



# College of Veterinarians of British Columbia

## COUNCIL MEETING

Via Zoom

Friday, June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024

### Minutes of the Open Meeting

**Council Members:** Dr. Jane Pritchard (President), Dr. Michele Martin, Mr. Gian Sihota (Treasurer), Dr. Justin McLash, Mr. Harinder Mahil, Dr. Gigi Lin and Dr. Kirsten Riphagen

**Staff:** Ms. Christine Arnold (Registrar & CEO), Dr. Stacey Thomas (Deputy Registrar) & Ms. Rosalee Magcalas (Executive Assistant)

**Guests:** Ms. Amanda Barker, BCVTA Liaison, Ms. Larke Miller and Ms. Vickie Veira (observation only)

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Pritchard at 10:01 a.m.

#### 2. ROUTINE PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

##### 2.1. Territorial Acknowledgement

*Council would like to respectfully acknowledge that we work and live on the traditional ancestral and unceded lands of the Coast Salish, Squamish, Sechelt, Musqueam and Tsleil-Waututh nations and we acknowledge all other first nations in British Columbia.*

##### 2.2 Approval of the Open Agenda

**MOTION: THAT** the Agenda be approved with the power to add.

**MOVED/SECONDED**

**CARRIED**

##### 2.3 President's Remarks

Dr. Pritchard wanted to highlight that today is National Indigenous Peoples Day and it is an area of choice, and we have chosen as an organization that we do this. It is not just a check the box day, but we acknowledge it and live it.

##### 2.4. Approval of Consent Agenda

**MOTION: THAT** the Open Consent Agenda be approved as presented with items 2.5, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4 and 4.5.

**MOVED/SECONDED**

**CARRIED**

## 2.5. Minutes of the May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024 Open Council Meeting

**MOTION:** THAT the Minutes of the May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024 Open Council meeting be approved as distributed.

**MOVED/SECONDED**

**CARRIED**

**Direction:** To post the approved May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024 open meeting minutes.

### 3. ITEMS REQUIRING COUNCIL ACTION/DECISION/DISCUSSION

#### 3.1. Update from the BCVTA (Verbal)

The last couple of meetings of the BCVTA have just been debriefings from the AGM and there is no written report prepared for this Council meeting. Ms. Barker did not attend the meeting but can report that it was very successful with many wet labs, exhibit booths and an RVT trade show. A few suggestions arose from the meeting, like changing the time it is held, it was in April last year and moved to May, but they will continue to see if something else might work. Ms. Arnold spoke at the meeting and her presentation was well received although there was a bit of contention regarding the onboarding of the RVTs taking longer than originally anticipated. The BCVTA bylaws were also voted on for a second year in a row and were not passed and may be brought back again at next year's meeting. The issue with the bylaws is regarding membership classes and a non-resident, someone living in a different jurisdiction where there is no association, becoming a member of the BCVTA and with so many locums now, this is something that is being reviewed. Dr. Martin raised the idea of the College assisting the BCVTA with this as it is something that they have experience with, and a conversation will be had to assist them in finding balance.

While the Council will be taking the summer off, Ms. Barker indicated that they would have a meeting in July, but not in August and Dr. Pritchard mentioned that if the Council's assistance is needed over the summer, to please reach out and vice versa.

#### 3.2. Report: Attendance at the BCVTA AGM (Verbal)

Dr. Pritchard praised Ms. Arnold for doing a marvelous job of presenting bad news to the RVTs at their AGM. The bad news is that bringing the BCVTA under the CVBC umbrella does not have the smooth path that may have been represented to the BCVTA previously. Ms. Arnold said that it may take approximately two years and it seemed to be well received as she was able to address concerns from the RVTs as this is something that has to be done correctly.

#### 3.3. Report: Attendance at the AAVSB Luncheon (Verbal)

The AAVSB extended an invitation to the CVBC Registrar and Council with Ms. Arnold and Dr. Pritchard attending a lunch meeting. While Dr. Bergman was Registrar, they had begun a conversation and are excited to continue on with Ms. Arnold and in particular are excited to learn about the College's Provisional Supervised class of licensure and how they move onto full licensure. At this point the CVBC has not received a single complaint against any registrant in this class and if we develop data about the PSA, the AAVSB would like to have access to that. The Council and College will decide if this is something that they can do and if so, if they would like to share it.

#### 3.4. Unauthorized Practice (Verbal)

This came through to a Council Member being asked a question by a registrant and Ms. Arnold wanted to address this and give a high-level answer.

The *Veterinarian's Act* contemplates unauthorized practice, and the best lay person resource would be the CVBC website, under Public Protection, with a drop-down menu showing Unauthorized Practice and will assist people in understanding what unauthorized practice is. Any non-registrant practicing veterinary medicine is defined as unauthorized practice, whether it be veterinary medicine, dental, etc. unless it is purely a cosmetic procedure, which is difficult to actually define.

If there is unauthorized practice that is occurring within a registrant's knowledge, it is a registrant's duty to bring it to the College's attention as well as if members of the public see something, they should also bring it to the College's attention by emailing the College. An investigation will be started. If the individual does not comply with the College's cease and desist letter, the College can seek a court injunction and their failure to stop at that point would be a breach of a court order. Unauthorized practice is considered an offense under the Act and a fine of up to \$2,000 could be imposed.

Dental cleanings with no anesthetic are a huge area of contention and a grey area, brushing a dog's teeth might be considered cosmetic, but it could be a slippery slope. In a previous court injunction case, expert testimony was given that cleaning above the gumline is not dentistry and that the was the line that was drawn and someone not claiming to do anything other than cosmetic cleaning, by that distinction, they are not engaging in unauthorized practice.

When the College brings in the RVTs it may have to broaden the bylaws as to what they can and cannot do. If something goes wrong during a procedure, it would always be the registrant that is responsible.

### 3.5. Seal Policy Revision

The College currently uses a physical seal for documents and certificates but in an attempt to modernize, has now developed a virtual seal. There is a section of the bylaws that contemplates the use of the seal, and the designated people authorized to use it. Physical seals will still be used for certificates as registrants want them to commemorate their licensing and display in their place of work.

Council approving the electronic seal may not be necessary, but out of an abundance of caution, is being asked to do so. What Council does need to vote on is designating the Registrar and a Deputy Registrar to affix the seal as well.

**MOTION:** TO approve the use of the electronic seal (s. 1.68(3)); designate the Registrar and a Deputy Registrar to affix the College seal (s. 1.68(3)); authorize the College seal to be affixed to a document signed by a Deputy Registrar (s. 1.68(4)(d)).

**MOVED/SECONDED**

**CARRIED**

**Direction:** To put the electronic seal into use.

#### 4. REPORTS RECEIVED FOR INFORMATION

- 4.1. Report on New Registrants – Accepted and not discussed as per the Consent Agenda.
- 4.2. Report on Change of Registration Class – Accepted and not discussed as per the Consent Agenda.
- 4.3. Name Approvals – Accepted and not discussed as per the Consent Agenda.
- 4.4. Report on Facilities, Closed, New & Reaccredited – Accepted and not discussed as per the Consent Agenda.
- 4.5. Task List – Accepted and not discussed as per the Consent Agenda.

#### 5. ADJOURNMENT

##### 5.1. Next Meeting Date

Friday, September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 10:00 a.m., via Zoom.

**MOTION: THAT** the Open meeting be closed at 11:11 a.m.

**MOVED/SECONDED                      CARRIED**

**Council**

*Council took a break to return at 12:15p.m.*