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NEWS RELEASE

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Canadian Veterinary Medical Association Leads Initiatives to Support Global and National Strategies to Reduce Antimicrobial Use

Ottawa, ON – From February 6 to 8, 2018, the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) will lead the second phase of two initiatives that support the global and national strategy to reduce antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and to improve antimicrobial stewardship and surveillance in animals.

“In light of upcoming federal government policy and regulatory changes affecting the use of antimicrobials in animals, the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association has been actively engaged in activities intended to support a new approach towards veterinary oversight of antimicrobial use,” says 2017-18 CVMA President, Dr. Troye McPherson.

Both initiatives have been underway since early 2017, with the financial support from the Canadian Food Inspection Agency and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.

Project activities have focused on developing ready-for-delivery, practical tools to assist veterinarians in the prudent use of antimicrobials for six defined species groups - swine, poultry, beef, dairy, small ruminants and companion animals, as well as conceptualizing, designing and implementing a pilot veterinary AMU surveillance initiative that focuses initially on animal feed..

“Linking the two activities into one workshop will help identify opportunities where AMU stewardship can help target surveillance activities and, vice versa, where surveillance data can support stewardship activities,” says Dr. McPherson. “The end goal is to design a pilot initiative or initiatives in the form of a prototype that we can use in targeted regions and agricultural sectors to initiate veterinary-based AMU surveillance in Canada.”

Workshop participants include veterinary practitioners, veterinary regulatory bodies, federal and provincial government representatives, industry officials (producers, feed and animal health industries) and academics

The work by the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association will help Canada’s commitment to conserve the effectiveness of antimicrobials now and into the future, in animals and humans, as described in Tackling Antimicrobial Resistance and Antimicrobial Use: A Pan-Canadian Framework for Action.

The Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) is the national and international voice for Canada's veterinarians, providing leadership and advocacy for veterinary medicine. Visit canadianveterinarians.net to learn more about CVMA.

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