



College of Veterinarians of British Columbia

COUNCIL MEETING

Friday, November 21st, 2025
By videoconference

Minutes of the Open Meeting

Council Members: Dr. Jane Pritchard (President), Dr. Michele Martin (Vice-President), Mr. Gian Sihota (Treasurer), Dr. Justin McLash, Dr. Gigi Lin, Dr. Kirsten Riphagen, Ms. Raminder Pooni, and Mr. Wes Shoemaker

Regrets: Dr. Raminder Kang

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

Guests: Ms. Amanda Barker (BCVTA Liaison) (10:25)

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Pritchard at 10:00 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

2.4. Approval of Consent Agenda

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

MOVED/SECONDED

CARRIED

2.5. Minutes of September 12th, 2025 Open Council Meeting

MOTION: THAT the Minutes of the September 12th, 2025 Open Council meeting be approved as distributed.

MOVED/SECONDED

CARRIED

Direction: To post the approved September 12th, 2025 open meeting minutes.

3. ITEMS REQUIRING COUNCIL ACTION/DECISION/DISCUSSION

3.1. Update from the BCVTA (verbal)

Presented by the BCVTA Liaison.

3.2. Registration Committee Appointment

Presented by the Registrar and Deputy Registrar for discussion and decision.

An expression of interest for appointment to the Registration Committee was submitted by Dr. Gigi Lin. Dr. Lin's qualifications and suitability for the appointment were considered by Council. Questions were asked and answered.

Dr. Lin stepped away from the meeting for this discussion.

MOTION: TO appoint Dr. Gigi Lin to the Registration Committee effective immediately.

MOVED/SECONDED

CARRIED, with Dr. Lin abstaining.

3.3. Continuing Competence Committee Appointment

Presented by the Registrar and Deputy Registrar for discussion and decision.

An expression of interest for appointment to the Continuing Competence Committee was submitted by Ms. Raminder Pooni. Ms. Pooni's qualifications and suitability for the appointment were considered by Council. Questions were asked and answered.

MOTION: TO appoint Ms. Raminder Pooni to the Continuing Competence Committee effective immediately.

MOVED/SECONDED

CARRIED, with Ms. Pooni abstaining.

3.4. Retirement of Position Statements

Presented by the Deputy Registrar for discussion and decision. See **Appendix 'A'**.

Council discussed the merits and consequences of retiring the position statements. Questions were asked and answered.

MOTION: TO retire the Continuing Competence Committee's Position Statement for Continuing Education Program Content and Continuing Education Program Formats, effective immediately.

MOVED/SECONDED

CARRIED

Ms. Barker joined the meeting at 10:25 a.m. and delivered her report to Council.

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. Report on Facilities, Closed, New & Reaccredited - Accepted and not discussed as per the

5. ADJOURNMENT

5.1. Next Meeting Date

Annual General Meeting scheduled for Sunday November 30th, 2025 @ 11:00 a.m.

Next scheduled Council meeting, Friday, January 30th, 2026

MOTION: THAT the Open meeting be closed at 10:45 a.m.

MOVED/SECONDED

CARRIED



College of Veterinarians of British Columbia

MEMORANDUM

TO: **Council**
FROM: Stacey Thomas, Deputy Registrar
DATE: November 21, 2025
SUBJECT: **Open 3.4 – Retirement of CE Position Statements**

At its November 10, 2025 meeting, the Continuing Competence Committee undertook a review of 2 Committee Position Statements:

- *Continuing Competence Committee Position Statement: Continuing Education Program Content*
- *Continuing Competence Committee Position Statement: Continuing Education Program Formats*

These position statements were developed and adopted by Council in 2018 as early products of the fledgling CCC committee. They were intended to convey expectations for CE to registrants pending the development and publication of more robust formal policies to be created under authority of the CVBC's Continuing Competence Program bylaws.

Since their publication, Council has approved policies developed by the Committee to establish:

- A clear 2-year CE cycle for all registrants, as well as rules for proration of CE requirements based upon registration date of new registrants;
- CE reporting requirements for registrants;
- Protocols for CE audits; and
- Criteria for approval of CE sessions

The Committee undertook review of these Position Statements to determine whether they continued to be necessary as standalone documents and/or whether there was anything within the documents that should be retained but could be incorporated into an existing policy.

Review of the Position Statements confirmed that their content was either:

- Redundant +/- outdated as the point had since been incorporated (+/- further developed) within a policy;
- An overreach of the powers of the CCC and CVBC as established in the bylaws and therefore unenforceable;
- in contradiction to current requirements established through policy; or
- irrelevant or unnecessary to include in policy (reiterate the bylaws or presented as "recommendations").

While the Committee agreed that some of the content that falls within this latter point may be worthwhile 'food for thought', it would be more appropriate to include as narrative on the website (due to be updated) rather than to embed within a policy.

In conclusion, the Committee moved to recommend that Council retire both documents, effective immediately.

Provided:

- Copies of both position statements, with comments re each point's current relevance.

Required:

A resolution by Council to retire the Continuing Competence Committee's Position Statements for Continuing Education Program Content and Continuing Education Program Formats, effective immediately.



Continuing Competence Committee Position Statement: Continuing Education Program Content

Published June 7, 2019

The following is a position statement drafted by the Continuing Competence Committee and approved by Council.

The Continuing Competence Committee (CCC) recognizes that there are many different areas of Continuing Education (CE) with a variety of topics or subjects that may be considered appropriate for an individual registrant. The Committee's expectations are provided here for registrant guidance.

Expectations

1. Registrants are responsible for completing sufficient CE (inclusive of all subject matters) to maintain and further their skills and knowledge in all areas of their declared scope of practice.
2. Any CE claimed by a registrant must be appropriate for that individual registrant (it must be *relevant* to that registrant's current or intended scope of practice).
3. The Committee's expectation is that at least 50% of total required CE (i.e. 15 hours every 2 years) will:
 - a. be grounded in evidence-based medicine,
 - b. pertain to conventional therapeutic modalities (those universally taught in accredited veterinary colleges), and
 - c. reinforce or build upon the entry-level core competencies (*see Definitions*).
4. The registrant may be required to defend the relevance of the chosen CE to the CCC during the course of an audit.
5. CE content covering the following areas may be considered acceptable:

A. Clinical Veterinary Medicine and Science

Science- or Clinical-based CE (supported by research), which has been presented in peer-reviewed scientific literature or has been typically presented at/by accredited veterinary schools or nationally-recognized organizations or institutions. This would also include medical and surgical subject matter that is case-based, anecdotal and/or still undergoing scientific investigation. Programs discussing topics considered alternative and/or complementary are acceptable if designed for an audience of veterinary professionals;

B. Disciplines that have an impact on animal health and welfare

Includes nutrition, management, husbandry, behaviour, alternative & complementary therapies, etc;

C. Areas or topics that have an impact on the profession

Policy development, legislation, regulations and governance;

D. Topics that impact the delivery of veterinary services

Practice management, communication, professional ethics, conflict resolution, employment standards;

Other areas may be considered appropriate if they are relevant to animal health and welfare, and enhance a registrant's skill in the delivery of services.

Definitions

Core Competencies: The AVMA-CVMA Council on Education's "COE Accreditation Policies and Procedures: Requirements", Part 7 *Requirements of an Accredited College of Veterinary Medicine*, Standard 11: Outcomes Assessment, establishes the core competencies (as covered in all accredited veterinary school curriculae) as:

1. Comprehensive patient diagnosis, appropriate use of diagnostic tests, and record management
2. Comprehensive treatment planning (including patient referral when indicated)
3. Anesthesia and pain management, patient welfare
4. Basic surgical skills and case management
5. Basic medicine skills and case management
6. Emergency and intensive care case management
7. Understanding of health promotion, biosecurity, prevention & control of disease (including zoonoses and principles of food safety)
8. Ethical and professional conduct, communication skills
9. Critical analysis of new information and research findings relevant to veterinary medicine

Alternative/Complementary Medicine are the term(s) most often used to identify the increasing number of therapeutic modalities that are not universally taught in accredited veterinary colleges and therefore are not considered conventional therapy (as defined in the CVBC's "Guidelines for the Responsible Use of Alternative Therapies" – see Bylaws, Schedule D – Accreditation Standards).

Recommended CE Topics

Each year and/or CE cycle, the CCC and Council will identify a CE topic that has particular urgency or importance to the profession, to animals, and to the public. All registrants will be strongly encouraged to seek out CE relevant to that topic as soon as possible. It is anticipated that the coming bylaw revisions will give Council the authority to set mandatory CE topics as needed.

Legislative Authority

Veterinarians Act, s. 3(2)(c)

CVBC Bylaws, Part 1 – Governance, s. 1.2(4) and 1.51(2)(d)

Part 4 – Ethics and Standards, s. 253(1) and 254



Continuing Competence Committee Position Statement: Continuing Education Program Formats

Published October 31, 2019, replacing the June 7, 2019 version

Verification:

In all instances, attendance or completion must be verified in writing regardless of program delivery format and registrants must retain records for audit purposes.

Format:

The Continuing Competence Committee determines that various modes of delivery are (or may be) acceptable for CE, including:

- ◆ Seminars and conferences/conventions,
- ◆ Wet-labs and workshops,
- ◆ Degree or certificate programs offered by accredited academic institutions
- ◆ Interactive distance education or learning that is RACE-approved and verified with a certificate of completion (i.e. live on-line webinars, satellite conferences, teleconferences where two-way communication is possible)
- ◆ Non-interactive distance learning that is RACE-approved and completion is verifiable
- ◆ The CVBC may consider approval for distance-learning courses that are not RACE-approved, if presented/offered by AVMA-accredited veterinary colleges or North American veterinary regulatory bodies

Recommendations:

Attending in-person CE programs, with discussion and real-time instructor feedback is generally considered more valuable than the more passive nature of remote learning activities. A minimum of 50% of credit hours for each 2-year cycle are recommended to be acquired through in-person programs (conferences, seminars, wet-labs, workshops, degree/certificate programs attended in person at the offering institution, etc).ⁱ

Hands-on interactive experiences, such as wet-labs and workshops, are particularly valuable learning formats. Registrants are encouraged to self-assess deficiencies in their competencies and to seek out relevant opportunities wherever possible.

Audit:

Commencing in January 2021, CVBC appointed Inspectors will begin auditing a sample of 10% of registrants who will be randomly selected, to determine whether sufficient and appropriate CE credits have been reported, and whether supporting documentation exists for the reported CE credits.

Commencing in January 2021, the Continuing Competence Committee will consider referring deficiencies to the Investigation Committee in accordance with the Bylaws.

Legislative Authority

Veterinarians Act, s. 3(2)(c)

CVBC Bylaws, Part 1 – Governance, s. 1.2(4) and 1.51(2)(d)

Part 4 – Ethics and Standards, s. 252 to 258

ⁱ The current bylaws regarding the Continuing Competence Program are limited in scope, preventing the Continuing Competence Committee from setting firm requirements for CE format. Bylaw revisions will propose greater focus and responsibility for the Committee, converting “recommendations” to “requirements”.

