



Canadian Veterinary
Medical Association
Association canadienne
des médecins vétérinaires

June 4, 2025

Hon. Majorie Michel P.C. M.P.
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6
Via e-mail - Marjorie.Michel@parl.gc.ca

RE: Congratulations from the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA)

Dear Minister Michel:

The veterinary professionals of Canada, including over 25,000 veterinarians, technologists and technicians, look forward to working closely with you and your department for the betterment of animal health and welfare and the economic wellbeing of our animal production industries.

Since 1948, the CVMA has proudly served as the national voice for Canada's veterinary profession. Our members are deeply engaged in protecting public and animal health, supporting food safety and security, and advancing animal welfare. We work closely with federal departments and agencies, including Health Canada, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, and the Public Health Agency of Canada, to promote science-based policy and practice.

Over the course of their career, a concerning proportion of veterinarians' experience burnout and mental health challenges, with one in five reporting suicidal thoughts. These alarming statistics highlight the urgent need to prioritize the well-being of veterinary professionals and their animal health teams by addressing the emotional toll of the profession on its practitioners.

To prioritize the mental well-being of veterinary professionals, the CVMA asks that the federal government advocate for and invest in enhanced mental health services specifically for veterinarians and work to address workforce shortages.

Furthermore, Veterinarians in Canada face significant challenges accessing essential pharmaceutical agents, including antimicrobials, anti-parasitics, analgesics, sedatives, and other critical medications necessary for animal health and welfare, public health, and food safety. Many critical drugs are currently unavailable to veterinarians to treat their patients due to supply chain challenges and manufacturers' reluctance to invest in the costly registration process overseen by Health Canada. For instance, there is a shortage of registered antimicrobial drugs needed to treat





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infections in livestock such as dairy cattle, swine, and poultry.

We ask that the federal government invest in ways to maintain and strengthen the availability of critical veterinary drugs in the interest of protecting public health and safety, animal health and welfare, and food safety and security. Canada should take the lead in collaborating with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the European Medicines Agency (EMA) to improve shared drug approval pathways that are more efficient and economical.

Thank you for your continued commitment to the well-being of Canadians. As the national association representing the veterinary profession, we would appreciate the opportunity to meet with you to discuss these important initiatives further and request your leadership to help meet the needs of all Canadians.

Once again, congratulations, and we look forward to building a productive relationship with you over the course of this Parliament.

Sincerely,

Tim Arthur, DVM
President

W. Joel Neuheimer
CEO

