

YOUR **VOICE**
in animal healthcare.



RVTTT/TTVAC ANNUAL REPORT

2018-2019

Message from the President and Executive Director

Welcome to the 3rd edition of the Annual Report presented by the Registered Veterinary Technologists and Technicians of Canada/Technologues et techniciens vétérinaires agréés du Canada (RVTTC/TTVAC). We are so excited to bring you this President and Executive Director joint report, sharing the many highlights we have experienced across Canada.

The passion and dedication of our volunteer board members and our RVT representatives needs to be highlighted. We are advancing and becoming a stronger profession because of all your hard work. THANK YOU for your professionalism in representing RVTs across Canada and throughout the global veterinary community. Our voice and unity are our strength to both our members and the veterinary profession. *Thank you to all who volunteer in your province, in Canada and beyond.*

The RVTTC board of directors have been busy this year. Our mission to unite, advance and strengthen the RVT profession in Canada is at the heart of all that we do. This is never more evident than in our annual celebration of RVT Month. A national event focused on public education and promotion of the Registered Veterinary Technologist/Technician professional members on veterinary teams. Collaboration between our provincial associations involving the planning and delivery makes RVT month a truly united initiative.

Here are some highlights from 2018-2019:

- In July 2018, at the CVMA Convention in Vancouver, B.C., the RVTTC Board of Directors held their annual in-person meeting over three days. During this meeting the board elected our new President, Heather Shannon RVT (BCVTA member) and new Vice-President Ivana Novosel RVT (ABVTA member). Our board collaboration was a huge success and we are excited with the strategic planning that will make 2019 an amazing year.
- RVTTC Membership continues to rise, as of December 31, 2018 – there are **8337 RVTs** across Canada.
- 2018 saw the creation of the National RVT Career Ladder Task Force with the mission of empowering RVTs to identify opportunities for meaningful career growth. To develop a document identifying broad pathways for a long term RVT career progression - specifically identifying skills, experience and personal contribution. This pathway will act as a guide for RVTs to use to advance their career within their personal interest, promoting a productive and sustainable career.
- At the 2018 World Small Animal Veterinary Association General Assembly, RVTTC was granted an Affiliate Membership. We look forward to further involvement in both collaborative CE delivery as well as being active members on WSAVA guideline groups and committees. As a new member of WSAVA, we are learning about the committees and look forward to facilitating RVT representatives within the WSAVA global community.

Message from the President and Executive Director

- RVTTC has been working directly with WSAVA Congress and CVMA Convention Planning Committee to bring high level speakers and topics for RVTs to the 2019 WSAVA/CVMA Congress to be held on July 16-19, 2019 in Toronto, Ontario.
- The RVTTC 2018-2019 #ProudlyRVT t-shirt campaign has been an amazing success. Nothing better than RVTs supporting RVTs raising \$1571.75 in Toonie Donations. With the addition of sponsoring contributions from Petplan and IMLocum, the RVTTC Travel Bursary total is at \$3500.00 so far for the 2019 Travel Bursary program.
- NEW RVT Talk – RVTTC’s new National e-newsletter was created! This past February the RVTTC launched our new e-newsletter which will provide RVTs with direct information from the RVTTC and the Provincial Associations plus interesting items in veterinary medicine both nationally and internationally.
- The 2018-2019 RVTTC Student Bursary continues for our 3rd year offering six \$500 bursaries to final year VT students, sponsored by Petplan Pet Insurance. Stay informed, be involved!
- November 2018 saw RVTTC renewing our relationship with the National Association of Veterinary Technicians of America (NAVTA) to collaborate on mutual interests in our profession. As one of the global leaders in the veterinary technology profession, we feel it is important to support and collaborate with other international organizations. The NAVTA & RVTTC Executive meet quarterly to share highlights, challenges and provide supporting feedback. Both executives met informally at VMX conference in Orlando, Florida this past January. We are excited to have NAVTA President Erin Spencer join us at our 2019 Annual General Meeting.
- Early 2019 saw the introduction of a new RVT Member Benefit: Professional Liability Insurance for Locuming Registered Veterinary Technologists and Technicians is now available!
 - The Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA), in collaboration with the Registered Veterinary Technologists and Technicians of Canada (RVTTC), introduced a new professional liability insurance plan for all of our RVTTC members.
 - Since 2005, the CVMA has been providing its members exclusive access to competitive commercial, professional liability and group health and life insurance coverage through the CVMA Insurance Program. Now, the CVMA is extending its insurance program to benefit RVTTC members working as locums. Professional liability insurance will cover errors, omissions or negligent acts which may arise from your normal or usual duties as a technologist or technician. The protection also covers legal expenses in the event of disciplinary hearings, investigations or employment disputes. For more details on this new benefit, please contact Western Financial Group Insurance Solutions at 1-866-860-2862 and ask to speak to the CVMA Service team about professional liability coverage for RVTTC members.

Message from the President and Executive Director

- RVTTC partnered with Virox Animal Health to bring education and a new CE and contest opportunity to RVTs in Canada **#RVTTellAll Contest**. Contest winners were chosen each month with two grand prizes of all-expenses paid trip to CVMA in Toronto, July 16 - 19, 2019. Thank you to Virox for their support to RVTs.

As we sum up our year in review it is evident that the Registered Veterinary Technologists and Technicians of Canada is a **global leader for our profession**, while we support our members at a provincial and national level. We are proud of what we have accomplished and are looking forward to where we are headed!

Sincerely,



Heather Shannon, RVT
President, RVTTC



Shannon Brownrigg RVT
Executive Director/CEO, RVTTC



2018-2019 Financial Statements

REGISTERED VETERINARY TECHNOLOGISTS AND TECHNICIANS OF CANADA

STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

MAY 31, 2019

	2019	2018
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash	\$ 85,037	\$ 95,940
Short term investments (note 2)	82,465	75,320
Accounts receivable	685	60
Prepaid expenses	13,768	6,160
	\$ 181,955	\$ 177,480
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 8,946	\$ 8,054
Deferred revenue (note 3)	61,447	58,231
	70,393	66,285
NET ASSETS		
Internally restricted contingency fund (note 4)	6,000	-
Unrestricted net assets	105,562	111,195
	\$ 181,955	\$ 177,480

STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS

FOR YEAR ENDING MAY 31, 2019

	2019	2018
REVENUE		
Membership dues	\$ 100,741	\$ 95,943
Sponsorship and other	27,403	26,892
	128,144	122,835
EXPENDITURE		
Administration	16,408	21,027
Annual general meeting	15,767	9,801
Bursaries	6,079	4,042
Executive Director	722	697
Marketing	11,633	16,493
Payroll expense	49,055	44,564
Representation	25,869	27,310
Bank charges	605	342
Website	1,609	975
Miscellaneous	30	-
	127,777	125,251
NET REVENUE (EXPENDITURE) FOR THE YEAR	\$ 367	\$ (2,416)

RVTTC/TTVAC Sponsoring Partners

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



#ProudlyRVT T-shirt Campaign, Travel Bursary Match,
Student Bursary and AGM Lunch Sponsor



The right fit.
AGM Sponsor



#RVTTellall Contest — 2 all expenses
paid trips to 2019 WSAVA/CVMA



RVT of the Year Award Sponsor



AGM Sponsor



2019 RVTTC Travel Bursary



RTV Month - discount and set giveaway

Sponsored by Petplan Pet Insurance



British Columbia Veterinary Technologist Association

Liza Doering—Douglas College

Alberta Association of Animal Health Technologists

Jeanie Du Preez—NAIT

Saskatchewan Association of Veterinary Technologists

Jesse LeCuyer—Saskatchewan Polytechnic

Manitoba Animal Health Technician Association

Angela Martin—Red River College

Ontario Association of Veterinary Technicians

Kristen Vander Pryt—St. Clair College

Eastern Veterinary Technician Association

Allison Sears—Maritime Business College

American Association of Veterinary State Boards (AAVSB)

VTNE Committee RVTTC/TTVAC Representatives

Submitted by: *Amanda Maknyik, RVT (Eastern Rep), Sandy Parsons, RVT (outgoing Western Rep) and Susan Thiessen (incoming Western Rep)*

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. 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 1st term expires in Dec. of 2021. 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.). 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 sat 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

RVT Sandy Parsons (RVTTC Western Canada Rep) completed her final term December 31, 2018. The VTNE committee welcomed RVT Susan Thiessen into her chair at the first committee teleconference.

The committee met during the 2018 AAVSB Annual Meeting and Conference from September 12-15, in Washington, DC. During this meeting the committee reviewed the three upcoming exam forms to be launched for the July/August 2019 window. A strong focus was placed on question quality, avoiding duplication, and ensuring currency/relevance. The committee is striving to develop more questions that include pictures; however, a picture bank has to be developed at the same time due to copyright concerns.

A conference call was held in May 2019, where statistics from the 2018/early 2019 VTNE writing windows was reviewed. The July/August 2018 window launched the first test forms aligned with the new blueprint (developed following the 2017 job analysis), and saw 3949 candidates sit for the exam, of which 3,277 1st Time Takers had a 79.01% pass rate; 1,695 first-time takers had a 69.68% pass rate in Nov/Dec 2018; and 1,191 first-time test takers had a 70.28% pass rate in Mar/Apr 2019.

It was noted that the total number of candidates decreased very slightly to 8417 in 2018, from 8474 in 2017, which is believed to be due to the closure of 12 Veterinary Technology programs during the 2017/2018 academic year.

AAVSB also reported a marked increase (41%) in the number of practice VTNE tests purchased as compared to the same time the year prior.

The VTNE committee is currently reviewing test forms remotely, through a secure portal, and will reconvene in person in San Diego, California, from June 20-23, 2019.



The Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA)

Council Liaison Annual Report

Submitted by: *Lois Ridgway, RVT, Council Liaison*

The CVMA is committed to involving RVTs in its activities and our evolving relationship serves both the RVTTTC and the CVMA in advancing our shared organizational goals, promote career wellness and the best animal care nationwide.

The CVMA is the national and international voice for Canadian Veterinarians, providing leadership and advocacy for veterinary medicine. With this in mind, the CVMA Council meets to determine strategic directions and policy decisions for the organization. My RVTTTC 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 RVTTTC at three CVMA Council meetings during this fiscal year: July 2018 – Vancouver, BC; November 2018 – Ottawa, ON and March 2019 – Ottawa, ON. listed below are a few of the noteworthy CVMA accomplishments in 2018 - 2019:

- The 70th annual **CVMA Convention**, July 5 – 8, 2018 in Vancouver, BC occurred in a brand new venue - JW Marriott Parq Vancouver. Approximately 1,100 participants attended the Convention which featured:
 - 113 sessions, 39 speakers; two wet labs and one workshop within a Registry of Approved Continuing Education (RACE) approved program.
 - A **Veterinary Summit** – The CVMA’s President-Elect, Dr. Terri Chotowetz, organized and chaired the Summit under the rubric of *“The Changing Dynamics of Private Practice”*. The Summit drew approximately 175 participants and included presentations on *“Corporate Veterinary Practice – What Does It Mean for The Profession?”*, *“Experiences in Veterinary Communication Education for Practice Success”* and *“How to Form Habits that Foster Resilience in Veterinary Medicine”*.
 - A **National Issues Forum** – *Use of Cannabinoids in Veterinary Medicine* - was moderated by Dr. Joanne Dias, National Issues Committee (NIC) Chair. Three panelists with expertise in companion animal medicine, medical oncology and research, and toxicology, respectively, presented to about 200 participants using an interactive format employing live polling technology and open discussion.
- CVMA AGM and Awards luncheon – Thursday, July 5, 2018.
- **Animal Health Week**, September 30 to October 6, 2018 – The theme *“Vaccines Save Lives”* was promoted on various CVMA media platforms and in animal hospitals across Canada, to emphasize the value of animal wellness, in particular the role vaccination plays in animal (and human) disease prevention.
- **RVT Month**, October 2018, was endorsed and promoted by the CVMA as a platform for public education and promotion of RVT roles within veterinary medicine.
- **One Health Day**, November 3, 2018 – The CVMA participated in this event to raise awareness of the *“One Health”* approach for managing health problems involving people, animals and the environment.
- **World Antibiotic Awareness Week**, November 12 – 18, 2018 – The CVMA promoted this event to raise awareness of global antibiotic resistance and the Best Practices recommended to avoid further emergence of antimicrobial resistance.

The Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA)

Council Liaison Annual Report

- **Antimicrobial stewardship** – In preparation for Canadian legislation which came into effect on December 1, 2018, the CVMA participated on various national level antimicrobial resistance (AMR) related committees and produced educational material for distribution on topics such as establishing a VCPR, prudent use guidelines and the new prescription and oversight requirements for antimicrobial additives to animal feed.
- **RVTTTC Locum Insurance** – The existing CVMA Insurance Program was expanded to include liability coverage for RVTs engaged in locum work. This coverage was developed in collaboration with the RVTTTC.
- The CVMA's **AHTVT Program Accreditation Committee** performed several site visits in 2018 – early 2019. Program accreditation was approved by CVMA Council for Olds College, Maritime Business College and Lakeland College.
- **Advocacy** – Canadian legislation to legalize cannabis for human use became effective on October 17, 2018. However, at present, there are no cannabinoid containing products approved for use in animals. As a result the CVMA has encouraged veterinarians to consult with their provincial licensing bodies regarding if and how they advise pet owners on use of cannabinoid products for their animals. Additionally, the CVMA continues to lobby the Federal government:
 - To recognize veterinarians as “medical practitioners” as inclusion in this title would enable veterinarians to prescribe cannabis products to their animal patients.
 - For labelling of human cannabis products that would include proper warnings regarding animal use. The CVMA **maintains ongoing contact with Health Canada** and other authorities as this situation evolves. Refer to the CVMA website for information, including signs of excessive cannabis exposure in animals: <https://www.canadianveterinarians.net/documents/veterinarians-caution-medical-marijuana-exposure-in-pets>).
 - To develop legislation in support of animal welfare and agriculture. Several CVMA representatives appeared before House of Commons’ Standing Committees to support issues of national importance, including support for Bill C-84, an Act to amend the Criminal Code (bestiality and animal fighting), and on the perception of and public trust in the Canadian agricultural sector.
- **CVMA Position Statements and Codes of Practice** – The CVMA’s National Issues Committee (NIC) and Animal Welfare Committee (AWC) reviewed and monitored veterinary and animal welfare issues on matters deemed to be of concern to the veterinary medicine and to society. Scientific evidence, ethics and collaboration with stakeholders including RVTs, were used to form the basis of CVMA Position Statements and Codes of Practice.
 - Position Statements are “aspirational” and are meant to advance the humane treatment and welfare of animals even when industry practices are not yet in full alignment. Current CVMA position statements are available at:
 - <https://www.canadianveterinarians.net/policy-advocacy/statements>
 - Codes of Practice are available to the public and become a basis for many veterinary medicine based decisions. They are available at: <https://www.canadianveterinarians.net/resources/animal-owners-guides>

Coming up in 2019 – 2020, the CVMA will undertake an extensive, cross-Canada Workforce Study to quantify the anecdotal information which currently suggests there is a veterinary personnel shortages across Canada. The scope of this workforce survey and its data are required to influence political and financial decision making at the national level. The CVMA is also making inquiries with Immigration Canada regarding options for expediting immigration and licensure of internationally-trained veterinary personnel.



RVTTC/TTVAC Professional Development Committee (PDC)

Submitted by: *Nadine Schueller, RVT and Shannon Brownrigg, RVT - PDC Representatives*

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 2018, we participated in multiple conference calls, and email correspondence as well as the March committee weekend as your voice. We continue to see the growth and inclusion of RVT's and celebrate the teamwork that this identifies.

The CVMA convention continues to grow and learn and Vancouver did not disappoint! The Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) held its 70th annual convention from July 5-8 in Vancouver, British Columbia. It has been 10 years since the CVMA Convention has been to Vancouver, BC. The JW Marriott parq Vancouver housed both the JW Marriott and the Douglas Autograph Hotels along with the Convention floor. All corporate meetings and convention events took place within the same venue. Most people loved having the convention and hotels link and ease of flow was highly regarded. While the RVT's attending doubled from previous history in 2017, it continued to grow in 2018, with the number of RVTs/Admin/hospital managers surpassing the 2017 total by 25 people. The 2018 CVMA Convention was presented in collaboration with the Registered Veterinary Technologists and Technicians of Canada (RVTTC) and in partnership with the CVMA-SBCV Chapter, and offered six streams with over 100 sessions and a total of 113 RACE approved continuing education credits of which more than 69 were approved for RVT's. There was CE for the entire veterinary team, including DVMs, RVTs, and clinic staff.



The CVMA flagship programs – the CVMA Summit and CVMA's Emerging Leaders Program (ELP), which is in its ninth year, continue to be open to RVTs. The 2018 CVMA Summit, Changing Dynamics of Private Practice, was attended by 175 people and discussed the obstacles graduates face as they prepare to enter the workforce and the considerations of veterinarians planning their exit strategy, all while balancing the rising demands of clients. The 2018 CVMA National Issues Forum, attended by 200 people expanded on the Therapeutic Use of Cannabinoids in Veterinary Medicine.

RVTTC/TTVAC Professional Development Committee (PDC)

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, the Veterinarians without Borders, Christian Veterinary Missions of Canada as well as the OVC Alumni Reception and Class of 87' Reunion for WCVM. New for 2018, the Veterinarians without Borders (VWB) held their live auction during the Saturday afternoon break at the Convention venue compared to the CVMA social event as done in previous years. This attracted close to 300 people. The live auction had an MC which kept the group focused. The CVMA AGM and Awards luncheon was also held and we were proud to see, Bernice Ruf RVT presented with the 2018 RVTTC RVT of the Year Award sponsored by Hills.



The social evening was held on Magic Yacht Charters' 3-level cruise vessel, the Magic Spirit. The evening started off with light food and cocktails, music, and a view of the harbour. The 3 hour cruise allowed guests to mingle with colleagues, take in the Vancouver skyline and spectacular views, and unwind on the top deck of the boat for some dancing. The social evening sold out onsite with 310 tickets sold and had 297 people aboard the yacht. Delegates enjoyed the view from the upper deck while engaging with friends over drinks. Dinner was an assortment of food stations and passed food. The venue had limited seating options on the lower and main deck.

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. Four days of CE is available with 10 tracks per day including Dentistry, Dermatology, Business Management, Exotics, Theriogenology, Feline Medicine, Behaviour, Integrative Medicine, Cytology, Ophthalmology, Accessible Veterinary Care, Social Media, and for the first time at WSAVA a full RVT track for all 4 days!



We look forward to seeing you in Quebec City July 9-12, 2020 as the CVMA and collaborate again to bring you an amazing experience.

Canadian Veterinary Reserve (CVR)

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, 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 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.

Currently, there are no RVTs as part of the CVR. At the annual advisory committee meeting (September 2018), RVT Shannon Brownrigg prepared and delivered a presentation featuring the benefits of RVTs as members in an emergency response situation. Specific examples of RVT contribution to emergency response in both Alberta and British Columbia clearly demonstrated the strength of the veterinary team model in responding large scale emergencies involving animal health and welfare.

To date there has not been an active call up of the CVR. 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. The CVR continues to reach out to other provincial EMOs and the Canadian Council of Emergency Management Organizations (CCEMO) maintaining contact and communication.

International Veterinary Nurses & Technicians Association (IVNTA)

Submitted by: *Carolyn Cartwright, RVT, VTS (Anesthesia/Analgesia) and Ivana Novosel, Msc, RVT*

The IVNTA is a federation of national veterinary nurse/technician associations. IVNTA fosters and promotes engagement and communication between veterinary technician professionals worldwide, with the common goal of raising the profile and standards of veterinary nurses and technicians internationally.

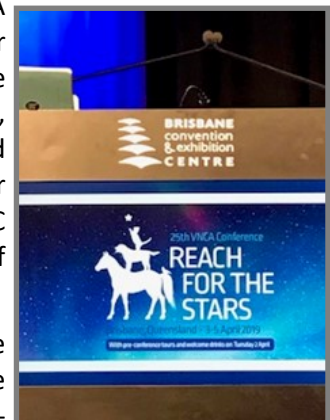


This fairly young association maintains contact with veterinary technician groups around the world, provides a channel of open communication, and offers help and advice to enquirers. The common belief between all the associations is that veterinary technicians are a valuable part of the veterinary team, where the technology is developing and progressing rapidly on global basis.

Although many countries have established professional bodies to represent veterinary technician staff with the aim of developing professional standards, the goal is to make sure these standards are in close proximity to one another, thus providing guidance and support to those countries who are yet to establish these associations within their community.

IVNTA is an 'association of associations', comprised of permanent and affiliate members (see <http://www.ivnta.org/ivnta-member-countries/>). Current permanent members of this association are: Australia, Canada, New Zealand, United Kingdom, and United States. As such, the RVTTC/TTVAC is a Permanent Member of the IVNTA and we currently have two representatives, Carolyn Cartwright and Ivana Novosel. The IVNTA meets quarterly via teleconference and in person every 2 years for the General Meeting.

This year in April IVNTA had the opportunity to meet in person at the VNCA Conference in Brisbane, Australia. The IVNTA was grateful to VNCA for their hospitality and support in arranging to host the Biennial general meeting. The member countries in attendance were VNCA, NAVTA, RVTTC, and NZVNA, along with invited guests from industry. In addition to the strategic plan and the biennial general meeting, much planning and discussion was held over IVNTA's future growth. Carolyn Cartwright was honoured to represent RVTTC and Canada at this international meeting. It was very exciting time of networking and creating new friendships.



Our International contingency was pleased to be in attendance as the Australian Veterinary Nurse and Technician (AVNAT) Registration Scheme was launched at the VNCA 25th Anniversary. This monumental step see a self-regulation program that will set standards of professional practice across the veterinary nursing industry.

At the strategic plan, some of the topics of discussion were:

- Establishing a model scope of practice for VNs/VTs globally
- IVNTA to consider individual memberships
- Global recognition of member qualifications for the purposes of employment
- Official registration within a member country
- Update constitution and governance, including board of directors governance structure
- Update website and social media/newsletters
- Common language and credentials internationally, including role titles, skill sets and standardization of VN/VT qualifications

International Veterinary Nurses & Technicians Association (IVNTA)

- Become the international accreditation body for VN/VT education
- Raise the recognition of VN/VT within the industry and consumers
- International VN/VT conference, linked with IVNTA AGM
- Review membership structure
- Develop 'buddy system' whereby the permanent members mentor and support newer organisations (affiliate members) to develop further establishment

A decision was made to have national association members select top three goals for action based on their urgency and their short-term feasibility.

At the meeting it was proposed that the inaugural 'International Veterinary Nurse and Tech Day' be celebrated on the 2nd Friday in October 2019 with the theme of 'the international veterinary nurse/tech professional community'. Moving forward, IVNTD will be celebrated annually on the 2nd Friday in October.

The current chairperson Ginny Thomas has decided to step down as IVNTA chairperson after many years of dedicated service. For interim planning, Carolyn Cartwright (RVTTTC) and Helen Powers (VNCA) will co-chair the meetings; Luanne (NZVNA) will assist as interim secretary as the review of board structure evolves. We are working on a broader governance structure and officers having more responsibility sharing.



Going forward, the IVNTA is going to encourage member engagement and reach out to permanent members to be fully active with two representatives on the board.

"On a personal note, the opportunity to meet in person with the International BOD and with RVT/VNs globally reaffirms that we are part of a great profession with common goals, regardless of the country. I travelled to Australia to represent RVTTTC and Canada, and travelled home with new and renewed friendships and feeling even more passionate about being "Proudly RVT". – Carolyn Cartwright

The IVNTA website is <http://www.ivnta.org/> and 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>.

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. RVTTC Executive Director Shannon Brownrigg RVT represents RVTTC on the CAHC board of directors.

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

The CAHC is currently in discussions with the National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council (NFAHW Council) with respect to merging into the NFAHW Council as a distinct division. More information on the NFAHW Council may be found at: www.ahwcouncil.ca.

The NFAHW Council and its stakeholders have been instrumental in the develop of a new initiative "Animal Health Canada".

- *"Building on direction from FPT governments in the National Plant and Animal Health Strategy, several industry leaders have agreed to champion the development of "Animal Health Canada", a new governance model built on industry-government partnership in decision making, resource sharing and program management. The goal is to strengthen Canada's capacity for animal disease prevention, preparedness, response and recovery (PPR&R) by reducing fragmentation of accountabilities, ensuring greater sustainability in resource commitments, increasing timeliness of action and planning more effectively for the future." NFAHW Council What is Animal Health Canada, M. Bergman, January 2019.*

Canadian Animal Health Coalition (CAHC)

Additional Program Updates:

- The CAHC in partnership with National Farm Animal Care Council has received approval for the New Regulations and a Code of Practice for Livestock Transportation. This will start in Spring 2019 with completion 2023.

The \$4.5 million-dollar investment was made on behalf of the National Farm Animal Care Council to the Canadian Animal Health Coalition.

The investment will be divided between four activities including:

- ◆ Updating the transportation Codes of Practice for the care and handling of farm animals during transport;
- ◆ Updating the dairy Code of Practice that will address new scientific findings, changes in industry practices and address changes in market and consumer demands;
- ◆ Updating the goat Code of Practice that will respond to growing buyer and consumer expectations for on-farm animal welfare; and
- ◆ Developing a new Code of Practice for farmed finfish.

<https://www.farms.com/news/federal-dollars-earmarked-for-updating-livestock-codes-of-practice-143567.aspx>

- Animal Health Emergency Management II - Awareness, Capacity, Confidence
 - *Funded by the AgriAssurance Program, this \$2.6M project is adding value to Canada's livestock industry by bringing together stakeholders who are committed to effectively addressing serious animal disease outbreaks.*
 - *Over the next four years, we will once again be working with people from across Canada and commodity groups. The goal is to strengthen Canada's livestock industry by increasing our collective awareness and capacity to effectively manage the significant risks of serious animal disease outbreaks. The resulting increase in resilience and sustainability relative to these known risks will boost market confidence in Canada's livestock industry. http://www.animalhealth.ca/asp/public/program_id.aspx?languageid=eng&groupid=1#ahemii.*
- Canadian Livestock Transport Certification training program is hosted and managed by the CAHC. This certification program is available in class and online to any transporter with specific modules dedicated to each animal species.

Animal Welfare Committee (AWC)

Submitted by: *Kate Cooper, RVT*

The Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) serves as the voice of the Canadian veterinary profession in promoting animal welfare through its Animal Welfare Committee (AWC). The CVMA AWC membership includes an ex-officio position for an RVTTC representative. Kate Cooper began her first year as the RVTTC representative on the committee in January, 2019. RVT's offer a unique perspective in the world of veterinary medicine and this committee position represents the valuable contribution RVT's make to animal welfare.

The CVMA AWC focuses on several key initiatives to enhance and promote the humane treatment and care of animals. These initiatives include the development of Position Statements and Codes of Practice, supporting the progression of animal welfare legislation, representation on animal welfare stakeholder organizations, and animal welfare education and awareness.

Position statements are meant to guide the profession, and to educate the public on the veterinary viewpoint on specific issues. 2018 saw the release of four new position statements; Housing Systems of Laying Hens, Welfare of Cull Dairy Cows, Capture of Wild Animals for the Pet Trade, and Responsibility of Veterinary Professionals in Addressing Animal Abuse and Neglect. Going into 2019, there are many new position statements under way including the Use of Animals in Sport and Competition as well as the Use of Animals in Entertainment and Recreation. There are also several revisions occurring, including Free-roaming Owned, Abandoned and Feral Cats, and Cosmetic Alteration. The AWC is also in the process of developing a CVMA Small Mammals Kept as Pets Code of Practice, as well as revising the CVMA Cattery Code of Practice.

The CVMA has actively lobbied for a number of years for amendments to the Criminal Code aimed at strengthening the law with respect to animal cruelty. When it becomes law, Bill C-84 will help close gaps that currently exist in the law with respect to bestiality and animal fighting. With the support of CVMA and many other groups, this Bill has passed through the House of Commons and is now headed to the Senate to (hopefully) be passed into law.

The CVMA has representatives on a variety of animal welfare stakeholder organizations. One of these organizations is the National Farm Animal Care Council (NFACC). NFACC coordinates a national approach to farm animal welfare in Canada through the production of Codes of Practice and Animal Care Assessment Programs. Currently CVMA is participating in the development of Codes for Goats, Dairy Cattle, Finned Fish and Transportation. The new Code of Practice for Transportation is a large undertaking covering a number of species and requiring the support from many members of the AWC and other members of the CVMA. This code follows the recent release of the amendments to the Health of Animals Regulations (HAR) by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, updating the humane transport requirements for livestock and poultry. Both the new HAR, and NFACC Code, are important tools in supporting the welfare of animals during transportation.

The CVMA AWC plays an integral role in animal welfare education and awareness. CVMA opposes medically unnecessary cosmetic procedures, and has advocated in bringing about positive welfare changes by encouraging the banning of declawing, ear cropping and tail docking across Canadian provinces. Declawing is now banned in BC, NS, NL, NB, PEI, AB and most recently, MB. Ear cropping has been banned in BC, AB, MB and SK, and tail docking has been banned in BC and AB.

The role of the RVTTC on the CVMA AWC emphasizes the important role that RVT's play in safeguarding and enhancing animal welfare. For more information on any of these topics, refer to CVMA's website.

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



WORLD VETERINARY
ASSOCIATION

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 RVTTC became an Observer Member of the WVA – the first veterinary technician group to join the WVA.

RVTTC Activities with WVA:

- Contribute to the revision of WVA Policy Statements – Veterinary Para-Professionals (new position paper)
- Share information from WVA with RVTTC 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. RVTTC Director Ivana Novosel (AAAHT member) attended in person the WVC2017 in South Korea in August 2017 proudly representing Canadian RVTs on this world stage.

WVA Highlights:

- In the context of promoting prudent use of antimicrobials under veterinary supervision, the WVA and the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) conducted in 2018 a survey to create a global repository of available guidelines for responsible use of antimicrobials in animal health. <http://www.worldvet.org/news.php?item=417>
- An updated and globally revised WVA Model Veterinarian's Oath was adopted April 2019 <http://www.worldvet.org/news.php?item=414>
- WVA Infonews is shared within the RVTTC E-newsletter RVT Talk to share veterinary news from around the world.
- World Veterinary Association Congress (WVAC) 2020 will be held in Auckland, New Zealand April 6-8, 2020 <http://wvac2020.com/>

World Small Animal Veterinary Association (WSAVA)

Submitted by: Shannon Brownrigg, RVT

WSAVA is an 'association of associations', which means that our membership comprises companion animal veterinary associations from all over the world. We currently have 105 member association, representing more than 200,000 individual veterinarians.



WSAVA Vision Statement

"All companion animals worldwide receive veterinary care that ensures their optimal health and welfare."

Our goal is to advance the health and welfare of companion animals through raising standards of veterinary care around the world. Members of our association share our passion to create a dynamic global community of veterinarians who work together to deliver ever higher standards of care and who speak with one global voice on key issues affecting the veterinary profession and the welfare of the animals in our care. <https://www.wsava.org/About>

At the 2018 World Small Animal Veterinary Association General Assembly, RVTTC was granted Affiliate Membership. We look forward to further involvement in both collaborative CE delivery as well as active members on WSAVA guideline groups and committees. As a new member of WSAVA, we are learning about the committees and look forward to facilitating RVT representatives within the WSAVA global community.

RVTTC has been working directly with the WSAVA & CVMA congress planning committee to bring high level speakers and topics for RVTs to the 2019 WSAVA/CVMA Congress to be held on July 16-19, 2019 in Toronto, Ontario. This year the WSAVA Convention will host for the first time a veterinary technician stream for the entire 4 days. Check out the amazing line up specific to RVTs and the veterinary team.

July 16, 2019 will see RVTTC joining the WSAVA General Assembly for their day long meetings. Assembly members are the WSAVA member association representatives (one for each member association) and are required to carry out the important task of linking up the WSAVA to respective members in their association. RVTTC is excited to be involved in creating a strong alliance, sharing of professional development and collaboration with the WSAVA membership.

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.



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

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

2019 Canadian RVT of the Year Award

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



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

The Winner for 2018-2019 is **Ivana Novosel, RVT**

2019 RVTTC/TTVAC Recognition Award: 'Making a Difference'

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



This award is sponsored by RVTTC

The Winner for 2018-2019 is **Karen Lesnick, RVT**

2019 RVTTC/TTVAC Sandy Hass Appreciation Award

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



This award is sponsored by RVTTC

The Winner for 2018-2019 is the **Ontario Association of Veterinary Technicians (OAVT)**

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



A bursary of \$1,000.00 each raised by RVTs supporting RVTs and matched by sponsorship from Petplan Pet Insurance.

Trina Legge, RVT – BCVTA Member

Goal to attend the Western Veterinary Conference in February 2019, where I have applied to be a volunteer speaker at the event. My abstract outlines a plan to discuss the Canadian Animal Assistance Team, our goals and the impact our work has had in specific First Nations communities.

Charlotte Hogan, RVT – OAVT Member

Goal to complete the Certified Canine Rehabilitation Practitioner certificate program through the University of Tennessee. This bursary to assist in completing the two Live Lab courses (Mar 2019) held at the University of Tennessee and potentially the fifth online course & final examination (June 2019) if funding permits.

Chantal Cormier, RVT – EVTA Member

Goal to attend the Association of Veterinary Technician Educator's 26th Biennial Symposium in New Orleans, Louisiana from July 25th to the 28th, 2019.



Animal Health Technician/Veterinary Technician Program Accreditation Committee (AHTVTPAC)

Submitted by: *Tammy MacLeod, RVT VTS (ECC) (Eastern Rep) and Erin Young, RVT (Western 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. Tammy MacLeod and Erin Young participated in the annual AHTVTPAC Meeting held at the Ottawa Sheraton Hotel on the 17th and 18th of March 2019

As always, the meeting was very congenial and productive.

Items discussed include:

1. 19 accredited AHT/VT programs in Canada. 17 Full accreditation and two on probationary.
2. Use of the Wiki for communications within the Committee and between the Committee and the Programs. We discussed how to encourage the programs to use their space on the Wiki more and settled on occasionally posting a question to all programs. Examples would be asking programs to share a technique or tool they have found useful in one way or another.
3. Dr. Michael Baar, Director of Assessment and Certification and Pierre Renaud, Executive Director from CCAC attended the meeting. They gave a brief presentation on CCAC and were there to discuss pedagogical merit and explore methods to streamline the process for AHT/VT programs.
4. Our committee Liaison from the CVTEA, Dr. Dale Cooper, assisted the committee in understanding the processes and regulations followed by their committee under the AVMA, with the view of keeping the two countries' regulations aligned to support reciprocity.
5. The AHTVTPAC discussed the methods of cyclically reviewing the Standards of Accreditation, the Policies and Procedures, the Essential Skills, and the Equipment list. At this meeting we have fully reviewed the P & P, changes will be submitted for approval at the next CVMA council meeting in July 2019. The Essential skills list was also partially reviewed with plans to have it completely reviewed by the end of this month.
6. Regular site visits planned for 2019 include: Seneca fall 2019, Georgian Fall 2019. Vanier had a site visit just prior to our meeting.

In regards to the RVTTC report, specifically the National RVT Career Ladder Task Force the AHTVTPAC is a possible resource.

It is within our mandate to encourage the development of additional & career advancement opportunities for veterinary technicians.

The next in person meeting will be at the CVMA committee weekend in March of 2020.

Affiliated Associations of RVTTC/TTVAC



British Columbia Veterinary Technologists Association (BCVTA)

Submitted by: *Heather Shannon, RVT - President, Brynne Trites, BSc, RVT - Vice President, Denise Hitt, RVT - Executive Director, Mia Cirotto, RVT - RVTTT BC Representative, Tinille McKenzie-Wyatt, AHT, RVT, VTS (ECC) RVTTT BC Representative, Tina Douglas, RVT - Treasurer, Kirsten Wilson, AHT, RVT - CVBC Liaison, Kim Holbrow, RVT - Secretary*



Mission – *we are leaders and advocates 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 health care industry to empower our members to utilize their training to deliver the gold standard of care. Currently our membership is 858 RVTs strong. We have been hard at work campaigning for the College of Veterinarians of British Columbia to include RVT regulations in their bylaws. This process was started 10 years ago and we continue to campaign for our members, the public, and the animals of BC.



Robina Manfield, RVT received the 2019 RVT of the Year award at the BCVTA Spring Conference and AGM



BCVTA Board of Directors and guest speakers attended the Canucks hockey game in Vancouver, BC

This year we were able to record our talks for both our Spring and Fall Conferences and

turn them into webinars available on the BCVTA website. In this way we hope to improve the accessibility of our CE for all members. The BCVTA was fortunate to have a variety of speakers at both the Fall and Spring Conferences. Some of our speakers included Becky Taylor RVT, Tasha McNerny CVT, CPP, CVS (anesthesia), and Liz Hughston MEd., RVT, CVT, VTS (SAIM, ECC). We are proud to help our members develop their non-medical skill set by providing workshops on communication, navigating employment discussions, employment standards in BC, as well as mediated discussions on self-wellness. We believe these to be important tools for all RVTs.



British Columbia Veterinary Technologists Association (BCVTA)

As part of our vision to empower our members, we believe it is important to educate and support our fellow RVTs facing the largest emotional occupational hazard of our profession. Compassion fatigue is a prominent condition that affects RVTs throughout the profession. In an effort to support our members, we have recently included a compassion fatigue page on to our website. We hope that this will be a helpful stepping stone for RVTs in BC.

October saw another successful RVT month for the BCVTA. We campaigned for RVTs to send us quotes on what makes them #ProudlyRVT. We were then able to pair these quotes with photos and celebrate why this profession is important to each of our members. This success in celebrating why we are proudly RVTs has sparked a new campaign. Melding with our BCVTA vision, we are now reaching out to the public to promote our profession. We believe that all pets deserve an RVT at their side. We hope that the new year will see every pet owner asking for an RVT to care for their pet in-clinic. #askforRVTs



Alberta Veterinary Technologist Association (ABVTA)

Submitted by: *Kate Simon, RVT, VTS (ECC) and Ivana Novosel, MSc, RVT*

Membership:

- General – 1597
- Non practicing – 220
- Limited to small animal – 5
- Provisional – 20
- AHT Students – 342

2018–2019 was an eventful year for Alberta RVTs! The Board kicked off the year with a bang when in January we were able to interpret the preliminary data collected from our 2018 Job Retention and Wage Survey. With 75% of the ABVTA General Members responding to the survey (over 1100 responses), it became clear that for our members to extend their longevity within their careers, they place a high value on a workplace that can provide:

- A flexible schedule
- Appreciate the importance of work-life balance
- Appropriate wages for the skill/ experience
- Benefits
- Standards of Care and Practice
- Workplace culture and environment (collaboration focused values and ethics)
- Location (close to home)
- Positive relationship between veterinary team as well as management and
- Staff
- Respect
- Opportunities for growth, promotion and professional development.

Later in 2019, the ABVTA plans to launch a follow-up survey focusing specifically on member wages and benefit packages.

In February, the ABVMA held their 2019 AGM where RVTs of the province were able to vote as full members of the veterinary profession, on important matters along with veterinarian members. This was truly a great moment in evolution of our profession. Many RVTs attended in person or submitted their votes by proxy and proudly exercised their rights and helped pass important Resolutions. As a result, Alberta now has the most comprehensive list of banned unnecessary medical procedures in Canada.

The topics discussed at this AGM were controversial, but all members were professional, and all discussion was passionate but remained respectful. It was an exciting day indeed!

In March, The Board met to review and outline our Strategic Plan for the next three years. We reflected on our accomplishments of the past three years which included changing our name and logo, unifying our title with the rest of Canada, and becoming full voting members of the veterinary profession. We reaffirmed our Vision; “Professional, knowledgeable, compassionate animal health care” and updated our Mission statement “to support and empower a knowledgeable network of Registered Veterinary Technologists to advance our profession while providing compassionate veterinary care”.



Alberta Veterinary Technologist Association (ABVTA)

We were able to identify five goals we will work to accomplish over the next 3 years.

#1: Enhanced communication to increase member involvement and engagement

#2: Increased public awareness of the RVT profession

#3: Promotion of animal health and welfare through knowledge and education

#4: Good Governance and Management

#5: Member development and advancement, with a focus on wellness, compensation and sustainability

As an outcome of this meeting, the Board of Directors renewed their purpose and passion for our profession feeling confident knowing what the ABVTA members need and how to execute it.

Throughout all of 2018-2019, our Communications Committee worked hard on member engagement opportunities by providing several social events all throughout the province. This included Light the Bridge in Edmonton, and Light the Tower in Calgary in ABVTA's official colours to celebrate RVT month, several Paint Nights and Rustic Sign Nights as well as representing both our Association and the RVT profession at several industry and public trade shows and pet expos.

As part of the continuing education program, in collaboration with IMLocum, the ABVTA sponsored two sold-out CE events on Employment and Workplace Standards in the fall of 2018. This spring, ABVTA concluded a year-long Social Media 101 course for the members. These events were sponsored by the ABVTA and gave our membership new tools in their toolkits. The Continuing Education Committee also hosted hands on wetlabs throughout the province focusing on parasitology, a refresher course on abnormal hematology & urinalysis, and equine emergencies and bandaging. We welcomed Mr. David Liss, RVT, VTS (ECC, SAIM), CVPM, as our pre-AGM CE session speaker in conjunction with the CanWest Veterinary Conference, speaking on ECGs, blocked cats and GDVs. In 2019, the CE Committee will be offering a series of webinars for the first time, in an effort to reach RVTs from corner to corner with low-cost, relevant CE.



Alberta Veterinary Technologist Association (ABVTA)

And last but certainly not least, on May 4 and 5 the ABVTA hosted our “40 and Fabulous Conference” at the Delta Hotel in Edmonton. We had a great turn out with over 300 attendees! Delegates included ABVTA members, veterinarians, students and support staff from all over Canada. There were amazing lecturers from throughout North America and topics included small, large and zoo animal medicine, antimicrobial stewardship wellness and fear free training, organised into three learning streams, with a focus on One Health Along with great learning and networking opportunities we hosted a fun money casino event on the Saturday night. We played craps, blackjack and the “rouleaux” table. This was a well-deserved time for people to relax and win millions!

We are looking forward to our AGM at the ABVMA Canwest Conference October 19-22 in Beautiful Banff, Alberta where will be wrapping up our 40th Anniversary year. We are pleased to welcome Dr. Marty Becker, Founder and CEO of Fear Free as our pre-AGM CE session. We will also be hosting an anniversary reception on October 19th open to ABVTA members, session attendees, invited guests and conference delegates.

Our close relationship with the ABVMA is continuing to grow and our partnership is becoming stronger with our presence at Registration Day, Leadership Weekend as well as our new representative positions on the ABVMA HR committee and CanWest selection committee. We believe that this is something to celebrate, and something that many of the other associations look to us for.



For more information on the ABVTA please visit <https://www.abvta.com/>

Saskatchewan Association of Veterinary Technicians

SAVT



**SASKATCHEWAN
ASSOCIATION
of Veterinary Technologists**

Submitted by: Darlene Ford, RVT & Carolyn Cartwright, RVT, VTS (Anesthesia/Analgesia)

SAVT Mission Statement:

To promote and advance Registered Veterinary Technologists.

SAVT Mission Statement:

Professionalism and excellence in animal care.

- o SAVT current membership numbers are: 482 active members, 63 student members, and 7 social members, for a total membership of 552.
- o SAVT achieved a historical milestone with the appointment of the first RVT voting member on the SVMA council and seeing the SAVT active membership have voting rights at the SVMA Annual General Meeting (AGM). SVMA has instituted a mandatory on line licensing course for all members to maintain active registration status. SVMA has provided numerous CE and Wellness opportunities throughout the year for DVM and RVT members. 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.
- o 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.
- o SAVT strategic plan and review was held in conjunction with the annual retreat at Wapiti Lodge, Saskatchewan.
- o The Board of Directors meets monthly, with the AGM held each November in conjunction with the annual conference; our goal is to have a minimum of two in person meetings annually.
- o SAVT general operations are managed by our Executive Director, Jasmin Carlton and our Conference Coordinator, Kenzie Makowsky, RVT, organizes the annual Conference with consultation from the Board of Directors.
- o 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.
- o SAVT has 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.
- o 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.

Saskatchewan Association of Veterinary Technicians

- o SAVT has been active in collaboration and promoting our “National Voice”, some of the events attended in the past year; RVTTC AGM/CVMA Convention 2018 in Vancouver, BC, CanWest AVTA Convention/AGM, SAVT AGM/Convention, SVMA AGM/Convention, CenCan MAVTA Convention/AGM, BCVTA Spring Convention, ABVTA 40th Anniversary Conference, Agribition, Brandon Agriculture Winter Fair, Pets in the Park, Equine Expo, WCVM VIP Day, Sponsored Seminars, SVMA Family Day, Northern Spay & Neuter Clinic.



- o SAVT Awards presented:



*RVT of the Year
Brenda Smith, RVT*



*Merck Mentorship
Lois Ridgway, RVT*



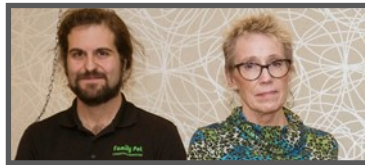
*Conf. Appreciation
Jackie Elsasser, RVT*



*DVM of the Year
Dr. Tanya Duke*



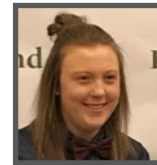
*SVMA RVT of the Year
Dione Bachiu, RVT*



*Appreciation Award
Family Pet Cremation*



*SK Polytechnic Bursary
Mabel Ng*



*Lakeland College Bursary
Sarah Moor*

- o SAVT supports the students through provincial student bursaries and meet ‘n greets throughout the year.
- o The SAVT annual conference, AGM and 35th Anniversary Celebration will be November 1-3, 2019 in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. We would extend an invite to fellow RVTs and Provincial Associations to attend and celebrate SAVT's milestone. A little note of historical changes saw our first conference in 1985 having 20 attendees to 325 in 2018.



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 sincerely are “Proudly RVT”.

Manitoba Veterinary Technologists Association (MVTA)

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



2019 Central Canadian Veterinary Conference



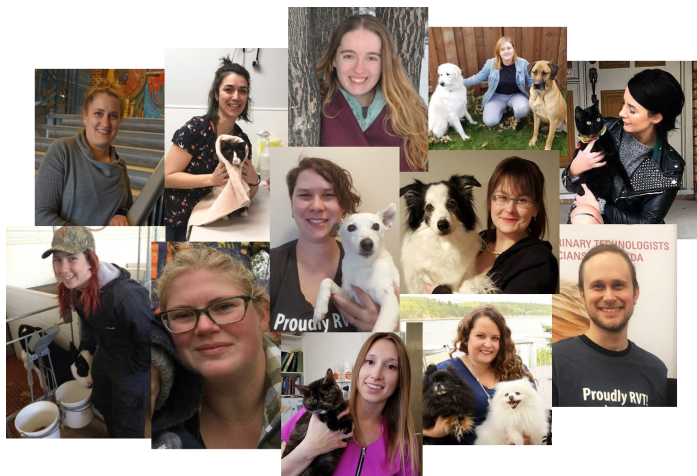
The Board welcomed Richard Hodges, RVT (MVMA Past President), Kate Simon, RVT, VTS (ECC) (ABVTA, RVTTC), Breanne Barber, RVT (SAVT President), Lois Ridgway, RVT (SAVT Past President), Carolyn Cartwright, RVT, VTS (Anesthesia/Analgesia) and Darlene Ford, RVT (SAVT, RVTTC) and Kenzie Stirling Makowsky, RVT (SAVT) who brought greetings from their respective associations at the 2019 MVTA Annual General Meeting. MVTA also received a video greeting from BCVTA at their new TRU large animal facility, along with some funny farm animal cameos!

MVTA recognized Sandra Rentz, RVT for the *RVT of the Year Award*, Cindy Sontag, RVT for *The Doraine Wachniak Distinction Award* and Dr. Marie North for the *DVM of the Year Award* at the AGM.

MVTA Board of Directors – 2019/2020

MVTA welcomes its incoming 2019 Board of Directors:

- President – Mel Browning, RVT
- President Elect – Lisa Rea, RVT
- Secretary/Treasurer – Robyn Winters, RVT
- RVTTC Directors – Cindy Sontag, RVT and Mark Evachewski, RVT
- CE Directors – Heather Laurie, RVT and Jennifer Peters, RVT
- Marketing Directors – Jessica Hammond, RVT and Julia Augustus, RVT
- Member Relations Director – Ada Pinho, RVT
- Members at Large – Desiree Majure, RVT and Barbara MacDonald, RVT



MVTA Strategic Planning Weekend 2019

MVTA held its third annual board retreat for strategic planning at the end of March. The Board rented an AirBNB in Winnipeg for a weekend and hired a Parliamentarian for board training.

2018/2019 Membership Numbers (as of June 2019)

- 360 Registered
- 3 Lifetime (with registered status)
- 21 Restricted
- 13 Non-Practicing
- 19 Students



Manitoba Veterinary Technologists Association (MVTA)

Member Representation

MVTA Board of Directors represented membership at many events, including the RVTTTC AGM & CVMA Convention in Vancouver, ABVTA 40th Anniversary Celebration & CanWest Convention in Banff, SAVT AGM & Convention in Saskatoon and the Manitoba Pet Expo in Winnipeg.

MVTA Board of Directors and dedicated MVTA volunteers have also represented membership on the following boards/committees: MVMA Council, RVTTTC Board of Directors, Red River College VT Program Advisory Committee, Red River College Animal Care Committee, Robertson College Veterinary Office Assistant Advisory Committee, MVMA Animal Welfare Committee, RVTTTC Labour Mobility Task Force and the Canadian Animal Blood Bank (CABB) Board of Directors.

Surveying Membership

- *Continuing Education* – striving to provide CE based on current interest and needs, and present exciting and relevant speakers and opportunities for professional advancement
- *Wage* – an ongoing survey to maintain statistics and promote value of the profession
- *Complaints Process* – the Board recognized the discomfort of bringing forward a complaint against a veterinarian to the MVMA, a survey was conducted to assess the need for a whistle blower-type bylaw to protect RVTs

Continuing Education Events

MVTA welcomed Sue Loly, RVT, VTS (Equine Nursing) to present in May 2018 about *The Road to Becoming a VTS*. The presentation was followed by a Q&A session. MVTA continues to host annual continuing education events in the fall in Brandon and Winnipeg. Most recent sessions included engaging presentations from *Hands-Free X Rays*, Hill's Pet Nutrition, as well as Dr. Chris Bell and Dr. Janice Posnikoff who spoke on investigating lameness in sport horses.

General Updates

MVMA bylaws now require all Manitoba RVTs to have professional liability insurance.

BRAND NEW: Legislation has passed banning non-therapeutic declaws of cats in Manitoba!

RVT Month – October 2018

Manitoba's Minister of Agriculture, Hon. Ralph Eichler, issued proclamation once again that October is Veterinary Technologists Month. MVTA and the Winnipeg Blue Bombers teamed up for a special game day price for members on the October 13th game against Saskatchewan Rough Riders. The Board also invited membership to a barbecue in October for an opportunity to network and socialize with their colleagues! It had a small attendance, but we hope to garner and grow this event in the future. During October, we shared 12 RVTs and 1 TSA as highlights on Facebook for RVT month in order to highlight diverse and exciting opportunities and experiences of our members. Our excellent Marketing Director, Ada, also organized a fun *Paint Your Pet* night in November to extend the RVT Month celebrations!



Ontario Association of Veterinary Technicians (OAVT)

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

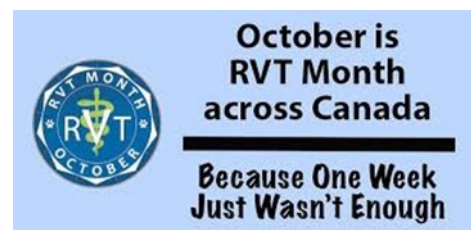
The Board of Directors are pleased to report that OAVT has experienced another very successful year.

For the last 3 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. Official recognition of RVT's within the Vet act is only one of the priorities we have been working on this year. Both the Board and staff have been working hard to ensure that the RVT profession is in the spotlight and this year is no different. Talks will continue with the CVO and stakeholders through 2019 and well into 2020. In planning for the more detailed discussions that will be taking place with the CVO and the Ontario government, the OAVT board of directors felt it was time to bring on a consulting firm that specializes in these types of discussions. Ms. Laura Greer has been appointed to be a consultant between OAVT and the stakeholder groups CVO & OVMA. She attends meetings, provides reports and guidance to the board of directors. She is also now part of our Legislative Task force committee helping them understand and navigate through the stages of reform. Ultimately, she will be a great help with the legislative reform process and dealing with the ministry of agriculture as we forge ahead. Exciting times are coming as all this hard work is now nearing completion.



The retention rate of RVT's has improved, as has the number of students enrolled in veterinary technician/technology programs 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 again for the past 3 years.

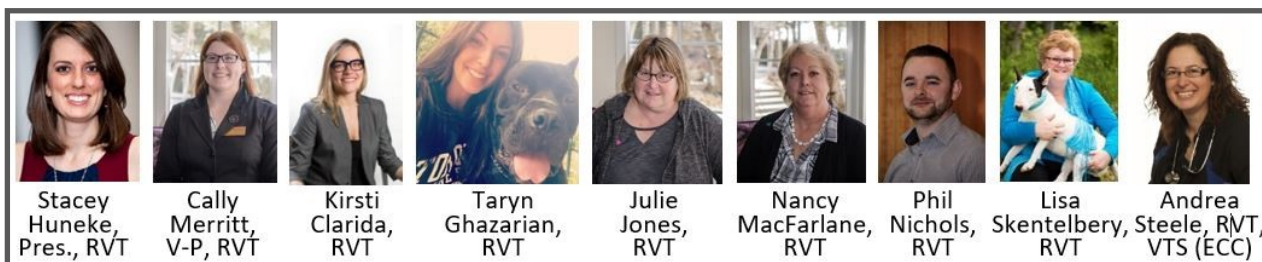
- OAVT introduced "RVT Month" last year during the month of October and this year was another huge success with RVT's from across the country participating. Look forward to some more great ideas coming from the staff in the OAVT office for this year too.
- The OAVT completed a milestone project that studied the economic impact of RVT's in the workforce. We hired a third-party consulting firm to study the economics behind why hiring an RVT is beneficial to veterinary practices. The results of this survey were published by OAVT to show & encourage all workplaces to hire and utilize RVT's for the important skill set we carry. Due to the huge success of this study, our Executive Director Rory Demetriooff has been invited to speak at CAHI annual Conference. (Canadian Animal Health Institute) this June 2019 in Quebec.
- 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.



Ontario Association of Veterinary Technicians (OAVT)

- 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 throughout the year.
- OAVT Rabies Response Program reaches full provincial coverage and now has over 150 RVT's contracted to perform specimen collection across the province. Rabies is a real problem here in Ontario.
- OAVT wage survey – each year we survey our members and provide an overview of wages in Ontario as a member resource.
- OAVT Conference 2019 – Theme was Educate, Advocate, Integrate. We had another very successful conference this year that was well attended.
- We have added a fall symposium this year in Ottawa at the request of membership.
- Balanced budget again this year

And on a sad note we will say goodbye to our Executive Director, Rory Demetriooff, who has worked for the OAVT for the past 10 years. Rory has decided to retire as of Dec 31, 2019. We wish him well in his retirement and travels.



Stacey Huneke, Pres., RVT	Cally Merritt, V-P, RVT	Kirsti Clarida, RVT	Taryn Ghazarian, RVT	Julie Jones, RVT	Nancy MacFarlane, RVT	Phil Nichols, RVT	Lisa Skentelbery, RVT	Andrea Steele, RVT, VTS (ECC)
---------------------------	-------------------------	---------------------	----------------------	------------------	-----------------------	-------------------	-----------------------	-------------------------------

2018-2019 OAVT Board of Directors



Eastern Veterinary Technicians Association (EVTA)

Submitted by: *Stephanie Hall, RVT, Senior RVTTTC Representative and Christine Masson, RVT, Junior RVTTTC Representative*

Membership:

NS - 334 members
NB - 245 members
NFLD - 46 members
PEI 48 - members



EVTA Provincial Updates :

Nova Scotia

Two events happened in NS this past year. Licensed RVTs in NS are invited to attend NSVMA's AGM weekend in October. René Garbes, RVT was awarded the NS RVT of the Year. It was also time to vote on a new RVT Representative for the NSVMA board. Christine Masson, RVT was appointed the position. NSVMA has a new online license application/renewal program that will be launched for the first time this year. So far it has been a success with streamlining license renewals.

A general meeting was held in April during the APVC event. Updates on RVT Talk were discussed. Each province will need to submit content for the monthly newsletter on a rotational schedule. We raised \$162 for RVTTTC Travel Bursary Program via donations for our PetPlan sponsored t-shirts.

Dalhousie Agricultural Campus in Truro hosts an annual Scholarship Banquet. EVTA has awarded Hannah Wood with a bursary. Christine Masson, RVT was invited to present Hannah with her award.

Prince Edward Island

Natalie Price, RVT, VTS (Anesthesia/Analgesia) once again organized a great CE event in PEI this June 2018, held at the Atlantic Veterinary College. We were able to offer our members 4 hours of CE and awarded the PEI RVT of the year to Stacey Dykens, RVT. No updates on PEIVMA legislation for RVTs. A moment of silence was held for Dr. Helene Van Donick. She was a teacher to many of our NSAC Vet Tech Program graduates and dedicated her life to the treatment of wildlife in her established center, Cobequid Wildlife Rehabilitation Center.

Newfoundland

Newfoundland had their general meeting in November during NaLVMA's annual CE/AGM VetCon. Our NL technicians helped raise \$72 for RVTTTC Travel Bursary Program. Nicole Krane, RVT was awarded NL RVT of the Year. No updates on NaLVMA legislation for RVTs.

New Brunswick

Our September general meeting was held in NB alongside NBVMA's AGM. Kelli Cormier, RVT has been appointed our NBVMA RVT representative. This year all membership renewals and applications are to be completed by NBVMA council. NB RVT of the year was awarded to Amy LeBlanc, RVT.

RVT of the Year Awards



René Garbes, RVT (NS)



Stacey Dykens, RVT (PEI)



Nicole Krane, RVT (NL)



Amy LeBlanc, RVT (NB)

Eastern Veterinary Technicians Association (EVTA)

EVTA Facebook Contests

We ran contests over the summer months and also for our RVT month on Facebook that saw high participation from our EVTA members. For our RVT month contest members posted photos per week of how they celebrated the month. At the end of the month there was one winner from each province winning a 100 dollar visa card. Participation included both clinics and individuals.

July & August we had weekly contests for RVTs sending in captioned pics of their best Monday & their funniest Friday. Prizes were EVTA beach bags, sunglasses, and bluetooth speakers.



APVC Conference April 2019

The Atlantic Province Veterinary Conference is always the highest attended conference within our four provinces. We had our EVTA booth alongside our RVTTC booth over the weekend. We raised 162 dollars for the Travel Bursary fund with the Proudly RVT t-shirts! We were also able to do registrations on site which made it more efficient for processing. We had our general meeting which included dinner for our members and had a breakfast board meeting the following morning.

30th Anniversary Conference June 2019

We are working hard on our 30th anniversary conference "A Wave of Progress" being held in Truro, Nova Scotia June 14 and 15th 2019. We are having lectures given by our own RVTs with specialties in a variety of areas. Friday night we have an awards banquet and our keynote speaker Kathleen Dunbar. We have a trade show throughout the day Saturday and ending the day with a round table discussion - The Road to Becoming a VTS. Also attending is our RVTTC Executive Director Shannon Brownrigg. We are very excited and hope to have a good turnout.



Declaw Ban

All four provinces in our Eastern Association have been progressive in the topic of declaws.

Nova Scotia was officially the first province in Canada to ban elective cat declawing as of March 2018 by the NSVMA. PEIVMA voted against declawing November 2018. Newfoundland and Labrador no longer perform declawing procedures, effective Jan. 1, 2019. The New Brunswick Veterinary Medical Association voted to ban cat declawing in the province as of July 1st 2019.

Regulatory Bodies in the Atlantic Provinces

In Nova Scotia, you must be in good standing with EVTA by submitting qualifying CE hours annually. You must then apply for a license through the Nova Scotia Veterinary Medical Association. Only Registered Veterinary Technicians may use the term RVT in NS with a qualifying license. Anyone who does not hold a license, may not use the term RVT, Vet Tech or Technician.

At this time, CE hours are still sent to EVTA annually for our NB members to maintain their membership in good standing. They must be registered with New Brunswick Veterinary Medical Association to maintain their title RVT. Anyone who is not registered, may not use the term RVT, Vet Tech or Technician.

Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland do not have any regulating bodies. Members in those provinces must continue to submit their CE annually to EVTA to maintain their membership in good standing.





**REGISTERED VETERINARY TECHNOLOGISTS
AND TECHNICIANS OF CANADA**

YOUR VOICE in animal healthcare.

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

Toll Free: 844.626.0796 **T:** 613.215.0619

Website: www.rvtcanada.ca

Email: info@rvtcanada.ca

