



# College of Veterinarians of British Columbia

## Annual Report 2023–2024



cvbc.ca



The CVBC regulates the delivery of veterinary medicine in the province of British Columbia to ensure the public and animals are served by a competent and ethical profession.

## OUR Vision

*A community where veterinarians and the public work in harmony to advance the health and well-being of all animals.*

## OUR Mission

*To instill trust and confidence in a competent and ethical veterinary profession by leading and supporting veterinarians through compassionate, transparent, fair, and effective regulatory oversight of the practice of veterinary medicine.*

## What we Do

- We set and enforce the standards of practice for veterinary medicine in BC
- We ensure veterinarians meet the requirements to be registered to practise in BC
- We inspect and accredit veterinary practice facilities to ensure they meet the expected standards
- We respond to concerns regarding the conduct and competency of a veterinarian by investigating complaints and initiating regulatory actions where appropriate
- We address unauthorized practice of veterinary medicine





## College of Veterinarians of British Columbia

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# Leadership Message

## From the President

### Dr. Jane Pritchard – CVBC Council President

*The CVBC acknowledges the significance of professional survival, well-being, and dignity for each registrant. As the regulatory body for veterinarians in British Columbia, we must balance these values with our primary duty, which is to protect the public utilizing veterinary services.*

*As a registered veterinarian, you are governed by the Veterinarians Act.*

*The CVBC's role is to hold you accountable while providing veterinary service safely and ethically by adhering to established legislative standards. This accountability is upheld through the peer adjudication of complaints or self-regulation. This allows members in good standing to participate in the adjudication and discipline processes of their peers. We strive for diversity in these processes but rely on volunteers for this essential work.*



*An essential part of providing veterinary services to the public is to provide clients with a clear understanding of their choices, the costs, and the associated risks when seeking veterinary services. This transparency enables informed consent and must be documented in accordance with CVBC standards.*

*The CVBC's regulatory operations demand significant resources. Public complaints, new registrants, and costs are on the rise, yet our fees have remained unchanged for over 13 years, creating an unsustainable situation. Changes will be necessary to ensure the sustainability of self-regulation for veterinarians in BC.*

*I would like to take this opportunity to extend my heartfelt thanks to all CVBC committee members, both registrants and public members, as well as to the College staff who have navigated a particularly challenging year. Your dedication to managing difficult issues deserves recognition and respect.*

*A special acknowledgment is due to the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) project advisory group. We are grateful to its members for their dedicated efforts and passionate advocacy. Advancing EDI is amongst the College's highest priorities. We intend to complete a robust and independent assessment of the College's EDI landscape as it relates to the public, registrants, and the College's other stakeholders. We need that assessment to focus our educational needs to advance our EDI efforts. These efforts are underway with one component, a survey of registrants, executed in this fiscal year. We thank all those who responded. The Council has directed the Registrar to engage a reputable consulting firm specializing in EDI to conduct an informed needs assessment and provide the needed training for the College, Council, and Committee members. This initiative will enhance our understanding of how the CVBC can uphold respect for diversity, promote equity, and foster inclusion in all aspects of our operations.*

*In summary, while we face challenges related to resource allocation, the CVBC remains committed to its mission. Our profession's integrity hinges on our collective responsibility to ensure safe, ethical practices while continuously striving for improvement in diversity and inclusion within our ranks. Thank you for your ongoing dedication and efforts in making the veterinary profession in BC a respected and equitable field.*

## From the Registrar

### Christine Arnold – Registrar and CEO

*The College faces unprecedented challenges on multiple fronts.*

*The demands on the College in the past fiscal year broke various records, including in number of complaints received and reviewed, discipline hearings and pre-hearings held, discipline decisions rendered, and emergency responses required to address immediate risks to public health or safety.*



*The cost of discharging these core regulatory obligations is assessed at the current cost of goods and services, while registration and other College fees have remained unchanged since 2011 by registrant election. The unsustainability of this intersection of factors is evidenced in the College's increasing year-over-year deficits. Without intervention, the College is projected to face a liquidity crisis by June 2025 and become insolvent in FY'26.*

*The College is a creature of legislation, meaning that while it discharges its regulatory functions independently of government, its existence and the legislative framework that governs it are controlled by the provincial government. The College is working tirelessly with government to craft a path to sustainability, which may include a legislative overhaul, so that veterinary medicine may remain a self-regulated profession in British Columbia.*

*In the meantime, the College continues to operate as effectively as it can within its narrow resources. We have streamlined regulatory processes, negotiated reductions in fixed and third-party costs, and sought out and implemented efficiencies in every area of operation. The College is very fortunate to be served by a skilled and committed staff, to be supported by dedicated public and registrant members of committees and working groups, and to be led by a strong and qualified Council. While the challenges facing the College are immense, I am confident that we are establishing a path toward solid ground.*





# Committee Reports

## REGISTRATION COMMITTEE

The 2023-2024 fiscal year was again a busy year for the Registration Committee, and a year in which we continued to see growth of CVBC registrant numbers.

The Registration Committee meets monthly to review applications for registration that require the Committee's attention, and to discuss and develop policies.

The CVBC's 2021 bylaw amendment to establish the provisional supervised form ('PSA') of Private Practice registration for individuals in the process of completing the full series of qualifying examinations of the National Examining Board (required for graduates of non-AVMA-accredited veterinary schools) has continued to be a successful initiative. During this fiscal period, the Registration Committee approved 30 applications for PSA registration and 29 PSA registrants received their Certificate of Qualification and were granted full Private Practice registration.

General trends in registrant numbers continue to show growth. Total active registrant numbers have increased year-over-year, from 1916 (June 30, 2022) to 2042 (June 30, 2023) and then to 2129 (June 30, 2024), with the CVBC registering 195 new veterinarians during 2023-2024, compared to 219 new registrations during Fiscal 2022-2023, 191 during Fiscal 2021-2022, and 137 during Fiscal 2020-2021.

The number of board-certified specialists registered with the CVBC also grew, with 8 new full-registrant specialists (in Specialty Private Practice, Private Practice or Public Sector), plus 12 specialists who spent time in BC under Temporary registration. Specialties included Small Animal/Companion Animal Internal Medicine, Canine/Feline Practice, Large Animal Medicine, Small Animal Surgery,

Large Animal Surgery, Sports Medicine & Rehabilitation (Equine), Microbiology, Bacteriology/ Mycology, Virology, Immunology, Neurology, Poultry, Laboratory Animal Medicine, Radiology, Oncology, Dentistry (Small Animal and Equine), Cardiology, and Emergency & Critical Care.

## PRACTICE FACILITY ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE (PFAC)

The PFAC has had an extremely busy year of reviewing facilities for accreditation decisions. The PFAC has now accredited all the new facilities that were inspected via virtual inspection during the COVID pandemic (2020-2022).

PFAC noted after reviewing more than 75 follow-up in-person inspections of fixed facilities that the virtual inspections that preceded them were consistently able to ensure the facility met the standards prior to opening at a level that protects the public, staff and patients. This is great news to support the use of virtual inspection as a tool for the CVBC to evaluate facilities. Although the virtual tool is available as an option, more inspections are now occurring in person. The in-person inspection is still considered the best way to ensure the whole facility is clean, in good repair and safe.

The inspectors continue to inspect already accredited facilities for compliance with the accreditation standards. In cases where the facility is not resolving deficiencies, the PFAC may grant extensions with the ongoing goal of resolving them promptly. Although most registrants and their staff show high levels of co-operation in resolving deficiencies identified at inspection, the PFAC has been challenged this year with some who preferred to debate the standards or feedback of the inspectors. This led to delays in wrapping up the inspection process, and the use of resources for situations that could have been resolved sooner. Designated Registrants are cautioned that failure to meet the standards may result in a reaccreditation decision that limits or cancels accreditation.

A new policy on Accreditation of Non-Typical Facilities was finalized, along with a guide to accompany it. This was published to provide guidance to registrants who would like to accredit a facility that does not follow the traditional brick and mortar or mobile house-call/farm-call set-up that the standards address.

Mobile facilities offering limited services continue to seek accreditation, and these “limited scope” facilities are addressed in this policy. The rise in these requests is reflected in the growing numbers of active facilities we see every year.

PFAC also considered the review of the bylaws on accredited facilities that were presented by the office staff. It was acknowledged that current processes should be modified to improve efficiency and ensure the bylaws are always the framework for PFAC decisions. Due to the increase in number of facilities, it is anticipated that in the next five years under the current approach to facility accreditations, it would not be possible for PFAC to keep up and review all inspections. This process is ongoing and will be better laid out in two policies to be shared with registrants soon. These processes will also reduce the load on the PFAC sub-panel, who continued to offer their extra time to review motions between PFAC meetings at a very high frequency.

The PFAC continues to work with registrants who request Philanthropic Accreditation, and multiple humanitarian projects have occurred after review of the proposal to ensure the public is protected.

New members have joined the PFAC recently that have brought new insight and energy, and we appreciate all the time and efforts the PFAC members give in ensuring the facilities from which our registrants provide services are safe and compliant with the required standards.

## INVESTIGATION COMMITTEE

It was another busy year for the Investigation Committee (IC). The IC met a total of 10 times during the 2023/2024 fiscal year and reviewed 174 complaints following an investigation. In comparison to the previous fiscal year, the IC reviewed 8% more complaints in the same number of meetings due to the IC’s commitment to the changes flowing from the Cayton Report, including the implementation of the early resolution stream for low-risk complaints.

The most common issues identified by the IC continue to be client communications and professionalism, patient care and deficient medical records.

In reviewing the statistics for CVBC’s complaints and investigations for the 2023/2024 fiscal year, it is important to note:

- The CVBC received 237 complaints during the 2023/2024 fiscal year. This is a 9% increase in the number of complaints received compared to 2022/2023.
- The complexity and time-consuming nature of certain complaints considered by the IC has increased. Generally speaking, complaints that result in discipline are more complex and time-consuming for the IC to review. In the 2023/2024 fiscal year, the IC requested 32 consensual disciplinary outcomes where a registrant’s conduct and/or competency was determined to be unsatisfactory. This is close to a 160% increase in requests for consensual discipline when compared to 2022/2023.

Despite the increase in number of complaints and the complexity of certain complaints considered by the IC, the median processing time for complaints did not increase in the 2023/2024 fiscal year; it remained the same at 1.38 years.

Some additional challenges faced by the IC in the 2023/2024 fiscal year included:

- There was a substantial increase in investigations regarding registrants who may be suffering from a health-related matter that may be impairing their ability to practice veterinary medicine.
- The IC continues to contend with registrants who fail to cooperate with an investigation by either not responding to requests during an investigation or providing inadequate responses. Failing to cooperate with an investigation leads to delay and additional expenses for the CVBC.
- There continues to be a significant number of registrants who refuse to engage in consensual discipline when requested by the IC. In these situations, the IC is required to consider whether or not to direct a citation and refer the matter to the Discipline Committee for a discipline hearing. This has led to a delay in resolution of complaints and an increase in the number of citations directed over the last two fiscal years.

Currently, the biggest delay in the complaints process stems from the CVBC not having enough inspectors to handle the volume of investigations directed by the IC. Accordingly, registrants are invited to contact the CVBC if they are interested in potential inspector opportunities.

Finally, the IC would like to remind registrants that the art of veterinary medicine includes anticipating and de-escalating issues before they reach the level of becoming a complaint to the CVBC.

## CONTINUING COMPETENCE COMMITTEE

The first quarter of 2024 saw the Continuing Competence Committee's resolution of the 2021-2022 CE Cycle Audit begun in the spring of 2023. As reported last year, the audit consisted of both random audits (2.5% of all active registrants, n=43) and directed audits (any registrant who did not report their minimum-required CE hours by the end of the 2021-2022 CE Cycle; n=195). While the random audits were successfully concluded by Fall 2023, the directed audits generally took longer to resolve.

Of the 195 registrants who were subject to directed audits:

- 57 registrants were able to provide documentation to prove their completion of their required hours during the 2021-2022 CE cycle;
- 7 audits were placed in abeyance upon the registrant relinquishing their active registration status and transferring to inactive status; and
- 124 registrants who had not completed their required hours resolved their 2021-2022 cycle deficiencies through completion of their outstanding hours during 2023.

In April 2024, when presented with seven remaining audit files that still had outstanding 2021-2022 CE deficiencies despite the opportunities for resolution offered by the Committee throughout 2023, the Continuing Competence Committee resolved to refer the respective registrants to the Investigation Committee. The outcomes on these files are presently in the hands of that committee.

The audit represented the majority of the Continuing Competence Committee's workload during Fiscal 2023-2024. Other matters considered by the Continuing Competence Committee during the year included the review and decision on a CE Approval application referred to the Committee by the Registrar's Office and exploration of possible revisions to Continuing Competence Program bylaws and the policies created under the authority of those bylaws. The Committee also contemplated

its intended role (as established in the Governance bylaws) in the oversight of practice standard development and revision.

The CVBC's Registrar's Office reviewed and approved CE credit for 140 CE Approval Applications submitted by session providers. This approval process is carried out by delegation of the Continuing Competence Committee to the Registrar's Office and follows the requirements for CE sessions regarding content, format, presenter qualifications and verification of completion established by the Committee in the CVBC CE Approval Criteria Policy.

During Fiscal 2023-2024, the Continuing Competence Committee met by videoconference 5 times and separately conducted business by electronic vote on three instances.

## DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE

At the start of the 2023/2024 fiscal year, there were 15 citations that were outstanding. During the 2023/2024 fiscal year, a number of these citations advanced through the hearing process, which consists of the following stages:

1. Pre-hearing: the CVBC serves the citation on the registrant; the Discipline Committee sets a panel of three members to hear the citation (Discipline Panel); the CVBC and registrant disclose documents to each other; the Discipline Panel holds pre-hearing conferences and makes determinations on pre-hearing applications; the registrant and the CVBC prepare their witnesses for the hearing.
2. Hearing on liability: the CVBC and the registrant present evidence to the Discipline Panel (often through witness testimony); witnesses are cross examined; the Discipline Panel hears submissions on whether or not the registrant engaged in misconduct or incompetently practiced veterinary medicine.
3. Hearing on penalty and costs: the CVBC and the registrant present evidence and make submissions on the appropriate penalty and costs.

It was anticipated that a number of citations would go through all stages of the hearing process during the 2023/2024 fiscal year. Unfortunately, most citations did not proceed in the time frame



anticipated. This was the result of many registrants and their legal counsel seeking adjournments of hearing dates and bringing several pre-hearing applications. In the 2022/2023 and 2023/2024 fiscal years, the Discipline Panels have made 22 pre-hearing decisions or orders regarding 9 citations. Most of these decisions are or will be available for review on the CVBC's website.

The issues that have been raised by registrants and their legal counsel during the hearing process are legally complex. Accordingly, in the 2023/2024 fiscal year, Council approved the Discipline Committee Independent Legal Advice Policy to ensure that the CVBC's Discipline Panels have appropriate legal support. Pursuant to the policy, each Discipline Panel tasked with conducting a hearing into a citation will be provided with independent legal counsel. This brings the CVBC in line with the processes followed by other regulatory bodies and ensures that the hearing process is fair and efficient.

During the 2023/2024 fiscal year, the Investigation Committee concluded two citations by consent order, so they did not proceed to a hearing. At the close of the 2023/2024 fiscal year, there are 19 citations outstanding, which are at the following stages in the hearing process:

- Pre-hearing: 13
- Hearing on liability: 6
- Hearing on penalty: 0

In the 2024/2025 fiscal year, the Discipline Committee and its Panels will continue to work hard at advancing the number of outstanding citations through the various stages of the hearing process. Registrants are encouraged to review the Discipline Panels' decisions available on the CVBC's website. These decisions, particularly those on liability, will often clarify the expected standards of practice.



# Thank You

*Much of the CVBC's legislated regulatory responsibilities are required to be carried out by registrant and public members of Council and committees who contribute generously and tirelessly. The CVBC is profoundly grateful for them as well as for all those who participate on working groups and project advisory groups. Thank you for your invaluable service.*

## CVBC COUNCIL

Dr. Jane Pritchard, President  
Dr. Michele Martin, Vice President  
Gian Sihota, Treasurer, Public Member  
Harinder Mahil, Public Member  
Dr. Justin McLash  
Dr. Gigi Lin  
Dr. Kirsten Riphagen

## OUTGOING MEMBERS

Christine Arnold, Public Member  
Dr. Josh Waddington  
Kari Michaels, Public Member

## INVESTIGATION COMMITTEE:

Dr. John Bratty, Chair  
Dr. Terry Chatton  
Dulce Cuenca, Public Member  
Dr. Parmjit Dhillon  
Dr. Sarah Dyck  
Dr. Shawn Llewellyn  
Dr. Saman Moaveni  
Alison Paine, Public Member  
Gurminder Parihar, Public Member  
Dr. Janet Sunstrum  
Dr. Holly Tillotson  
Dr. Peter Watson



### **DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE:**

Dr. Ian Welch, Chair  
Carol Baird Ellan, KC, Public Member  
Dr. Carsten Bandt  
Keith Bracken, KC, Public Member  
Dr. Amy Cheung  
Dr. Teresa Cook  
Dr. Rayna Gunvaldsen  
Brad Kielmann, Public Member  
Dr. Davinder Kumar  
Dr. Tatjana Mirkovic  
Dr. Allan Runnells  
Dr. Catharine Shankel  
Herman Van Ommen, KC, Public Member

### **REGISTRATION COMMITTEE:**

Dr. Carsten Bandt, Chair  
Dr. Tej Paul Bhatia  
Katherine Crosbie, Public Member  
Dr. Margaret Henderson  
Dr. Simrat Kaur  
Dr. Trevor Reeves  
Dr. Anil Sharma

### **PRACTICE FACILITY ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE:**

Kim Holbrow RVT, Chair, Public Member  
Dr. Ian Welch  
Dr. Josh Waddington  
Dr. Elizabeth Davis  
Dr. Gurmeet Bhullar  
Dr. Dalwinder Toor  
Dr. Renu Sood  
Dr. Anil Sharma  
Kari Michaels, Public Member  
Carly Chaput RVT, Public Member

### **OUTGOING MEMBERS**

Christine Arnold, Public Member  
Dr. Heather Neely

### **CONTINUING COMPETENCE COMMITTEE:**

Dr. Jane Pritchard, Chair  
Dr. Ellen Boyd  
Dr. Theresa Burns  
Dr. Po-Yan Cheng  
Dr. Rosamund Harrison, Public Member  
Dr. Lisa Yee

### **OUTGOING MEMBER**

Dr. Emma Turner

### **NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE:**

Dr. Doris Leung  
Dr. Dalwinder Toor  
Dr. Jane Mancell

### **DENTAL STANDARD WORKING GROUP:**

Dr. Holly Tillotson  
Dr. Sylvia Hurdle  
Dr. Kristina Ringness  
Dr. Loic Legendre  
Dr. Adam Avitan  
Dr. Judy Rochette  
Dr. Thomas Sholseth  
Dr. Christiane Armstrong

### **EDI PROJECT ADVISORY GROUP:**

Dr. Doris Leung  
Dr. Emilia Gordon  
Dr. Avtar Jandi  
Dr. Satveer Dadwal  
Gian Sihota, Public Member

### **TELEMEDICINE WORKING GROUP:**

Dr. Grace Karreman  
Dr. David Kirby  
Dr. Justin McLash  
Garth Graham, Public Member  
Holly Davies, Public Member  
Dr. Ginger Langan



# College of Veterinarians of British Columbia

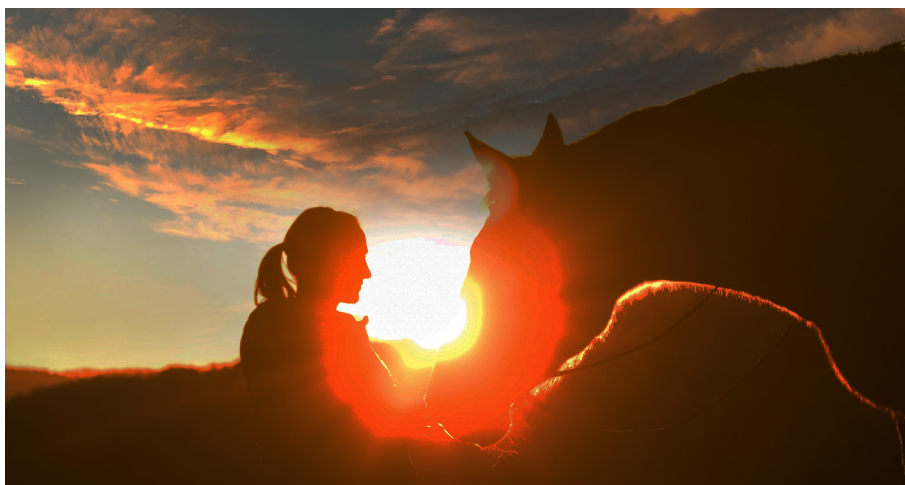
## CVBC Staff | Inspectors

### CVBC STAFF

- Christine Arnold, Registrar & CEO
- Dr. Stacey Thomas, Deputy Registrar
- Joel Walsoff, Deputy Registrar & General Counsel
- Dr. Sheila Rusticus, Director - Practice Facilities
- Rosalee Magcalas, Executive Assistant & Discipline Hearing Coordinator
- Irina Sear CPA, CFO & Human Resources Officer (on leave)
- Arlene Gizzi CPA, Financial Controller
- Ransiri Fernando, Legal Counsel
- Dr. Christine Smetschka, Senior Inspector
- Brittany Harmening RVT, Senior Inspector
- Christina Spring, Coordinator
- Johwena Si, Senior Coordinator
- Darcie Light, Senior Paralegal
- Nerisa Bernhardt, Paralegal
- Madison Garson, Paralegal
- Amneet Ghuman, Paralegal
- Lorelei Villasoto, Legal Assistant
- Nancy Robertson, Receptionist
- Kate Manskaia, Analyst
- Kirsten Tecson, Coordinator

### CVBC INSPECTORS

- Dr. Christine Smetschka
- Brittany Harmening RVT
- Dr. Kristin Baird
- Dr. Christine Clifton
- Dr. Jessica Gu
- Dr. Aleksandar Jovanovic
- Dr. Claire Kavanagh
- Dr. Brad McKell
- Dr. Chris Milligan
- Dr. Greg Parks
- Dr. Joanne Weetman
- Dr. Ben Weinberger
- Jim Westman
- Dr. Judy Currie
- Dr. Denis Anderchek
- Tinille McKenzie-Wyatt RVT
- Leanne Hillis-Schmidt RVT
- Dr. Thisuri Eagalle

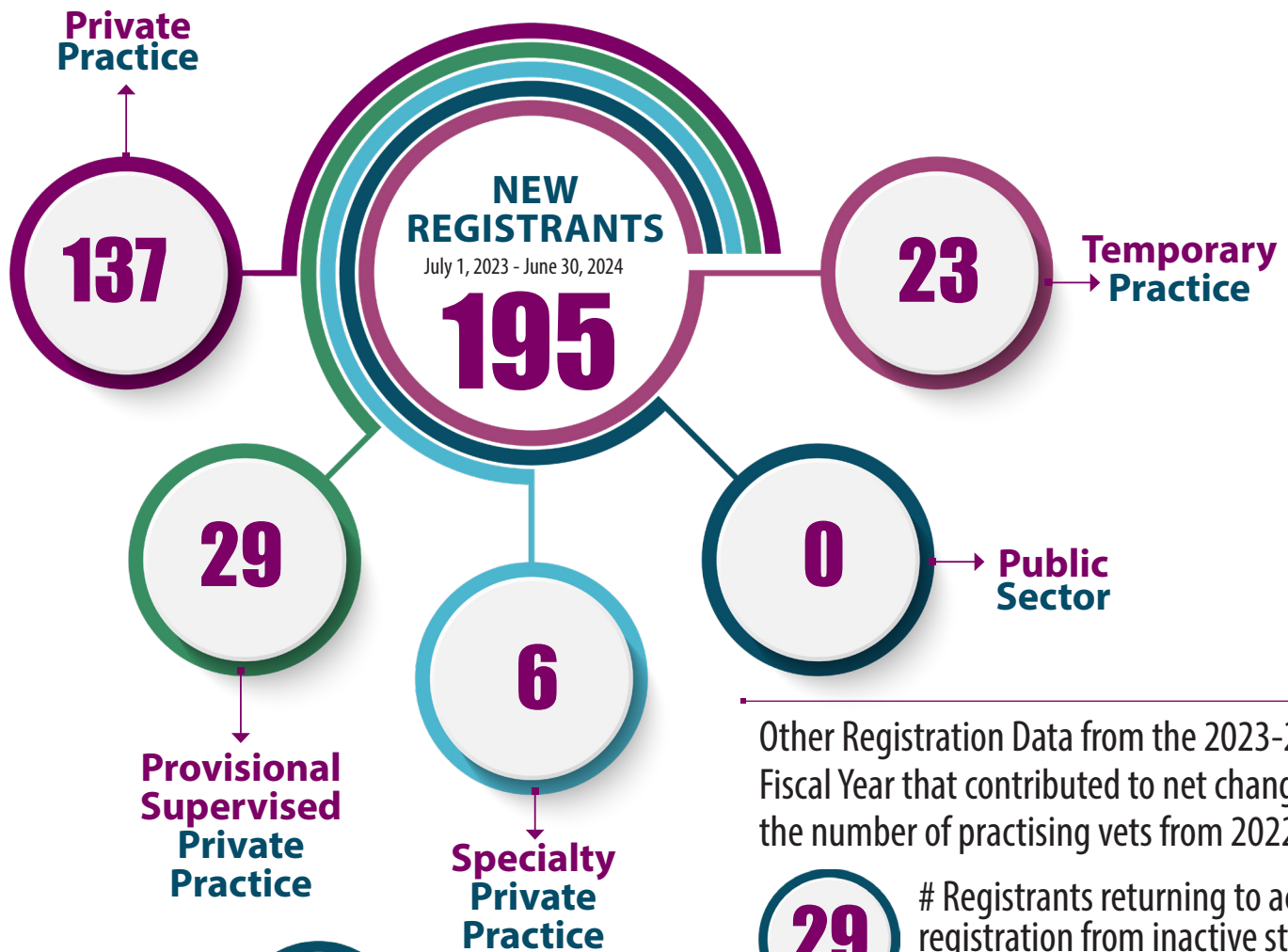




**CVBC**  
by the  
numbers

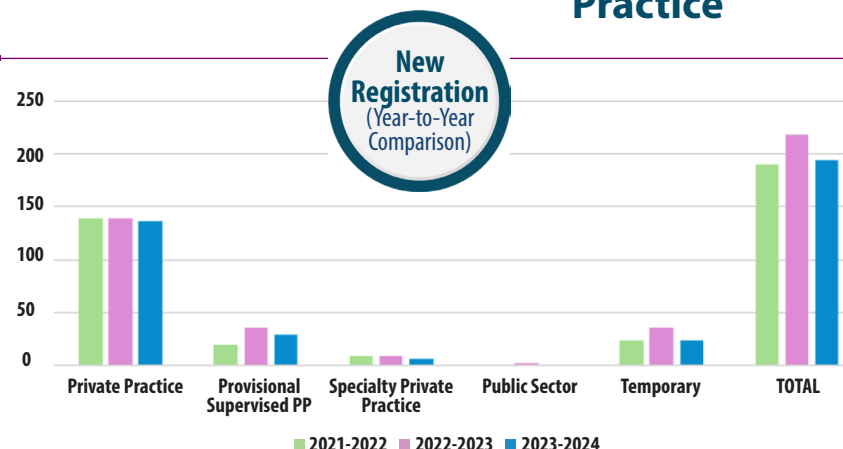
# New Registration Statistics

**42%** of new registrants were graduates of Canadian veterinary schools; 58% received their training outside of Canada



Other Registration Data from the 2023-2024 Fiscal Year that contributed to net changes in the number of practising vets from 2022-2023:

- 29** # Registrants returning to active registration from inactive status (Non-Practicing, Retired)
- 58** # Registrants who transferred out of active registration to an inactive status
- 65** # Registrants who became 'Former' registrants through resignation, cancellation or lapsing of a temporary license

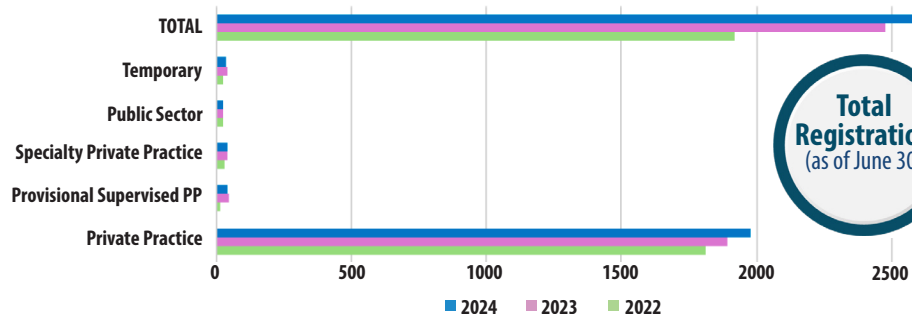






# CVBC by the numbers

## Total Registrations as of June 30, 2024



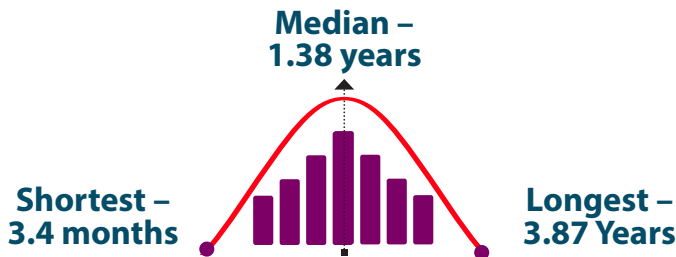


## CVBC by the numbers

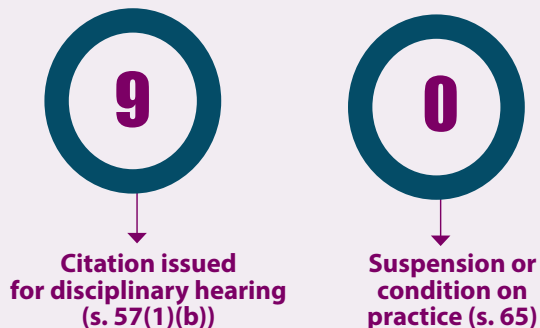
# Investigations Statistics



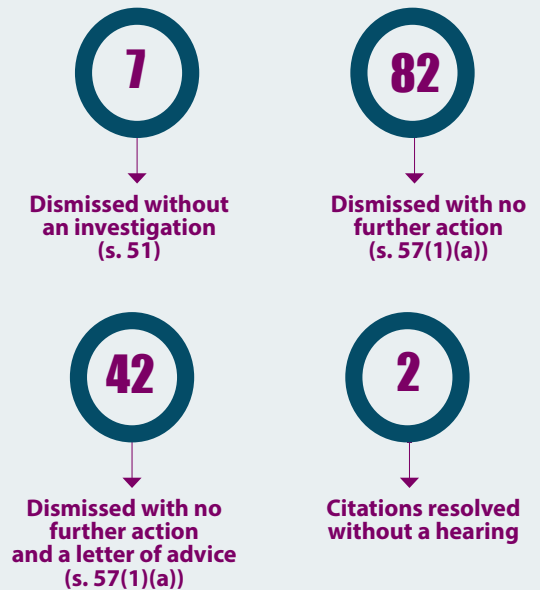
Time from receipt of the complaint to first s. 57 disposition decision of Investigation Committee



### DECISIONS TO TAKE FURTHER DISCIPLINARY ACTION



### Complaints considered by the Investigation Committee



### Decisions to request resolution by consent





**CVBC**  
by the  
numbers

## Practice Facilities Accreditation & Inspection Statistics



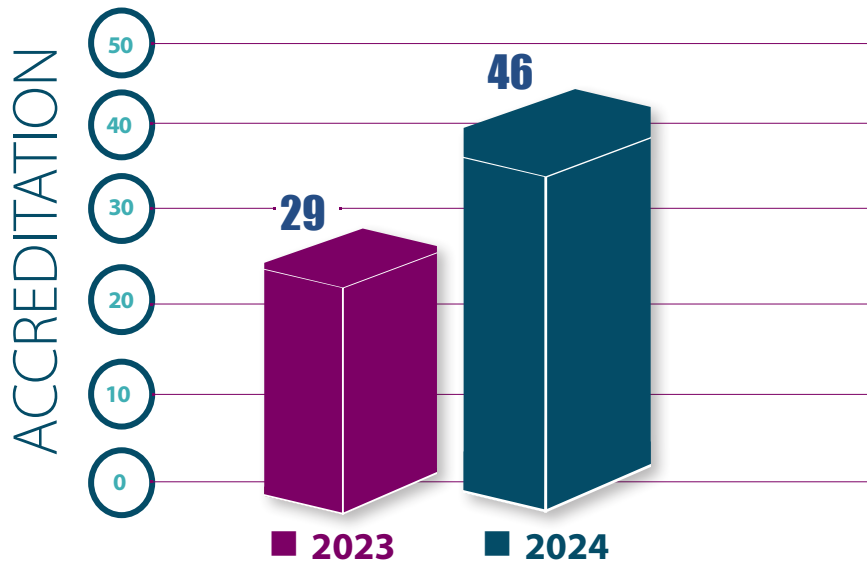
## TOP 5 FACILITY DEFICIENCIES

- Improper logging of controlled drugs
- Lack of recording of parameters in the post-recovery period
- No posted spill protocols
- No labelling of transferred digital radiographs
- Lack of dental radiology log

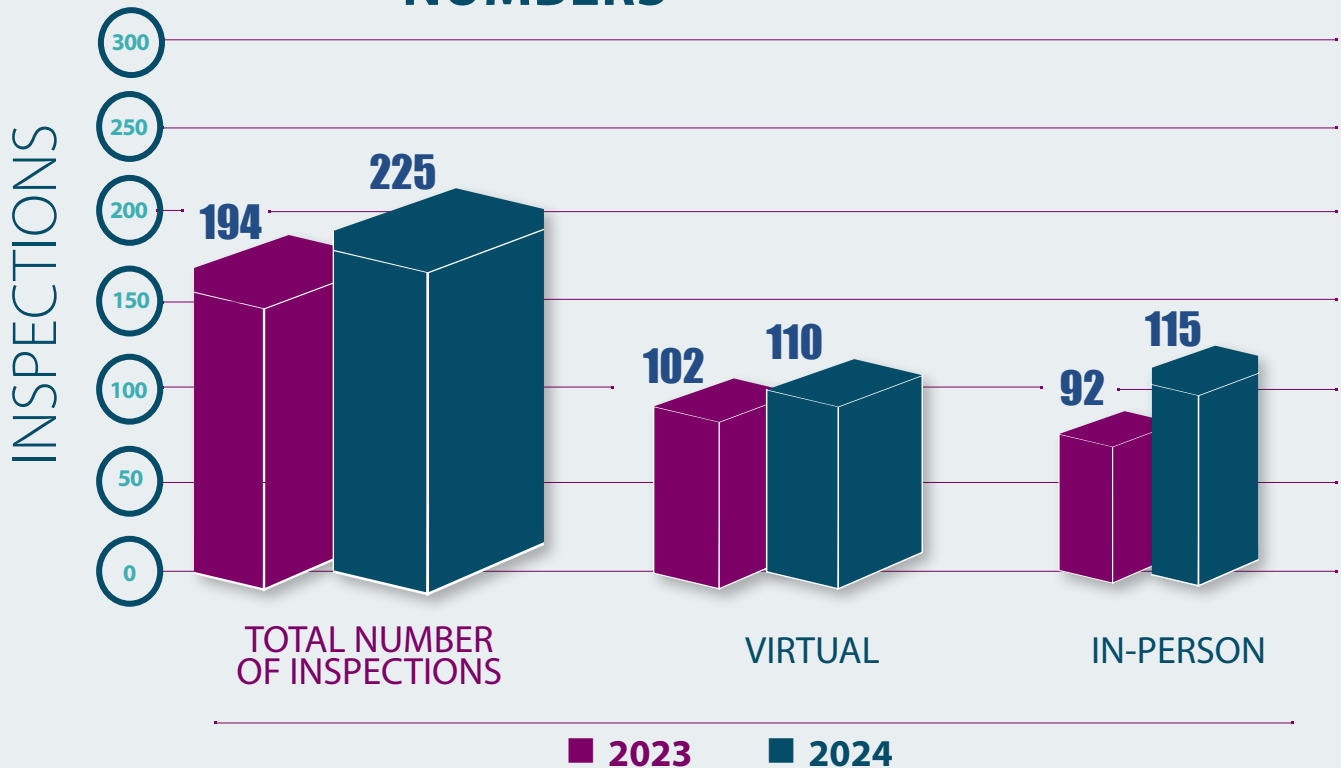




## PFAC NEW FACILITY ACCREDITATIONS



## INSPECTION NUMBERS

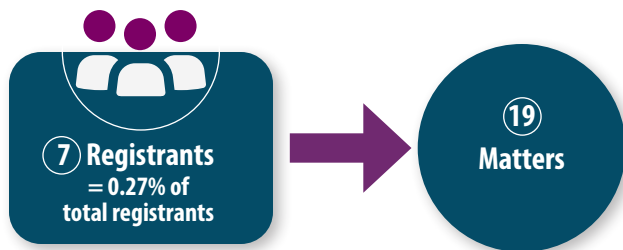




**CVBC**  
by the  
numbers

# Discipline Statistics

## 2024 Matters at Discipline Hearing Stage



Hearing Days

X



Discipline Committee  
3 member hearing panels

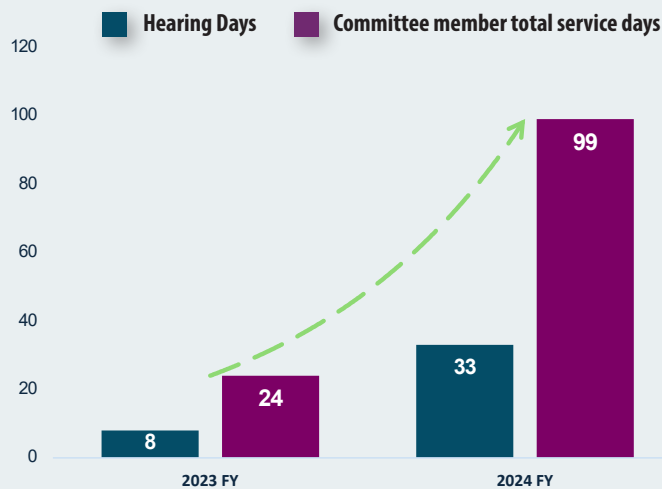
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Discipline Committee  
member service days

## 2023 FY & 2024 FY COMPARISON

### Hearing Days & Committee Member Total Service Days

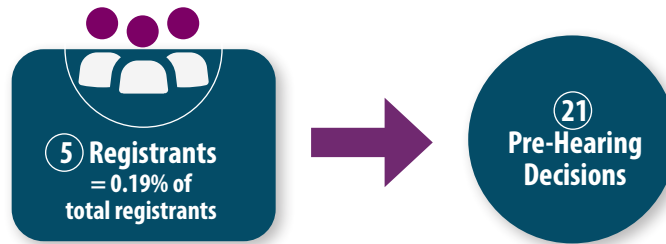




**CVBC**  
by the  
numbers

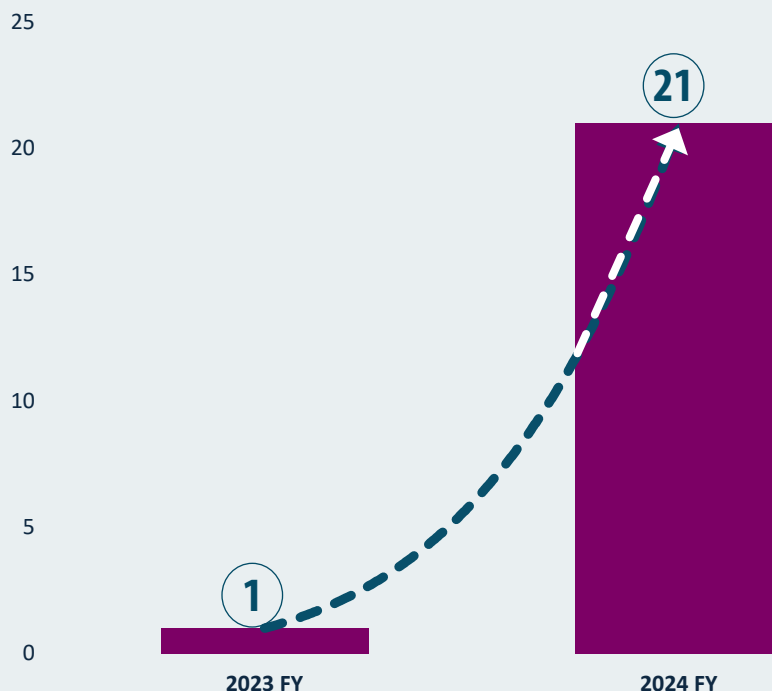
# Discipline Statistics

## 2024 Discipline Committee Decisions



## 2023 FY & 2024 FY COMPARISON

### Pre-Hearing Decisions

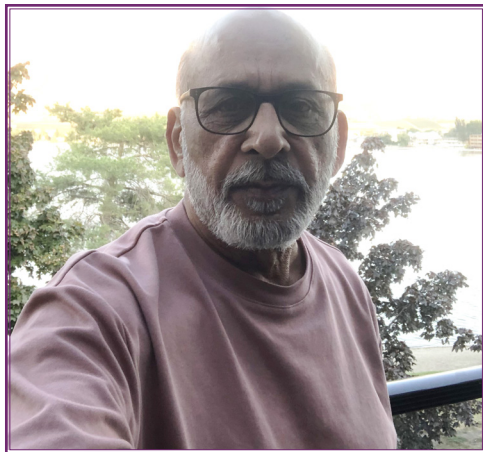






# Treasurer's Report

— with audited financials



Mr. Gian Sihota, CVBC Treasurer,  
Public Member

*In fiscal year 2024, the College ran a large deficit for the second consecutive year. The deficit this fiscal year was \$681K, resulting in a cumulative two-year deficit of almost \$1.2M. The College has remained viable despite the accumulated deficit due to the College's cash reserves, which were largely built from the one-time proceeds of sale of real property in 2017 and large surpluses during the COVID-19 pandemic when the College's operations were significantly reduced. The College's cash assets as at the end of FY'24 amount to about \$2.6M. However, pursuant to an indemnity agreement with the provincial government, \$1.6M of those cash assets must be maintained as capital reserves of the College's captive insurance fund.*

*Therefore, the cash assets functionally remaining and available to the College at the beginning of FY'25 are about \$1M. The estimated deficit for FY'25 is about \$1.3M. Accordingly, without intervention, the College is projecting a liquidity crisis by the last quarter of FY'25 and insolvency in FY'26.*

*The cause of the College's financial position is straightforward: the College's fees have not increased since 2011, a 13-year period in which inflation alone has accounted for a 34% increase in costs.<sup>1</sup> Additionally, the Cayton Report, delivered to the College in April 2022, identified that the College was failing to discharge its responsibilities in respect of one of its core regulatory mandates – addressing complaints – on almost every measure. In response, the College adopted the recommendations contained in the Cayton Report and committed to their implementation. As a result, the College's operations in complaints, investigations, and discipline were significantly heightened and improved, which came expectedly at a material cost. The deficits incurred by the College in the fiscal years since that commitment was made reflect the systemic and growing disparity between the College's sole material source of revenue, frozen since 2011, and the contemporary cost of regulating the profession of veterinary medicine in British Columbia.*

*Notwithstanding the overwhelming nature of this systemic and growing disparity, the College continues to prudently manage its financial assets and seek cost-saving measures wherever available. For example, by carefully monitoring term deposit options and negotiating rates, the College earned over \$260K in interest income in FY'24, up over \$100K from the previous fiscal year. The College also aggressively negotiated its office lease renewal and found creative ways to maximize the efficient use of its existing office space, achieving office costs that are below market value. Staffing, professional services, and facility inspection costs are all areas where efficiencies were also realized in FY'24.*

*As described elsewhere in this annual report, the College is working diligently with the provincial government to develop a systemic solution to its systemic challenges. In the meantime, the College will continue to exercise an informed, prudent, and active approach to managing its finances for as long as it remains a going concern.*



# College of Veterinarians of British Columbia

## College of Veterinarians of British Columbia Consolidated Financial Statements For the year ended June 30, 2024

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## Independent Auditor's Report

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To the Council of the College of Veterinarians of British Columbia

### Opinion

We have audited the accompanying consolidated financial statements of the College of Veterinarians of British Columbia (the "College"), which comprise the Consolidated Statement of Financial Position as at June 30, 2024 and the Consolidated Statements of Operations, Changes in Net Assets and Cash Flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

In our opinion, the consolidated financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the College of Veterinarians of British Columbia as at June 30, 2024 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.

### Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are independent of the College in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the consolidated financial statements in Canada, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

### Material Uncertainty Related to Going Concern

We draw attention to Note 1 in the consolidated financial statements, which indicates that the College incurred a deficit of \$680,618 during the year ended June 30, 2024 and \$495,610 during the year ended June 30, 2023. As of June 30, 2024, the College's current liabilities exceeded its available current assets by \$200,000. As stated in Note 1, these events or conditions, along with other matters as set forth in Note 1, indicate that a material uncertainty exists that may cast significant doubt on the College's ability to continue as a going concern. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

### Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Consolidated Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these consolidated 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 consolidated financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the consolidated financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the College's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the College or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the College's financial reporting process.

BDO Canada LLP, a Canadian limited liability partnership, is a member of BDO International Limited, a UK company limited by guarantee, and forms part of the international BDO network of independent member firms.



## Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Consolidated Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the consolidated financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these consolidated financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the consolidated financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit 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 College's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the College's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the consolidated financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the College to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the consolidated financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the consolidated financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

## Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

As required by the Societies Act (British Columbia), we report that, in our opinion, the accounting principles in Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations have been applied on a basis consistent with that of the preceding year.

*BDO Canada LLP*

Chartered Professional Accountants

Vancouver, British Columbia  
November 12, 2024

**College of Veterinarians of British Columbia**  
**Consolidated Statement of Financial Position**

As at June 30 2024 2023

**Assets**

**Current**

Cash and cash equivalents (Note 2)	\$ 1,615,305	\$ 3,538,980
Accounts receivable	3,466	15,779
Losses recoverable (Note 6)	20,776	15,217
Prepaid expenses	31,369	33,826
GST receivable	26,834	18,167
	1,697,750	3,621,969

Portfolio investments (Note 3)	2,584,268	1,214,922
Property and equipment (Note 4)	139,879	160,700
Recoveries on provision for unpaid losses (Note 6)	49,032	86,433
	\$ 4,470,929	\$ 5,084,024

**Liabilities and Net Assets**

**Liabilities**

**Current**

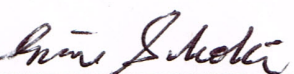
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 371,792	\$ 315,237
Deferred revenue - annual registration fees	1,460,272	1,414,456
Provision for unpaid and future claims (Note 6)	71,252	106,100
	1,903,316	1,835,793

**Net assets**

Unrestricted	854,913	1,579,915
Externally restricted (Note 6 (c))	1,600,000	1,600,000
Invested in property and equipment	139,879	160,700
Deficit of Captive Insurance fund	(27,179)	(92,384)
	2,567,613	3,248,231
	\$ 4,470,929	\$ 5,084,024

Approved on behalf of the Council:

 Signature President Title

 Signature Treasurer Title

The accompanying notes form an integral part of these consolidated financial statements.

## College of Veterinarians of British Columbia Consolidated Statement of Operations

For the year ended June 30	2024	2023
<b>Revenue</b>		
Annual registration fees	\$ 2,921,256	\$ 2,788,251
New registration fees	109,400	141,450
Inspection fees	180,570	145,810
Interest	261,492	154,899
Examinations	68,950	86,800
Fines and penalties	21,541	17,098
Recoveries and other	750	-
	3,563,959	3,334,308
<b>Expenses</b>		
Salaries and benefits	1,896,991	1,715,674
Office and other	159,362	200,207
Rent	126,603	119,697
Professional services	117,162	196,412
Facility inspection costs	150,438	185,414
Legal services	903,282	526,317
Regulatory investigations	301,304	330,675
Council and committee meetings	227,127	174,429
Information technology services	278,622	255,524
Amortization	33,399	38,226
Insurance	39,325	43,824
Staff development	6,187	10,061
Captive management fees	2,275	30,958
License fees	2,500	2,500
	4,244,577	3,829,918
<b>Deficiency of revenues over expenses</b>	\$ (680,618)	\$ (495,610)

## College of Veterinarians of British Columbia Consolidated Statement of Changes in Net Assets

	Unrestricted	Invested in Property and Equipment	Captive Insurance Fund	Externally Restricted	2024	2023
Balance, June 30, 2023	\$ 1,579,915	\$ 160,700	\$ (92,384)	\$ 1,600,000	\$ 3,248,231	\$ 3,743,841
Deficiency of revenues over expenses	(712,424)	(33,399)	65,205	-	(680,618)	(495,610)
Purchase of property and equipment	(12,578)	12,578	-	-	-	-
Balance, June 30, 2024	\$ 854,913	\$ 139,879	\$ (27,179)	1,600,000	\$ 2,567,613	\$ 3,248,231

The accompanying notes form an integral part of these consolidated financial statements.

**College of Veterinarians of British Columbia**  
**Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows**

<u>For the year ended June 30</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
<b>Cash provided by (used in)</b>		
<b>Operating activities</b>		
Deficiency of revenues over expenses	\$ (680,618)	\$ (495,610)
Items not involving cash		
Amortization	33,399	38,226
Recovery for unpaid and future claims	2,553	11,827
	<u>(644,666)</u>	<u>(445,557)</u>
Changes in non-cash working capital balances		
Portfolio investments - accrued income	(69,347)	(4,632)
Accounts receivable	12,313	(3,119)
Losses recoverable	(5,559)	(15,107)
Prepaid expenses	2,457	(10,906)
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	56,556	20,414
GST receivable	(8,667)	(7,524)
Deferred revenue - annual registration fees	45,816	83,113
	<u>(611,097)</u>	<u>(383,318)</u>
<b>Investing activities</b>		
Purchase of property and equipment	(12,578)	(15,592)
Proceeds on disposal of investments	1,200,000	3,442,347
Purchase of investments	(2,500,000)	-
	<u>(1,312,578)</u>	<u>3,426,755</u>
<b>Increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents during the year</b>	<b>(1,923,675)</b>	<b>3,043,437</b>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of year</b>	<b><u>3,538,980</u></b>	<b><u>495,543</u></b>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents, end of year</b>	<b><u>\$ 1,615,305</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 3,538,980</u></b>



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## College of Veterinarians of British Columbia

### Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements

June 30, 2024

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#### 1. Nature of Operations and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

##### **Purpose of the College**

The College of Veterinarians of British Columbia (the "College") is a statutory self-governing professional regulatory body created and empowered by the Veterinarians Act SBC 2010 c.15 (the "Act") of the Province of British Columbia. Its statutory mandate is to serve the public interest by regulating and upholding the standard of the practice of veterinary medicine in B.C. It does so by setting and enforcing standards of ethical and competent behaviour on the part of its registrants.

The Act and College By-laws including the Code of Ethics are the means by which the registrants of the College are licensed and regulated. The Act clarifies the public interest mandate and registration, complaint and discipline processes.

The College is a tax-exempt body under Section 149(1)(l) of the Income Tax Act.

The BC Veterinary Captive Insurance Co. Ltd. (the "Captive") is a subsidiary of the College. The College holds 10,266 (100%) of the common shares of the Captive. The Captive is incorporated under the Insurance (Captive Company) Act of British Columbia and is governed by the provisions of that Act and related Regulations which require the Captive to maintain a minimum shareholders equity of \$300,000. The Captive was in compliance with the \$300,000 requirement throughout the year ended June 30, 2024.

The College and Captive directors and officers were provided with liability insurance while providing their services.

The College's general operations are insured for liability with respect to bodily injury and property damage liability, products and completed operations liability, personal and advertising injury liability, employee benefits, tenants legal liability, and medical payments.

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## College of Veterinarians of British Columbia

### Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements

June 30, 2024

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#### 1. Nature of Operations and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

##### Continuing Operations

The College has incurred continuing annual losses over the past two years that have accumulated to over \$1.1 million as at June 30, 2024. The losses result from an increase in costs to deliver the mandated regulatory requirements, despite no increase in the registration fees since 2011. If this trend continues, the College expects to be insolvent within a few years. The budget for fiscal 2025 predicts a further \$1.3 million loss.

The registrants have consistently voted against an increase in the registration fees. As a result, the Provincial Government is considering amending the College's fees bylaw to increase all fees assessed by the College to amounts that reflect the increased costs to deliver the mandated services.

These financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations which assumes that the College will be able to obtain adequate funding or financing as required and realize its assets and discharge its liabilities in the normal course of operations. If the going concern assumption was not appropriate for these financial statements then adjustments would be necessary to the carrying value of the assets and liabilities.

##### Basis of Accounting

These consolidated financial statements have been prepared using Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations ("ASNPO").

The consolidated financial statements include the accounts of the College and the Captive. The Captive is wholly owned subsidiary of the College and intercompany balances and transactions have been eliminated upon consolidation.

##### Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents consist of deposits held with a financial institution that have a maturity of three months or less at date of acquisition.

##### Property and Equipment

Property and equipment are carried at cost less accumulated amortization. Amortization is calculated using the following annual rates:

Furniture and fixtures	- 20% declining balance basis
Computer hardware	- 20% declining balance basis
Computer software	- 20% declining balance basis
Office equipment	- 20% declining balance basis

# College of Veterinarians of British Columbia

## Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements

June 30, 2024

### 1. Nature of Operations and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

<b>Revenue</b>	<p>The College follows the deferral method of accounting for contributions. Annual registration fees are deferred and recognized over the registration year of January 1 to December 31.</p> <p>Special levies are recognized as revenue when approved by Council and collectability is reasonably assured.</p> <p>Examination are recognized when examination is taken. New registration and inspection fee revenues are recognized when levied.</p> <p>Interest and other revenue is recognized in the year when earned.</p> <p>Fines and penalties recognized when levied and deemed collectible.</p>
<b>Income Taxes</b>	<p>The Captive is a taxable entity and accounts for income taxes using the taxes payable method. The taxes payable basis is a method of accounting under which the Captive reports as an expense of the year only the cost of current income taxes for that year, determined in accordance with the rules established by the taxation authorities.</p>
<b>Provision for Unpaid and Future Claims</b>	<p>The College has historically recorded a provision for claims incurred during a particular fiscal year but not reported and any future claims based on amounts determined in accordance with accepted actuarial standards in Canada by qualified, independent actuaries. This reserve consists of discounted unpaid claims and loss adjustment expenses, estimated Provision for Adverse Deviation and policy liabilities in connection with unearned premiums.</p> <p>For fiscal 2023/2024, Management has recognized a provision based on their best estimate of the liability, using the information prepared by the actuary at April 30, 2022 and any new activity and information obtained since that time.</p>
<b>Financial Instruments</b>	<p>Financial instruments acquired or issued in an arms-length transaction are recorded at fair value upon initial recognition. Any equity instruments quoted in an active market are subsequently measured at fair value, with all other financial assets being subsequently measured at amortized cost less any impairment. All financial liabilities are subsequently measured at amortized cost. Financial assets are tested for impairment when changes in circumstances indicate the asset could be impaired.</p> <p>Transaction costs on the acquisition, sale or issue of financial instruments are expensed, except in the case of financial instruments measured at amortized cost where they are charged to the financial instrument.</p>
<b>Donated Services</b>	<p>The College and its members benefit from donated services in the form of volunteer time for various committees in excess of per diems. The value of donated services is not recognized in these consolidated financial statements.</p>
<b>Discipline Matters</b>	<p>The College records legal fees related to disciplinary actions as they are incurred. Recoveries of fines and costs are recognized as revenue when all matters relating to their realization have been resolved, the fine or penalty has been levied and the amounts are deemed to be collectible.</p>

# College of Veterinarians of British Columbia

## Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements

June 30, 2024

### 1. Nature of Operations and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

<b>Use of Estimates</b>	The consolidated financial statements have been prepared by management in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations. The preparation of consolidated financial statements in conformity with these standards requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported in the financial statements and accompanying notes. Actual results may differ from those estimates. The most significant areas for estimates relate to legal contingencies, the provision for claims, collectability of fines and penalties for disciplinary matters, provisions and recovery of legal costs from third parties.
<b>Employee Future Benefits Policy</b>	The College has an RRSP contribution plan. The plan is a defined contribution plan and contributions are expensed as entitlement occurs. All eligible individuals are entitled to a contribution by the College to their RRSP in the amount of 4% of their annual earnings.

### 2. Cash and Cash Equivalents

The College and Captive's cash accounts are held at a credit union within British Columbia and bear interest at market rates.

### 3. Portfolio Investments

	2024	2023
Non-redeemable annual term deposit		
- Matures on October 13, 2024 at annual rate of 5.250%	\$ 1,500,000	\$ -
Non-redeemable term deposit - Vancity		
- Matures February 1, 2025 at annual rate of 5.450%.	1,000,000	-
Operating escalating 3 year term deposit - Vancity		
- Matures on October 10, 2023 at annual escalating rates of 0.60%, 0.70%, and 1.1%	-	1,200,000
Accrued Interest	78,858	9,511
Vancity shares	5,410	5,411
	<b>\$ 2,584,268</b>	<b>\$ 1,214,922</b>

The College's investment policy is to invest conservatively with highly-rated counterparties with the objective of preserving capital while earning a reasonable rate of return.

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**College of Veterinarians of British Columbia**  
**Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements**

**June 30, 2024**

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**4. Property and Equipment**

	<b>2024</b>		<b>2023</b>	
	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Accumulated Amortization</b>	<b>Net Book Value</b>	<b>Net Book Value</b>
Furniture and fixtures	\$ 25,910	\$ 20,297	\$ 5,613	\$ 7,017
Computer hardware	188,496	149,657	38,839	34,399
Office equipment	49,415	45,583	3,832	4,790
Member registration system	223,620	132,025	91,595	114,494
	<b>\$ 487,441</b>	<b>\$ 347,562</b>	<b>\$ 139,879</b>	<b>\$ 160,700</b>

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**5. Income Taxes**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
Excess of revenues over expenses before income taxes	\$ (680,618)	\$ (495,610)
Adjusted for tax differences: College amounts not subject to tax	<b>745,823</b>	479,394
Deficit of revenues over expenses for tax purposes	<b>(65,205)</b>	(16,216)
Statutory rate	<b>13.00%</b>	13.00%
Expected income tax recovery	<b>(8,477)</b>	(2,108)
Loss carry-forwards not recognized	<b>8,477</b>	2,108
Income tax expense	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>

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**College of Veterinarians of British Columbia**  
**Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements**

**June 30, 2024**

**4. Property and Equipment**

	<b>2024</b>		<b>2023</b>	
	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Accumulated Amortization</b>	<b>Net Book Value</b>	<b>Net Book Value</b>
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Loss carry-forwards not recognized	<b>8,477</b>	<b>2,108</b>
Income tax expense	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>

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**College of Veterinarians of British Columbia**  
**Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements**

**June 30, 2024**

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**6. Provision for Unpaid and Future Claims**

	2024	2023
Net liability for unpaid losses (a)	\$ 6,512	\$ 6,512
Unpaid claims - losses recoverable (b)	20,776	15,217
Unpaid claims - unpaid losses recoverable	43,964	84,371
	<u>\$ 71,252</u>	<u>\$ 106,100</u>

- (a) An actuarial valuation of the claim liabilities of the Captive was performed by an independent actuary for the year ended April 30, 2022. Management has estimated the liability as at June 30, 2024.
- (b) The Captive has a confidential binding indemnity arrangement which indemnifies the Captive against all losses in excess of \$50,000 per policy year pursuant to the policies issued to the College.
- (c) As a condition of the indemnity agreement, the College must maintain capital reserves of the Insurance Company of not less than \$1,600,000.
- (d) The College as sole shareholder of the Captive relies on section 76 of the *Veterinarians Act* and section 1.33(1) of its Bylaws to discuss details of the arrangement only in closed meetings of the College's Council in order to maintain confidentiality conferred by its enabling statute.
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**7. Employee Future Benefits**

During the year, the College contributed \$54,979 (2023 - \$52,206) to employees' RRSPs.

Depending on their position, an employee is entitled to at least three weeks of annual paid vacation leave which increases depending on the position, length of employment and management discretion. These paid vacation days are accrued for as earned. As at June 30, 2024, the College accrued \$75,983 (2023 - \$78,037) for unused vacation and these amounts are included in accounts payable and accrued liabilities.

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## College of Veterinarians of British Columbia

### Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements

June 30, 2024

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#### 8. Commitments

The College entered into a premises lease for 7 years commencing November 1, 2017 and expiring on October 31, 2024. On January 1, 2024, an agreement was signed between the landlord and the College to extend the term for a period of five years commencing on November 1, 2024 and expiring on October 31, 2029. In addition, the College has entered into an equipment lease for 5.5 years commencing on March 1, 2022 and expiring on August 1, 2027. The minimum annual payments relating to these contracts are as follows:

	2024
2025	\$ 77,043
2026	78,548
2027	78,548
2028	75,962
2029	25,500
	<u>\$ 335,601</u>

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#### 9. Financial Instruments Risks

The College, through its financial assets and liabilities, is exposed to various risks. The following analysis provides a measurement of those risks as at June 30, 2024. There has been no changes to these risks from the prior year.

##### (a) Credit Risk

Credit risk is the risk that the College will incur a loss due to the failure by its debtors to meet their contractual obligations. Financial instruments that potentially subject the College to significant concentrations of credit risk consist primarily of cash and cash equivalents, portfolio investments and accounts receivable. The College limits its exposure to credit risk by placing its cash, cash equivalents and portfolio investments with high quality financial institutions, in accordance with investment policies adopted by Council. Additionally, the College mitigates credit risk related to accounts receivable by billing in advance of services, aggressive penalties on overdue accounts, and a review of overdue accounts on a regular basis. The College's losses recoverable are supported by an indemnity agreement with the Province.

##### (b) Interest Rate Risk

Interest rate risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates. The College is not exposed to significant interest rate risk as all rates on cash, cash equivalents and portfolio investments are fixed.

##### (c) Capital Risk Management

As required by the Insurance (Captive Company) Act of British Columbia, the Captive must maintain a minimum shareholder's equity of \$300,000. During the year ended June 30, 2024, the Captive complied with this requirement.

