees are looking for in a place of employment: positive working environment, quality medicine, respect (personal and skills), benefits and wage.



British Columbia Veterinary Technologists Association (BCVTA) 2017 - 2018 Annual Report

The incentives employees would like to see are: profit sharing/RRSPs, benefits including sick days, paid holidays and subsidized child care.

For **those who have left the field** the top reasons for leaving were: work environment, maternity, school, wages and compassion fatigue.

**Please see the full report on our website: www.bcvta.com

We would also like to mention some awards that were given out to Registered Veterinary Technologists and Veterinary Technologist students over the past year.



2018 RVTTC Pet Plan Award was given to Kathryn Douglas a second year student of Douglas College



2018 BCVTA RVT of the Year was presented to Jennifer Bell-Irving, RVT

Special Attention needs to be given to Tina Douglas, RVT for receiving the RVTTC Recognition Award "Making a Difference". Tina has had a huge impact in the Registered Veterinary Technologist profession in British Columbia and Canada. Her work was pivotal in establishing the Animal Health Technology Association of B.C (now the BCVTA) and has continued consistently in the ensuing 41 years. In addition to the historical knowledge Tina brings to B.C's Veterinary Tech community, she has maintained a connection with the RVTTC as the BCVTA's Representative for several years. These ties have propelled Tina to becoming even more involved, recruiting and mentoring new individuals to join the RVTTC Board, while working in the RVTTC Treasurer role. Tina continues to be a reliable asset to both the Provincial and National Associations, and is the perfect recipient of this award.



Tina Douglas, RVT, RVTTC's 2017 Recognition Award Recipient, shown here with Heather Shannon BCVTA President and Amanda Morris RVTTC Rep

Alberta Veterinary Technologist Association (ABVTA) Annual Report 2018

Submitted by: *Ivana Novosel, RVT and Kate Simon, RVT*

2017-2018 was a very busy year for the ABVTA or as you may remember it the AAAHT. In October at our AGM in Banff, a resolution was passed to change our operating name from the Alberta Association of Animal Health Technologists to the Alberta Veterinary Technologist Association following suit with a number of other provincial associations. We had awesome participation and representation from almost all provincial associations at our AGM, and we were happy to have joined in at the SAVT, MVTA and BCVTA AGMs as well and surely hope to continue that in the future.



Also, in 2017 we were given full voting rights as members of the Alberta Veterinary Medical Association. This was a great accomplishment for our members and will continue to keep our relationship with the ABVMA strong.

2018 brings the ABVTA a year of renewed excitement and progression for RVTs in Alberta. Earlier this spring, we sent out a survey to our membership with a focus on job retention and wages of Alberta's RVTs. Similar to the BCVTA survey, this has garnered much interest from the membership and we had a record survey completion rate of >50% from our members (over 1100 responses). We are looking forward to sharing these results with all our members and stakeholders as well as the other provincial associations in an effort to enhance longevity of this profession.



In May we also updated our Vision Statement from "Professional, knowledgeable, compassionate animal health care" to: **"Supporting and empowering a knowledgeable network of RVT's to advance our profession while providing compassionate veterinary care."**

Alberta Veterinary Technologist Association (ABVTA)

Annual Report 2018

In May, we also be kicked off a year-long social media course for our members. We have hired a social media strategist to develop a program aimed specifically for RVTs to educate us on social media branding, marketing and strategies. This is a free course to our members to enable them to have another “feather in their hat” and to feel confident in fostering the relationship between veterinary practice and the public through social media.

Our ABVTA “talking socks” have been a real hit. The ABVTA socks are available to our members and all our friends! They are available in two sayings, If you can read this: I’m having a cat nap & Bring me a dog to cuddle. Proceeds from the sales of the socks will be going back into the ABVTA special project and continuing education funds.

Another highlight (and potential start of something new) was sharing booth presence and pairing up with RVTTC at conference trade shows like CanWest and CFHS. So much more visibility (and fun) gained by being united at these types of events!

Lastly, we are gearing up in preparations for our 40th anniversary in 2019. On May 4th & 5th, 2019, we will be hosting our 40th Anniversary celebration conference in Edmonton and couldn’t be more excited!

For more information or to get in touch with us, please visit our website:
<http://www.abvta.com/>



Saskatchewan Association of Veterinary Technicians

Annual Report 2018



Submitted by: Darlene Ford, RVT & Carolyn Cartwright, RVT, VTS (Anesthesia/Analgesia), SAVT RVTTC/TTVAC Directors.

SAVT Mission Statement:

To promote and advance Registered Veterinary Technologists.

SAVT Mission Statement:

Professionalism and excellence in animal care.

Current membership numbers are: 470 active, 6 provisional, 55 student, and 7 social members, for a total membership of 537.

We have been active in collaboration and promoting our "National Voice", some of the events we have attended in the past year have been:

- RVTTC/TTVAC AGM/CVMA Convention 2017 in Charlottetown, PEI
- CanWest Convention/AAAHT AGM in Banff, Alberta
- SAVT AGM/Convention in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
- SVMA AGM/Convention in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
- CenCan MAVTA Convention/AGM in Winnipeg, Manitoba
- Agribition, Brandon Agriculture Winter Fair, Pets in the Park, Equine Expo,
- WCVN VIP Day, Vetavision, PetPlan Seminar, SVMA Family Day, Northern Spay & Neuter Clinic

SAVT Awards presented:

- SAVT RVT of the Year presented - Bernice Ruf, RVT
- SAVT Appreciation Award - Karen Laventure, RVT
- SAVT Veterinarian of the Year - Dr. Colette Neudorf, DVM
- SAVT Conference Appreciation Award - Peggy Nelles, RVT
- Merck Mentorship Award - Helen Johannesen, RVT
- RVTTC Sandy Hass Appreciation Award - Sandy Parsons, RVT (presented on behalf of RVTTC at the SAVT Conference)

Supporting our provincial graduating Veterinary Technology students:

- Lakeland College bursary to Victoria Rude
- Saskatchewan Polytechnique bursary to Daniel Novecosky

SAVT annual retreat in January, this is an excellent team building weekend and helps the existing and new executive members to get to know each other and gain focus for the year ahead; reviewing the bylaws, policies and financial needs of the association.

SAVT strategic plan held in conjunction with the annual retreat at Wapiti Lodge, Saskatchewan.

The Board of Directors meets monthly, with the AGM being held each November in conjunction with the annual conference; our goal is to have a minimum of two in person meetings annually.



SAVT's general operations are managed by our Executive Director and Conference Coordinator with consultation from the Board of Directors. We are pleased to have Jasmin Carlton as our new Executive Director, as of September 1, 2017. With the start of the new ED we also had a change in that we now have an official SAVT office.



Saskatchewan Association of Veterinary Technicians

Annual Report 2018

SAVT maintains a website as a source of current information for our membership. A weekly SAVT e-blast is our new format to provide the membership with current and relevant news within the profession. With this we no longer publish a formal newsletter.



SAVT is looking at the option of adding a public member to the board of directors.

SAVT has added two Student Representative Positions on the board of directors to encourage communication for our future colleagues. This has been an opportunity to work with our future colleagues and is facilitating a smooth transition for the students from the role of student to active RVT.

SAVT has been collaborating with the SVMA to ensure the membership process and alignment of our bylaws and policies is meeting the requirements of both associations. This is an ongoing and in depth effort that will take some time to ensure all aspects are thorough to move forward as a cohesive working group, to benefit both associations.

SAVT has organized a mentorship program for its members and members in process of attaining active membership. In addition, we have formed numerous working committees to advance our professional development and maintain current within our professional association.

The SAVT annual conference and AGM is scheduled for November 2 -4, 2018 in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. We would extend an invite to fellow RVTs and Provincial Associations to attend if possible.

The professional and personal growth gained from the opportunity to network with fellow RVTs, Provincial Associations and stakeholders is invaluable. We would like to thank you for this opportunity to represent fellow RVTs from the province of Saskatchewan at the National and International level. We are "Proudly RVT".



Manitoba Veterinary Technologists Association (MVTA) Annual Report 2018

Submitted by: *Mark Evachewski, RVT & Cindy Sontag, RVT*

Mission: *Promote the professional advancement for veterinary technologists and advocate on behalf of their interests.*

Vision: *To be the primary resource for veterinary technologists in Manitoba.*



Manitoba
Veterinary
Technologists
Association

2018 Central Canadian Veterinary Conference

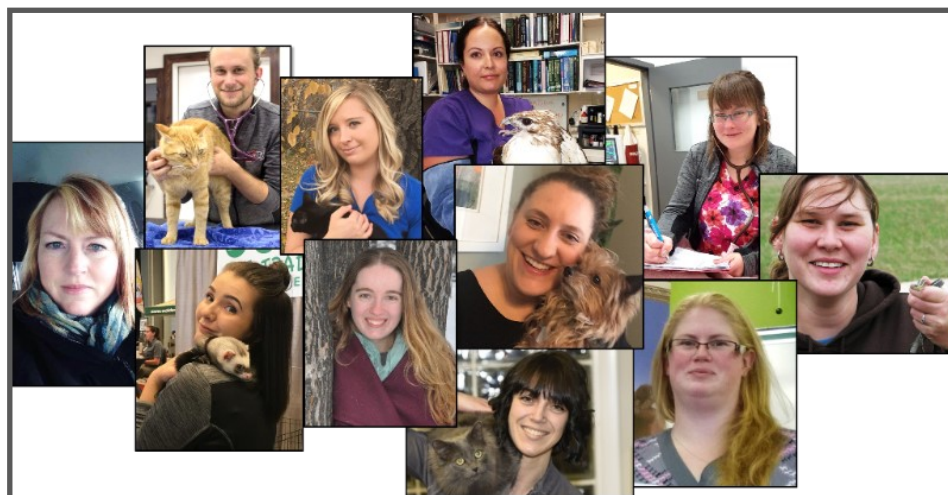
The Annual CenCan Conference was held once again at the Victoria Inn and Conference Centre in Winnipeg. This year marked the second that RVTs were invited to attend the MVMA's AGM and vote on issues pertaining to RVTs. The MVTA's AGM was held on Saturday, February 3rd. We celebrated our 35 Year anniversary as an association! MVTA recognized three retiring/retired Red River College instructors who have contributed greatly to the RVT scene in Manitoba: Dr. Mary Ann Millar, Dr. Pat Roberts, and Sandy Luczak (RVT). We also celebrated our 35+ year members (7).

- MVTA 2018 RVT of the Year Award: Ada Pinho
- MVTA 2018 DVM of the Year Award: Dr. Bob Newfield
- Canadian Animal Blood Bank Recognition of RVT Support Award
- A new award was unveiled: The Doraine Wachniak Distinction Award was presented to Doraine Wachniak for being a driving force for MVTA



MVTA Board of Directors – 2018/2019

- President – Mel Browning
- President Elect – Coral Doherty
- Past President & RVTTC Director – Cindy Sontag
- Secretary/Treasurer – Robyn Winters
- RVTTC Director – Mark Evachewski
- CE Director – Heather Laurie
- CE Director – Jennifer Peters
- Marketing Director – Jessica Hammond
- Marketing Director – Ashley Recksiedler
- Member Relations Director – Ada Pinho
- Member at Large – Lisa Rea



Manitoba Veterinary Technologists Association (MVTA)

Annual Report 2018

MVTA Board Retreat & Strategic Planning Weekend – April 2018

MVTA held its second annual board retreat for strategic planning at the end of April. We rented an Air BNB just outside of Winnipeg for a weekend. It was a good opportunity for the new directors to be immersed in board function and involved in planning for the upcoming year. The Board welcomed three new members with fresh views who eagerly joined the team to be the voice of RVTs in Manitoba. Budget, CE opportunities, themes and RVT promotions were among the topics covered. Representatives from Manitoba Agriculture were invited to help us prioritize and brainstorm ideas for membership engagement/involvement and we are excited to get working on these ideas.

2017/2018 Membership Numbers

- Active Members – 369
- Temporary Members – 2
- Student Members – 4

Member Representation

Cindy Sontag and Mel Browning met with the Manitoba Minister of Agriculture Hon. Ralph Eichler back in October to discuss scope of practice, providing northern communities with veterinary medicine and promote public health and safety. Cindy Sontag and Mark Evachewski met with Dr. Megan Bergman, Dr. Dale Douma and Dr. Colleen Marion from the Manitoba Chief Veterinary Office back in December to review our role in promoting public health and safety, discuss our scope of practice and opportunities for RVTs across the province.

Our RVT Representatives sitting on the 2018/2019 MVMA Council: Janis McCarthy & Sara Haddow.

The MVTA Board of Directors have represented Manitoba at the following events over the past year:

- RVTTT/TTVAC AGM/CVMA Convention 2017 in Charlottetown PEI
- ABVTA AGM/CanWest Convention in Banff AB
- SAVT AGM/Convention in Saskatoon SK
- MVTA AGM/CenCan Convention in Winnipeg MB
- Manitoba Pet Expo in Winnipeg MB



Manitoba Veterinary Technologists Association (MVTA)

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Volunteers from the MVTA Board of Directors have also represented membership on the following boards and committees:

- MVTA Advisory Committee
- MVMA Council
- RVTTC/TTVAC Board of Directors
- Red River College Animal Care Committee
- Red River College Advisory Committee
- Robertson College Veterinary Office Assistant Advisory Committee
- MVMA Animal Welfare Committee
- WCVM Workplace Health & Safety Advisory Committee

MVTA Surveys to Members

We developed questionnaires to survey membership on the following topics: Scope of Practice, Wage, Continuing Education and Complaints Process.

Continuing Education Events

MVTA hosted its two successful annual CE seminars once again in Brandon and Winnipeg in October 2017. We also hosted Sue Loly to speak about the road to becoming a Veterinary Technician Specialist (VTS) in May 2018.

RVT Month – October 2017

MVTA would like to applaud and thank the OAVT for their initiative in celebrating October as RVT Month! Membership enjoyed the recognition and vet clinics stepped up to celebrate their RVTs. Our Marketing, Member Relations and Member at Large Directors organized MVTA's First Annual RVT Mixer event at Triple B's Restaurant, Bar & Billiards. We played billiards, shared snacks and won prizes provided by wonderful sponsors. We look forward to continuing and expanding this tradition later this year!

MVTA Student Awards

2017 Compassionate Care Award – All graduating second year Red River College Animal Health Technology Program students are eligible for the award and it is selected by the recipient's graduating class. The winner receives a monetary award from the Association. The 2017 recipient of this award was **Courtney Smith**.

2017 MVTA Academic Award – All first year Red River College students are eligible for the award and it is selected by the Animal Health Technology staff at RRC. The award is given to the student with the highest academic performance in the first year of the program. The winner receives a monetary award from the Association which is presented at a luncheon hosted by the AHT program in the fall of each year. The 2017 recipient of this award was **Nicole Beaton**.

MyMVTA Online Registration & Membership Renewal

Stop by to visit the MyMVTA.ca website and take a look around! We have joined the digital age and membership registration and renewals are now conveniently online.



Ontario Association of Veterinary Technicians (OAVT)

Annual Report 2018

Submitted By: Nancy MacFarlane, RVT & Cally Merritt, RVT

The Board of Directors are pleased to report that OAVT has experienced another very successful year.

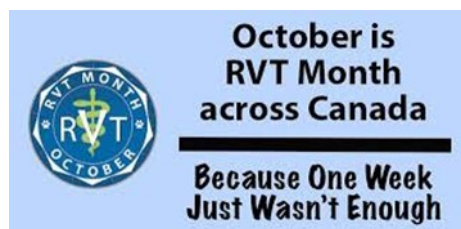
For the last 2 years the OAVT has been working closely with the College of Veterinarians of Ontario (CVO) on creating a scope of practice for veterinary medicine that includes RVT's. The proposed changes incorporate a comprehensive guide to the higher-level controlled acts that may be delegated to RVT's as well as expanded title protection and a clear distinction between RVT's and auxiliaries. We have completed open consultations on the proposed changes with the Veterinarians, RVT's and the public. OAVT is pleased to say that the survey analysis indicated both RVT's and Veterinarians showed strong support for the proposed changes. Talks will continue with the CVO and stakeholders through 2018.



Official recognition of RVT's within the Vet act is only 1 of the priorities we have been working on over the past year. Both the Board and staff have been working hard to ensure that the RVT profession is at the forefront of everyone's mind. Here are a few highlights to report since our last AGM report of 2017.

OAVT has reached a milestone of 3500 RVT's in Ontario! The retention rate of RVT's has improved, as has the number of students enrolled in veterinary technician/technology program who wish to obtain their registered status. These increasing numbers have allowed us to continue to expand our member benefits & services without an increase in annual membership dues.

- OAVT introduced "RVT Month" during the month of October because 1 week just wasn't enough! It was designed to replace "vet tech week". This project was conceptualized and led by OAVT and quickly spread across Canada as RVTTC and members joined in. It gave us the opportunity to highlight the RVT profession on a national scale for an entire month and was so successful that we have committed to repeating it annually. It was great to see our fellow Americans take notice of our movement and start to adopt it for the month too.
- The OAVT is moving forward with a project that studies the economic impact of RVT's in the workforce. Conceptualized for years, funds have been allocated and a third-party consulting firm has now begun to study the economics behind why hiring an RVT is beneficial to veterinary practices. The results of this survey will help to shape media pieces that encourage all workplaces to hire and utilize RVT's for the important skill set we carry. Stay tuned as this project unfolds.



Ontario Association of Veterinary Technicians (OAVT)

Annual Report 2018

- We have expanded the RVT Advancement Fund by increasing the funding available to our members. This is a bursary program for RVTs who can apply to receive funds to enhance their skills, goals and career development.
- We continue to create new media pieces that promote the recognition of RVT's and support our members. New magazine ads, radio announcements and printed materials including those used in the RVT month kits were released through out the year.
- We have created and distributed new materials that promote OAVT accreditation and our new OAVT accreditation seal, new handouts to guide veterinary technician students through the process of becoming an RVT are just a couple of examples.
- OAVT Rabies Response Program reaches full provincial coverage and now has over 150 RVT's contracted to perform specimen collection across the province. In 2017 - over 1400 samples were collected.
- OAVT wage survey - each year we survey our members and provide an overview of wages in Ontario as a member resource.
- OAVT Conference 2018 - Theme was evolution. We had another very successful conference this year that was well attended.
- Balanced budget.



2018 OAVT Board of Directors

Eastern Veterinary Technicians Association (EVTA)

Annual Report 2018

Submitted by: *Stephanie Hall, RVT & Christine Masson, RVT*

The Eastern Veterinary Technician Association consists of four provinces, all which have different governing bodies and bylaws. Nova Scotia and New Brunswick have passed laws for title protection while Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland are still in stages of talks.



Nova Scotia - NSVMA acts as a registrar and regulatory body for RVTs in NS. RVTs have full voting rights and we have a position on NSVMA council.

New Brunswick - RVTs are regulated under NBVMA bylaws. RVTs do not have voting rights at this time but hopefully in near future will have representation on NBVMA council.

Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island are still in the process of legislation.

Membership

Memberships are currently being processed; this is the most current breakdown:

- NS - 294 members
- NB - 217 members
- NFLD - 33 members
- PEI 44 - members

Meetings

As the EVTA consists of four provinces, we have a general meeting in each province at least once a year. The board has numerous conference calls and face to face meetings throughout the year.

- April - General meeting and BOD meetings during APVC in NS
- June - General meeting and BOD meeting in PEI
- Sept - General meeting during NBVMA AGM conference
- Oct - General meeting and BOD meeting during NSVMA AGM conference
- Nov - General meeting during Vetcon in NFLD
- Dec - BOD meeting in NS

Awards

EVTA Technician of the year awards are awarded in each province at the time of their general meetings. Our first winner happened in June in Prince Edward Island - Elaine Reveler. Then followed by Nova Scotia in October - Marla McKay. New Brunswick had their meeting in September - Alyson Howard. Newfoundland followed in November - Laura Fowler.

We also awarded Shelley Skedden with the Industry Award in September for her 16 years of dedication and commitment to our profession.

EVTA awarded Erin Purdy, a Dal Ag Veterinary Technician Program Student a bursary in the Fall 2017.

EVTA awarded a bursary to Oulton College student Victoria Jones.



**NS RVT of year
Marla McKay and
presenter EVTA
member Laurel
MacIntosh**



Eastern Veterinary Technicians Association (EVTA)

Annual Report 2018

Dr. Ted Semple, a former instructor with the Animal Health Technology program at NSAC was sent a retirement gift in the Fall 2017.

EVTA 30th Anniversary

We are celebrating our 30 year anniversary in 2019 and will be hosting a mini conference event and trade show in Truro, NS for our members. Venue will be determined at our next meeting. We will highlight our Veterinary Technician Specialty members and ask them to be our speakers for the event. It will be a 1 day event with 4 to 5 speakers for a small fee to our members.

2017 Technician Survey

Our past president, Joye Sears did a great job with organizing the technician survey this past year. It was launched in Fall 2017 with 35% response rate. Various questions on maritime location, type of employment and wage options, personal vs pet benefits, advancement in career and credentials. Our next survey will be released Jan 2019. We are requesting our members to send in questions they would like answered in the upcoming survey.

RVTTC and EVTA Booth at APVC

Atlantic Province Veterinary Conference is a great venue for EVTA and RVTTC to promote our organization to a larger number of our maritime technicians. We were able to hand out all of the Pet Plan Travel Bursary t-shirts at this event and raised \$184 towards the program. Technicians are eager to learn about official information regarding application to the bursary.

Declaw Ban

Nova Scotia became the first province in Canada to ban elective cat declawing. It was voted on by NSVMA members during the AGM meeting and was announced officially in December with a 3 month grace period before taking effect March 15th, 2018.

Retired veterinarian Hugh Chisholm started the campaign with his late cat "Tuxedo Stan" but continued the campaign with his housemate "Earl Grey" (pictured here).



Industry Award winner
Shelley Skedden and
presenter EVTA president
Chantal Cormier



Dr. Bruce Ramsay

We were saddened by the news of Dr. Bruce Ramsay's passing May 11th, 2018. He was one of the founding fathers of Veterinary Technology program at St. Claire College in Windsor, Ontario and NSAC program in Truro, NS (where he lived). He was a mentor, teacher, and friend to every student he taught.



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