



Get up-to-date information on the SBCV meeting with the Minister, and lots of other news



SUMMARY OF THE MEETING BETWEEN THE SBCV AND THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

Dear SBCV Members,

On July 2, the SBCV Board and staff met with the Honourable Lana Popham, Minister of Agriculture and Food, her Assistant Deputy Minister Eric Kristianson, and her Chief of Staff Samuel Godfrey.

The Minister expressed her sincere interest in meeting with us, explaining she had not heard from us, and could only base her current information on what she heard from the CVBC and a few veterinarians. She was most appreciative of hearing directly from us as the voice of BC veterinarians.

The Minister explained that the volume of time and energy on the veterinarians' file has presented a most difficult and extra challenging file for government, which wishes to respect self-governance. She felt her stability bylaw (the special one-time only fee of \$500, which the CVBC deemed due prior to June 13, 2025) was her only way forward and that the current situation at CVBC involved "complications."

The ADM confirmed that only the CVBC can regulate veterinary medicine and that, frankly, the government has made no progress with the CVBC. He said the insolvency claim came as "news" to them around 10 months ago, as their knowledge had been from annual reports which had not expressed any gravity around financial challenges. The SBCV agreed it presented the same surprise to us.

The question to the SBCV from the Ministry was what was the SBCV, as the voice of veterinarians, going to do?

We asked for clarity around the CVBC President's claim that the Veterinarians Act "has been assessed as not fit for purpose" (a claim made in the CVBC's written report to the CVMA presidents' meeting). We asked the Minister if she knew who deemed the Act not fit and whether or not the Minister agreed with that assessment.

The Minister explained she had no background on this claim. The ADM explained that in 2010, the Act was amended as it made sense to do so, and the legislature has not chosen to revisit the Act. It could only be presumed that the CVBC Council itself deemed the Act not fit; it was NOT government that deemed it so.

We asked for clarity around the Minister's intent to open the Act, and the Minister said it is too early to say. She has, however, appointed three new CVBC Council members: Raminder Pal Singh Kang, Raminder Kaur Pooni, and Wesley Howard Shoemaker. *[NOTE: under sec 4 (2) of the Veterinarians Act, (c) up to 4 individuals may be appointed by order of the minister; and under sec 4 (3) Individuals appointed under subsection (2) (c) must not be registrants, former registrants or individuals qualified to be registrants.]*

The SBCV then shared with her our view that the CVBC suffers from ineffective governance (including investigation strategies), poor financial management, and poor communication strategies. We used specific examples and statistics to inform the Minister.

We shared our distress at CVBC's decision to cut communication about legislative, policy, or other legal responsibilities underlying the College's operations with stakeholders including registrants and the SBCV. The CVBC had previously stated that such communications created "information asymmetry" which is why it decided not to continue such communications with individuals and groups. The SBCV has confirmed this claim of "information asymmetry" is irrelevant in this situation.

We explained to the Minister that we received legal advice and have a plan that we expect will substantially address the governance and financial issues at the CVBC. We advised the Minister that we value and appreciate the Minister's speed at appointing lay members with the skills, sensibilities, and experience required to get the CVBC on track to sound governance, which would include an appropriate Council-directed strategy on complaint investigations.

We will share details of our plan with SBCV members as we move forward. Due to a lack of CVBC transparency, we need to proceed carefully and be on solid ground as we unfold our plan.

We also confirmed to the Minister that we are willing and eager to work with the CVBC to better understand its situation and to offer our assistance to the CVBC to help it regain registrants' trust and support while also regaining financial stability. We advised the Minister that we had, in May and since, requested a meeting with the CVBC and none was forthcoming.

We do wish to advise our members that, after providing full information on our views and our plan to the Minister, she expressed that she felt hopeful for the profession based on what she heard from us.

We share that feeling of hopefulness and are working to find the best solutions for veterinarians and for the public. We care about our members, the profession at large, and the human-animal bond.

Now is the time to ask your colleagues, who may not be SBCV members, to join our Society. The more members we have, the louder we speak, and the greater our reach.

BC PROPOSES BAN ON EXOTIC CAT OWNERSHIP

The BC Government is proposing regulation changes that would ban the breeding, sale, and future ownership of all non-native and non-domestic cat species.

While lions, tigers, jaguars, leopards, and cheetahs are already regulated in BC, other exotic cat species are not, allowing them to be kept as pets. Animal-welfare organizations and wildlife experts with long-

standing concerns have called for regulatory measures to address the public-safety and environmental risks posed by exotic cats.

If approved, all exotic and non-domesticated cat species would be added to the list of approximately 1,200 species already designated as “controlled alien species” under the Controlled Alien Species Regulation in the Wildlife Act. This includes, but is not limited to, servals, caracals, ocelots, European and African wildcats, Asian golden cats, fishing cats, jungle cats, and marbled cats.

This change would provide consistent and enforceable guidelines to strengthen protections for communities, native wildlife, ecosystems, pets, and exotic cats themselves. It would also allow current owners to keep their exotic cats for the remainder of the animal’s life, provided they apply for a free permit and meet basic care and safety requirements. However, breeding, selling, or acquiring new animals from these species would no longer be permitted.

The Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship will continue to engage with the public as the proposed amendments move forward. To ask a question or comment on these proposed changes, email: controlledalienspecies@gov.bc.ca or learn more at <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/plants-animals-ecosystems/cas>

The SBCV Board is consulting with its Animal Welfare Committee and will be providing a thorough written response to these proposed changes. We will share that response in due course.



Toxic cyanobacteria blooms

In early July 2025, there were two suspect cases of cyanobacteria (Blue-Green Algae) algae poisoning in pets swimming in Nicola lake, near Merritt. Each year, it is expected that algal blooms may occur in waterbodies throughout BC in summer months.

[Click here to read the advisory.](#)

[Click here to read the CBC news article.](#)

NEW program at WCVM

The WCVM is launching a new Primary Care Experience — a 4-week summer rotation (starting 2026) that gives senior veterinarian students hands-on, practice-ready experience in primary care for small animals, horses, and livestock.

Interested clinics can join a quick Zoom info sessions on any of the following Wednesdays, from 7:00–8:00 p.m. CST

July: 16, 23, 30

August: 6, 13, 20, 27

[Click here to join Zoom](#) | Password: WCVM2027

Contact:

wcvm.curriculum@usask.ca |

306.966.7271 / 306.966.7109

[Click here for more info](#)

Society of BC Veterinarians has a new office address

We have moved to a new location.

Please update your records with our new address:

Suite 301 - 220 Brew Street

Port Moody, BC

V3H 0H6



Everything else (phone numbers, email addresses, and our unwavering dedication to our members) remains the same. Let us know if you have any questions.

DID YOU KNOW THESE THINGS ARE FREE?

PS4V — worried about a personal, professional, or regulatory issue? Need confidential peer support from a trained veterinarian? It's private — just for you.

Bullying and Harassment Investigation Assistance — got a WorkSafeBC bullying complaint? We may conduct the investigation (the decision is yours).

Wellness Wednesdays — wish you could improve your resiliency skills? Get free CE to develop and maintain your skills to handle burnout, bullies, and burdens.

Resiliency Toolkit — a resource list and other materials to help members to understand and practise mental health, mental wellness, and resiliency.

Business Briefs — find our one-stop-shop for everything a veterinary business owner, associate, locum or practice manager may wish to know. We've pulled it together in one document.

Private Facebook Group — just for SBCV members, it's a virtual place to connect, find SBCV documents, and seek support, clarity, or connections with members.



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