

New Graduate Report

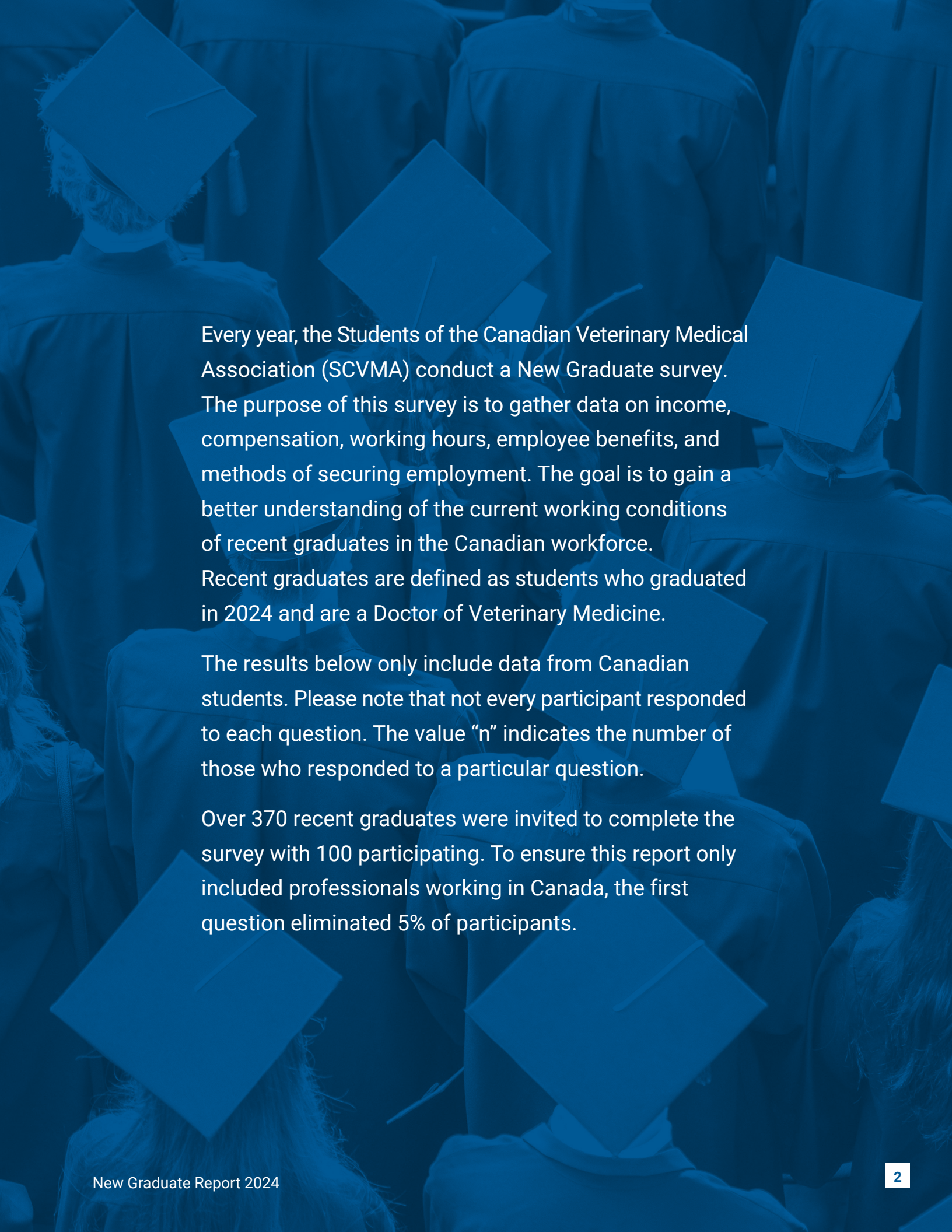
CLASS OF 2024



SCVMA • CEACMV

Students of the CVMA
Comité étudiant de l'ACMV



The background of the entire page is a photograph of a group of graduates in blue academic regalia, including gowns and mortarboard caps. The image is monochromatic, with a blue tint. The graduates are seen from behind, looking towards the right side of the frame. The text is overlaid on this background.

Every year, the Students of the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (SCVMA) conduct a New Graduate survey. The purpose of this survey is to gather data on income, compensation, working hours, employee benefits, and methods of securing employment. The goal is to gain a better understanding of the current working conditions of recent graduates in the Canadian workforce. Recent graduates are defined as students who graduated in 2024 and are a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine.

The results below only include data from Canadian students. Please note that not every participant responded to each question. The value “n” indicates the number of those who responded to a particular question.

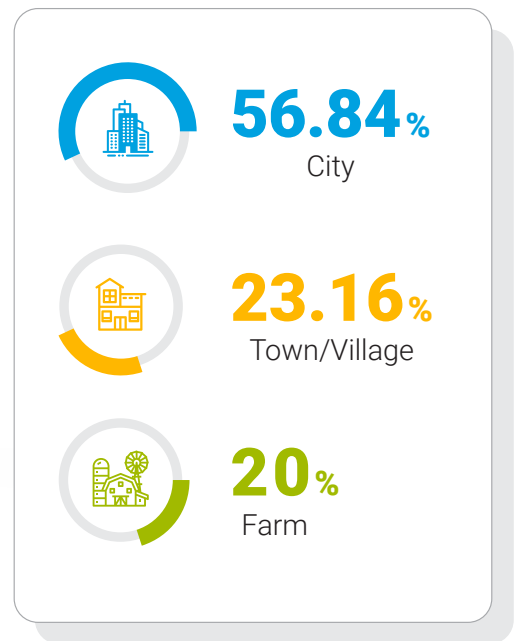
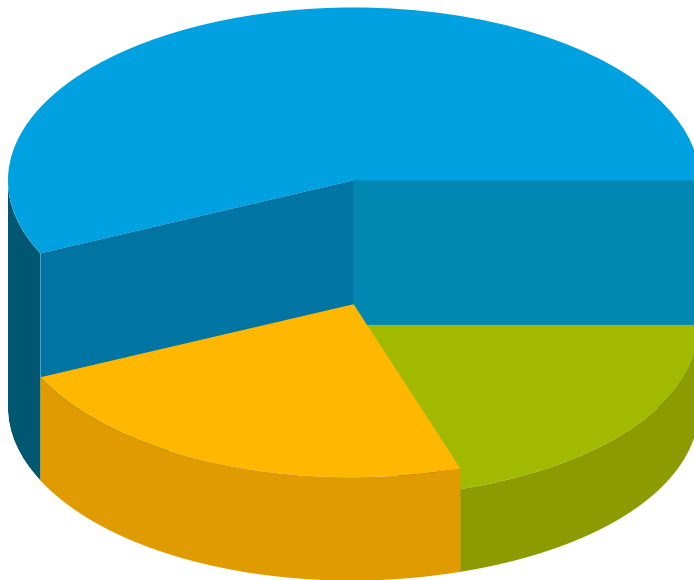
Over 370 recent graduates were invited to complete the survey with 100 participating. To ensure this report only included professionals working in Canada, the first question eliminated 5% of participants.

Demographics

Respondents were asked to choose the location that best described where they grew up. 20% grew up on a farm, 23.16% grew up in a town with a population less than 50,000, and 56.84% grew up in a city with a population greater than 200,000 (n=95).

Figure 1:

Location Where Respondents Grew Up (n=95).

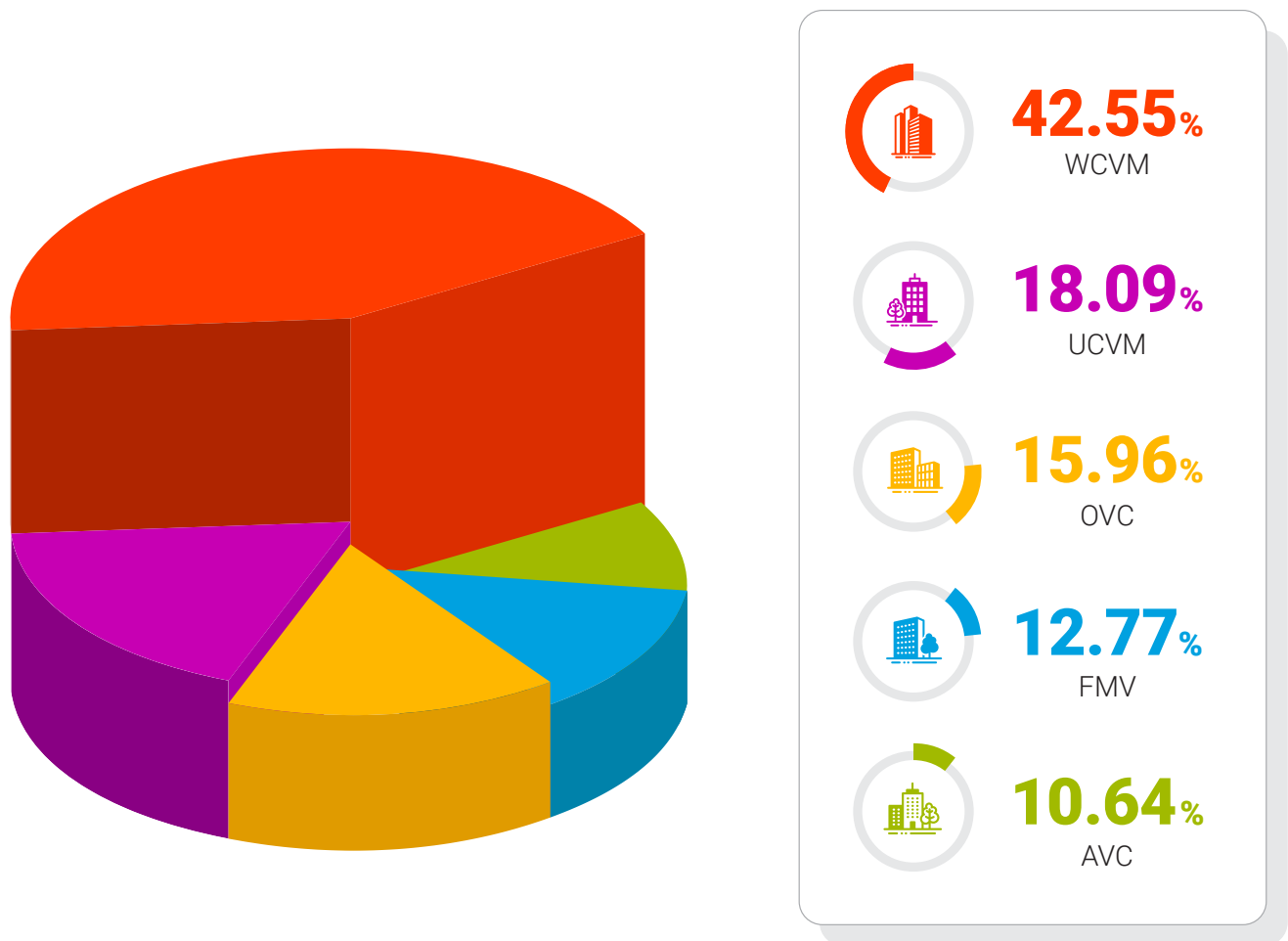


Demographics cont.

The majority of respondents graduated from the Western College of Veterinary Medicine (WCVM). Of the 94 respondents to this question, none indicated they attended a veterinary college in Canada as an International student.

Figure 2:

Graduating College (n=94)








Tuition and debt

Table 1 lists the approximate annual tuition cost (in CAD dollars) for full-time DVM students for each veterinary college in 2024.

Table 1:

Education Costs by Province

These costs do not include fees since they vary from college to college.

Canadian Citizen		
AVC		\$14,916.00
UCVM		\$14,500.00
WCVM		\$14,154.00
OVC		\$11,559.86
FMV		\$6,048.69*

*Tuition fees for Quebec students

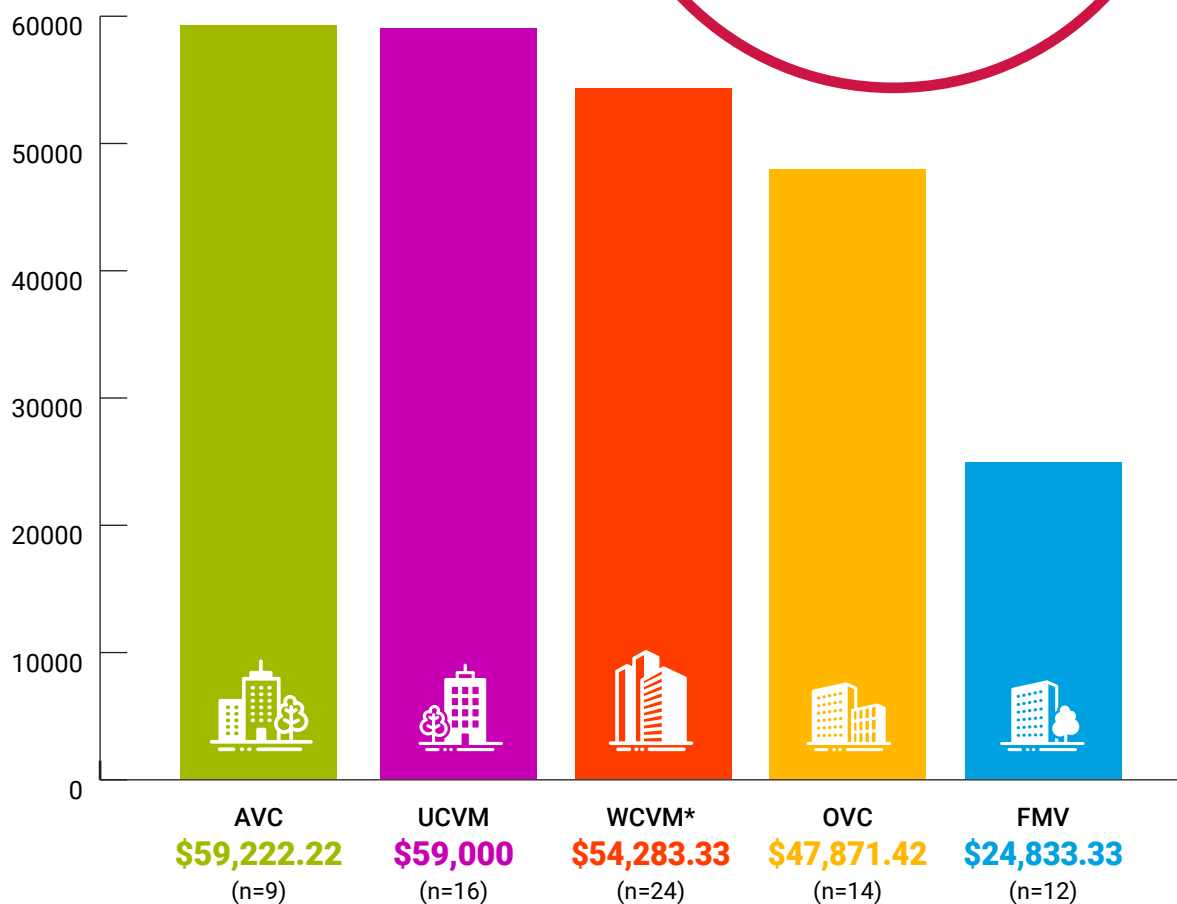
Tuition and debt cont.

Table 2:

Balance of student loans (n=75)

The national average
balance of student
loans upon graduation
from a veterinary
college in Canada was

\$49,042.06



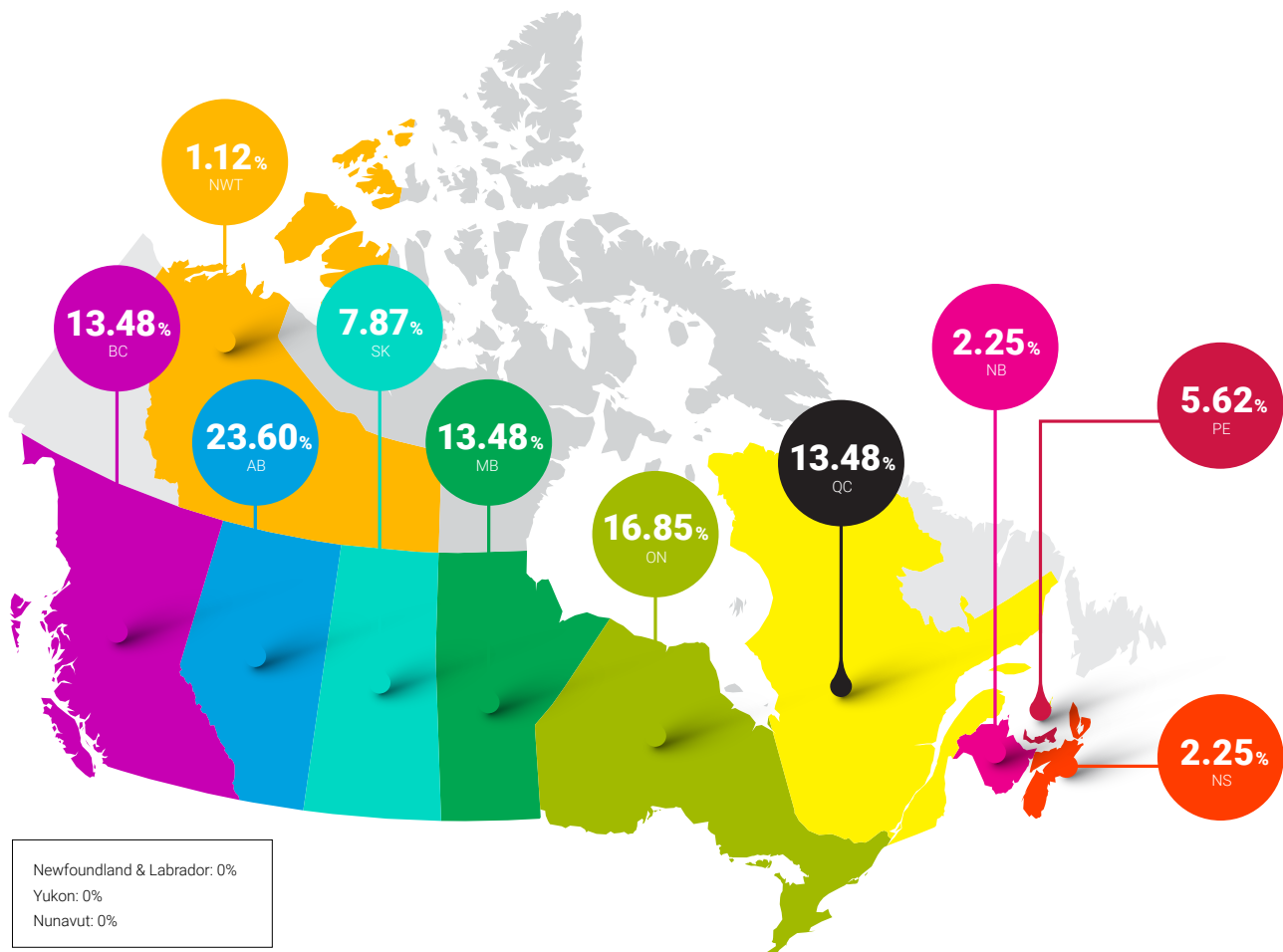
*\$240,439.00 (n=11) - Although these numbers were not included in the calculation of the national average or in the table above, it is important to mention that some students paid higher tuition fees because their place was not subsidized under the WCV's interprovincial agreement with its provincial partners.

Income and compensation data

To gain an understanding whether recent graduates (Figure 2) are currently employed in the same province that supported their education, we asked participants to select the province they resided in when they applied to veterinary college, and their current province of employment (n=89 and n=65 respectively).

Figure 3:

Province of Application (n=89)

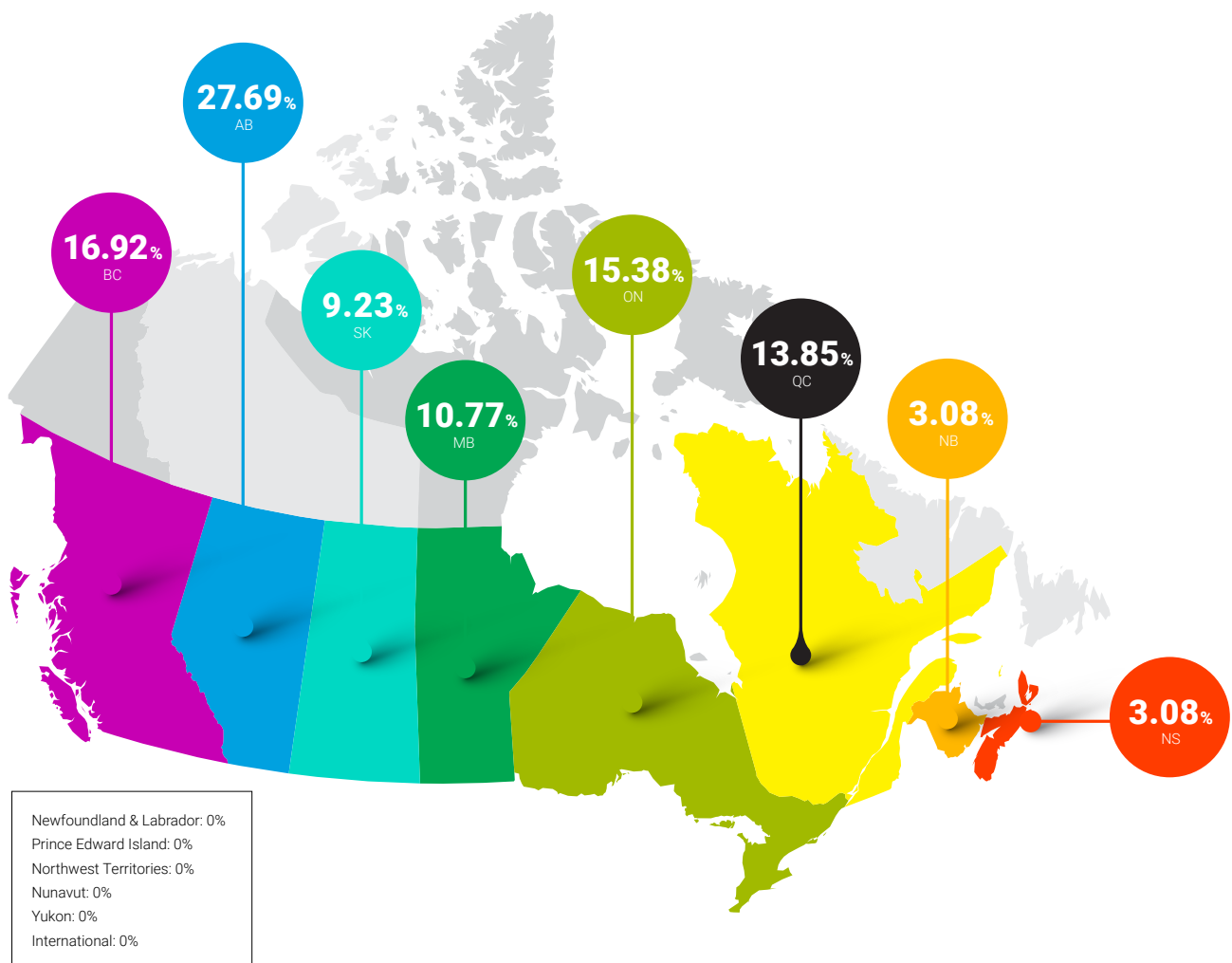


*Due to rounding, percentages may not always appear to add up to 100%

Income and compensation data cont.

Figure 4:

Province of Employment (n=65)



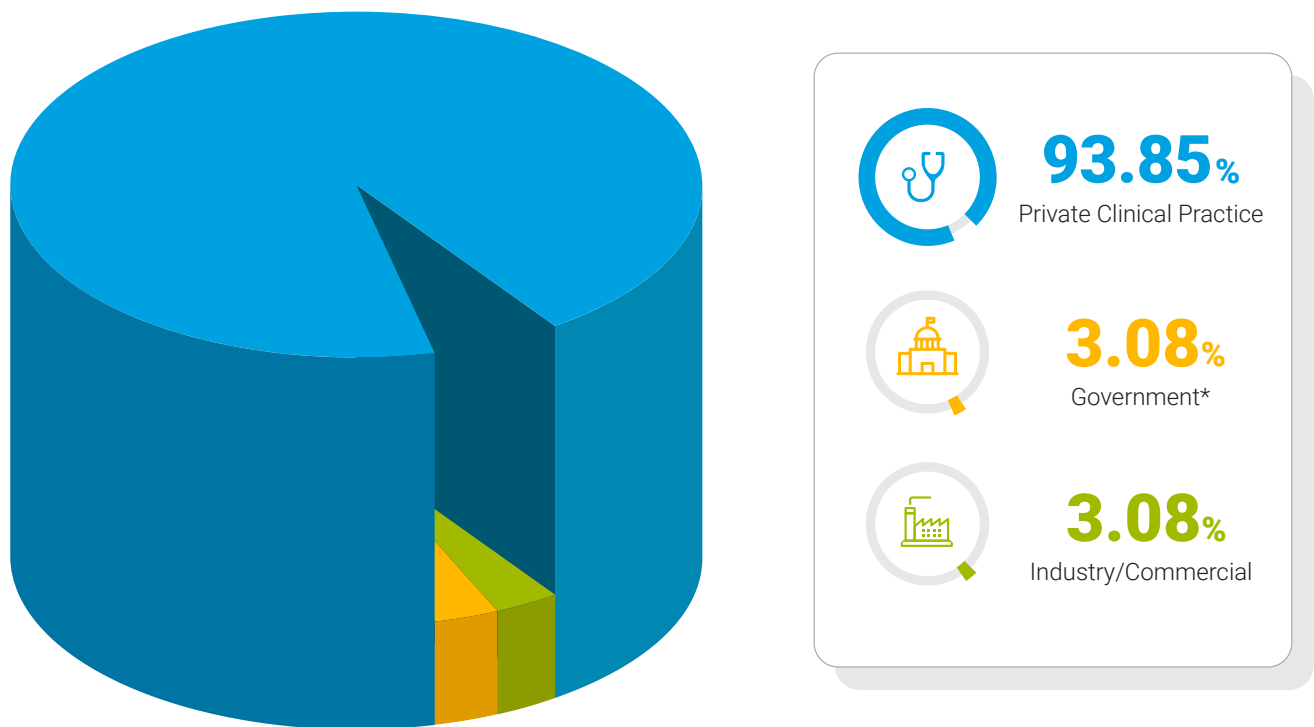
Respondents not engaged in internship or residency (n=65) indicated a mean annual base salary of \$103,409.00. For those graduates currently employed in residency or part of an internship (n=20) the mean annual base salary was \$57,007.00.

Employment data

Participants were questioned about their current positions, search methods, securing employment and other various queries. Figure 5 shows the employment type within the veterinary profession. Most graduates are employed in a private/clinical practice.

Figure 5:

Type of Employment (n=65)



*Government: Federal, Provincial, Territorial or Municipal

**Due to rounding, percentages may not always appear to add up to 100%

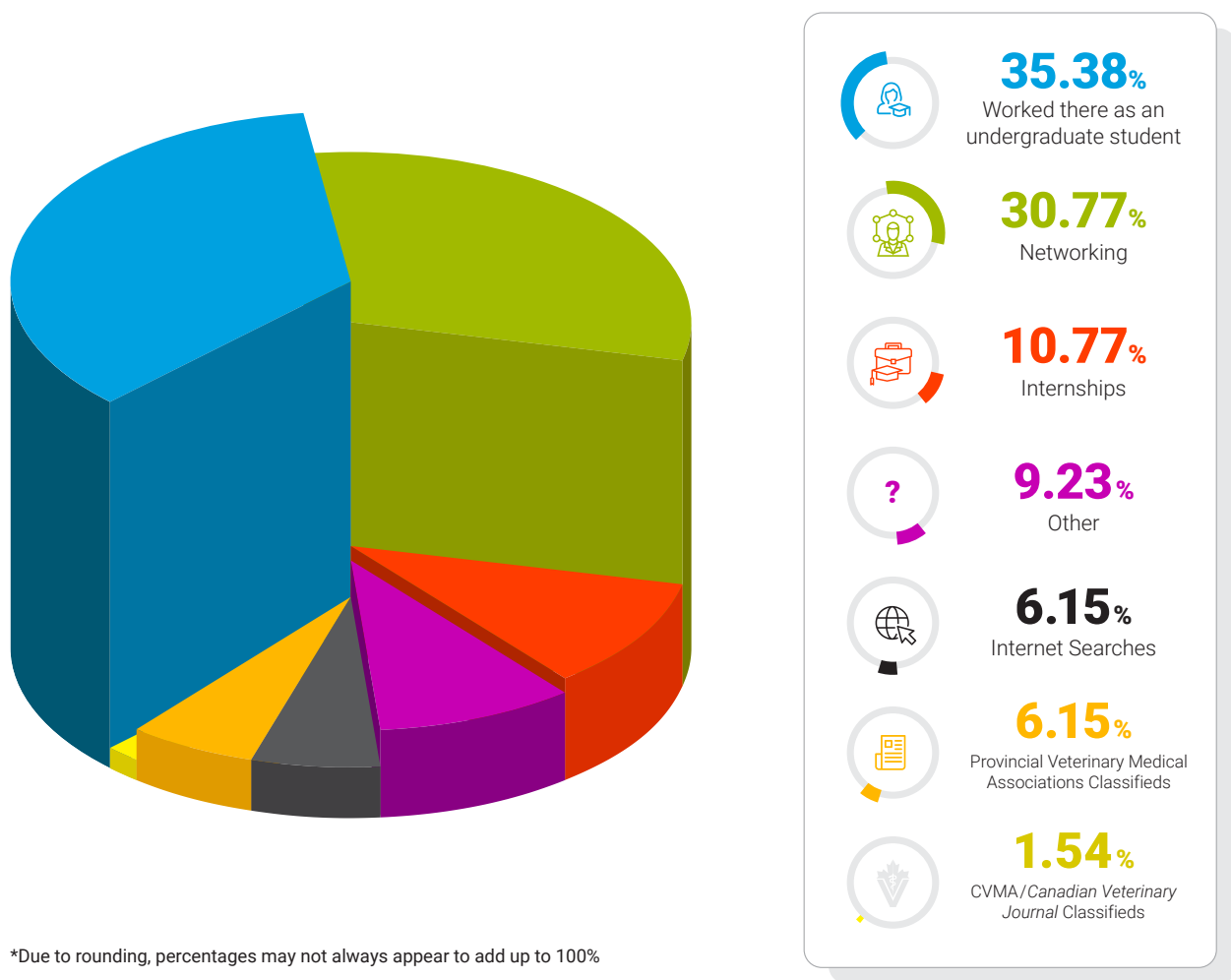
Employment data cont.

Of those employed, 84.62% secured employment before graduating.

The most popular search method that helped recent graduates secure employment was networking and working with the employer as an undergraduate student. Other search methods included summer externships, internet searches, word of mouth, approaching clinics personally, and email advertisements (n=65)

Figure 6:

Method of Employment Search (n=65).



Employment data cont.

Out of 65 respondents to a question on job satisfaction, 30.77% were very satisfied with their current position, 50.77% were satisfied, and the rest (18.46%) were either neutral, dissatisfied or very dissatisfied.

Out of 82 respondents to a question on career path, 86.59% of new graduates were following the same career path they intended upon graduating from veterinary college. Reasons that influenced one to change career paths included: Interests changed, changes in personal lives and unsatisfactory workload.

Graduates were asked to describe the three top challenges they've encountered as a recent graduate. The majority of respondents described issues surrounding lack of confidence, work-life balance and mentorship.



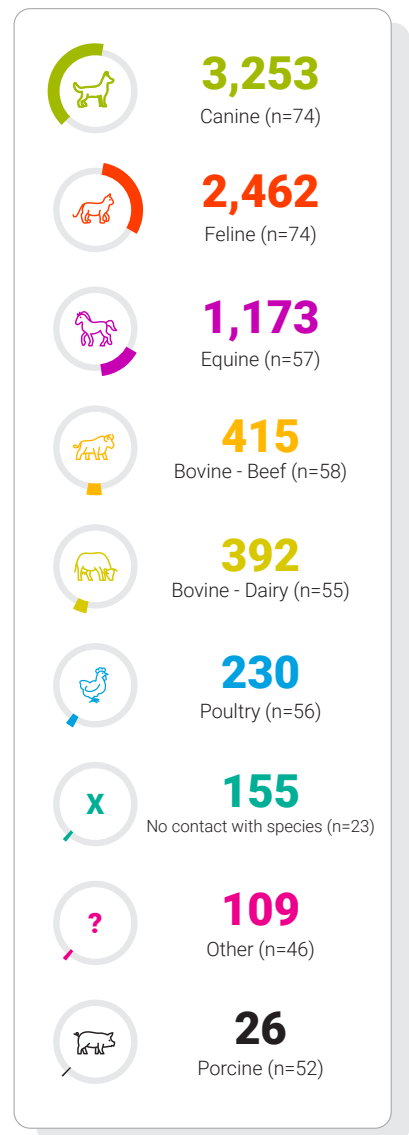
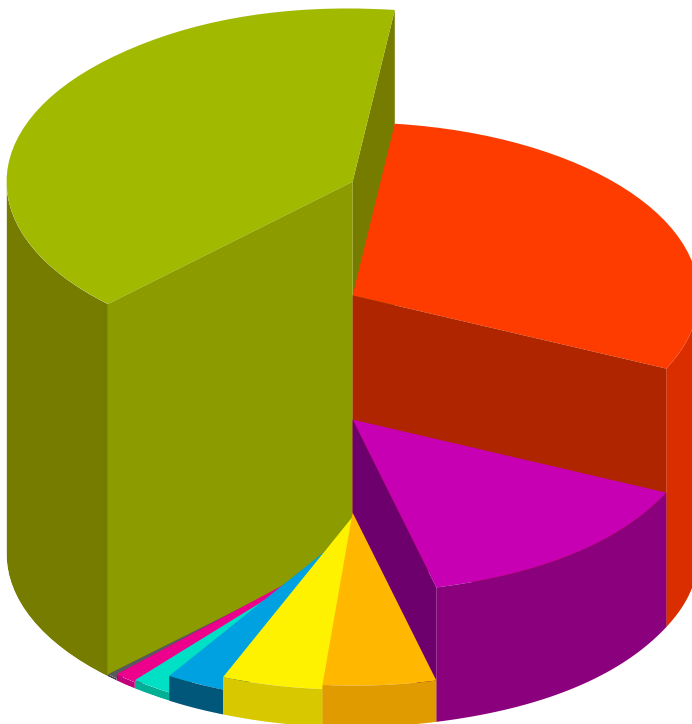
Working conditions

New graduate veterinarians worked an average of 46 hours per week (n=83). The results also showed they worked with an average of 5 full-time veterinarians and 2 part-time veterinarians, though answers were quite variable.

The figure below indicates the amount of time respondents spend treating various animal species.

Figure 7:

Number of Hours Worked
with Various Species (n=82)

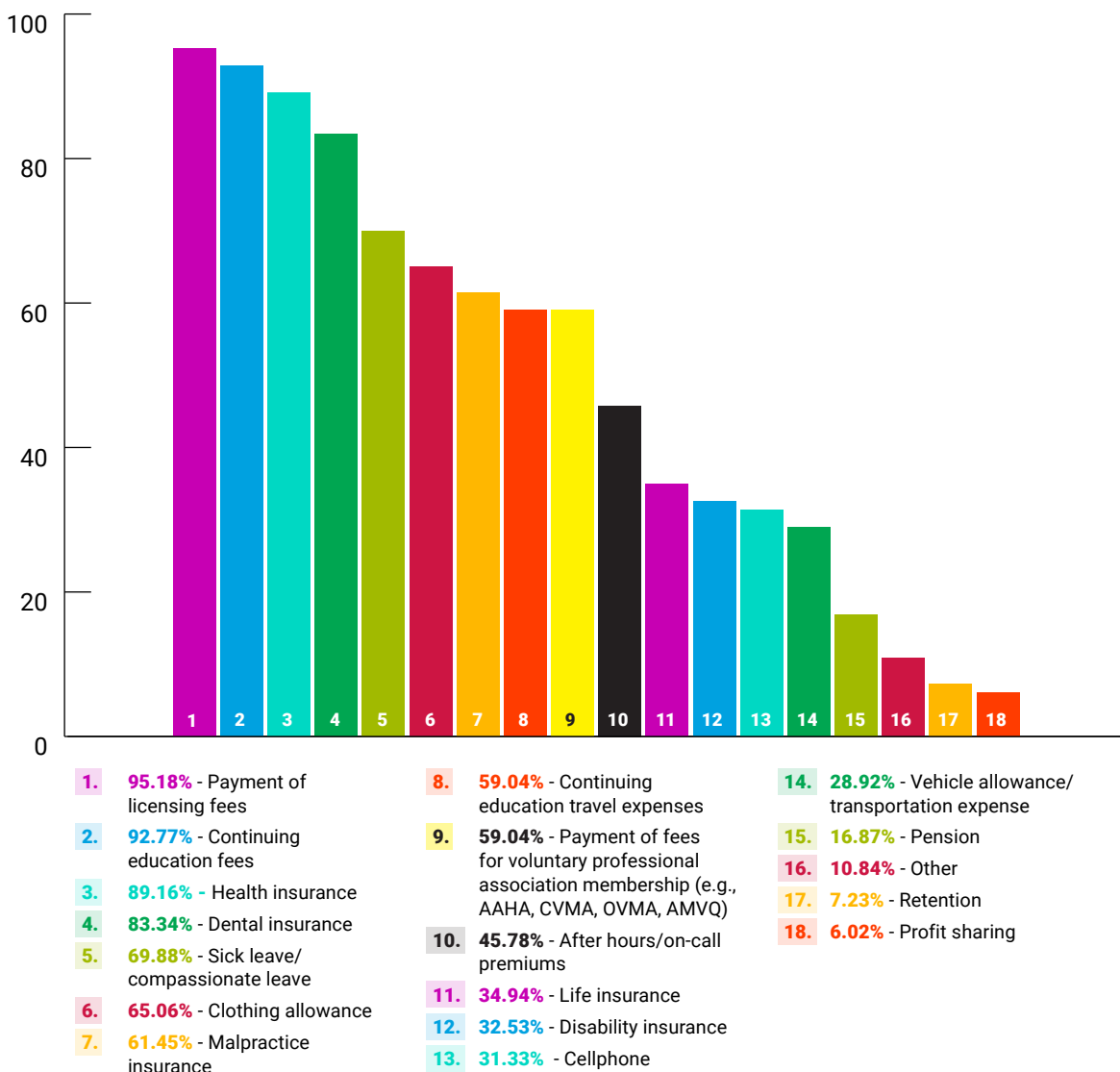


Working conditions cont.

In addition to their method of compensation, participants were asked to select which professional benefits are offered by their employer. The majority had their licensing fees paid (95.18%).

Figure 8:

Benefits Commonly Offered By Employer (n=83)



Other

All recent graduates are members of the CVMA, however we wanted to know which other professional organizations graduates were members of. Of the 81 who answered the question (some made more than one selection), 12.53% are members of the Ontario Veterinary Medical Association, 1.23% are members of the American Hospital Association, followed by 7.41% are members of the Association des médecins vétérinaires du Québec en pratique des petits animaux. In addition, 23.46% answered “Other” and 59.26% that they are not a member of any other professional organization.

On behalf of the Students of the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association, I would like to thank those of the graduating Class of 2024 that took the time to respond to our New Graduate Survey.



Matthew Tornopolski

University of Calgary Faculty of Veterinary Medicine
Class of 2026