



## NEWS RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 16, 2019

#### **An Aquatic Pioneer in the Canadian Veterinary Profession Honoured with CVMA Life Membership**

TORONTO, ON –Dr. Jim Brackett is being honoured with a *Life Membership* to the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) for his significant contributions to the CVMA and veterinary profession worldwide.

“Over the years, Dr. Brackett assisted the CVMA in its active involvement with fish health and welfare, and drug approval and use issues,” states Dr. Terri Chotowetz, CVMA President. “He has been committed to the CVMA for many years and was the CVMA’s representative on the AVMA Aquatic Veterinary Medicine Committee.”

Dr. Brackett graduated from the Ontario Veterinary College, University of Guelph, in 1980 and after a few years in mixed practice he began fish farm health management consulting and managed a fish disease diagnostic laboratory in B.C.

He was a consultant for the provincial government on fish regulatory issues and served as a fish health regulations special advisor to Fisheries and Oceans Canada. Dr. Brackett founded Atlantic Fish Health Inc. at the University of Prince Edward Island’s Atlantic Veterinary College (AVC), and he founded and served as the first CEO of the BC Aquatic Health Sciences Centre. Until retiring in 2018, he was an owner and President of Syndel Laboratories Ltd., an aquaculture pharmaceutical company.

“Dr. Brackett, most importantly, was the strategic catalyst in securing the role of veterinarians in Canada’s federal aquatic animal health regulatory framework,” notes Dr. Larry Hammell, Professor and Associate Dean, Graduate Studies and Research, at AVC. “In 1991, he spent six months on an executive exchange with Fisheries and Oceans Canada to revise the Fish Health Protection Regulations, which at the time, was the only federal legislation encompassing aquatic animal health. For the next 12 years Dr. Brackett and a small group of aquatic veterinary colleagues steadfastly advocated for the inclusion of veterinarians in the management of aquatic animal health. In a watershed meeting in 2003, it was agreed that the federal responsibility for aquatic animal health should be moved to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA). The CFIA announced amendments to the Health of Animals Regulations in 2011, enabling veterinarians to manage aquatic food animal disease and production in the same manner as food animals derived from terrestrial farms.”

Dr. Brackett, along with being a CVMA member, is a member of the British Columbia and New Brunswick Veterinary Associations, as has membership and various roles in the Association of Aquaculture Veterinarians of BC, Eastern Aquatic Veterinarians Association, Canadian Association of Aquatic Veterinarians, World Aquatic Veterinary Medical Association, and the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA).

*Life Membership is presented to a CVMA member for long and outstanding service on CVMA Council, Executive, Boards and Committees, or for outstanding contributions to the veterinary profession.*

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*The Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) is the national and international voice for Canada's veterinarians, providing leadership and advocacy for veterinary medicine. Each year, CVMA proudly recognizes individuals and groups for their outstanding contribution to veterinary medicine. Visit [canadianveterinarians.net](http://canadianveterinarians.net) to learn more about CVMA.*

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