



January 8, 2019

Dear Minister Morneau,

via e-mail: [budget2019@canada.ca](mailto:budget2019@canada.ca)

Re: AMR and the Federal Government Pre-Budget Consultations 2019

The Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) provides a national and international forum for over 5500 veterinarians working in all of Canada's provinces and territories as private general and specialist practitioners, researchers, educators and public servants. Veterinary practitioners provide services to owners of pets, livestock and other animals. Veterinarians use scientific knowledge and skills for the benefit of animals and society, and are key players in Canada's scientific and healthcare community.

Veterinarians are dedicated to addressing the current and growing risks associated with **antimicrobial resistance** (AMR). As you know, Canada has previously committed at the United Nations and the G20 to taking action against AMR. Such action requires a multi-sectoral One Health approach that considers humans, animals, and the environment as interconnected players in the development and spread of AMR. Currently, Canada's response has been inadequate. Multiple reports from experts have pointed this out over the past 2 decades, and the Federal Auditor General and the House of Commons Standing Committee on Health have both outlined Canada's failure to take this threat seriously.

Being able to take action on AMR starts with the Government of Canada taking a leadership position on this file, resourcing it adequately, and supporting the many recommendations that have been repeatedly made, including:

1. Supporting coordinated valid and reliable collection of data on human and animal antimicrobial resistance and use across the country;
2. Enhancing current public health and infection prevention, and control interventions that reduce the spread of drug-resistant infections;
3. Supporting the spread of antimicrobial stewardship beyond hospitals, and into primary care, long-term care, and the ag-food sector;
4. Supporting research and innovation dedicated to tackling AMR: diagnostics, drug development, clinical trials into best practices, and implementation science research.

We understand that AMR is not currently top of mind as you work on the 2019 budget, but you have an opportunity to reconsider how to make a difference for future generations by supporting our efforts in tackling this important challenge.

Sincerely,

Dr. Terri Chotowetz  
CVMA President

SR:TC/ds

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