

June 11, 2025

Canadian Veterinary Medical Association

339 Booth Street
Ottawa, ON K1R 7K1

Dear Mr. Arthur,

I am writing on behalf of the Manitoba Veterinary Medical Association to express our strong support for the Western College of Veterinary Medicine's proposal to expand its infrastructure and serve as a national training and testing center for veterinarians.

Manitoba is currently facing a persistent and growing shortage of veterinary professionals, which impacts both rural and urban communities across various areas, including companion animals, food animals, and public sector practices. To bridge this gap, Manitoba relies heavily on internationally trained veterinarians. These professionals bring valuable experience and skills, but their successful integration into the workforce depends on passing the Clinical Proficiency Examination (CPE). Currently, there are only two English-language sites in Canada that offer the CPE, and the available spaces are limited, failing to meet the national demand. As a result, qualified candidates often experience long wait times and delayed entry into the profession.

The proposed expansion at WCVN aims to directly address this issue by increasing the testing capacity for the CPE and providing dedicated facilities for assessment and skills development. Establishing a national testing center at WCVN would help eliminate a critical bottleneck in the licensing pathway and enable more veterinarians to enter the workforce each year.

We understand that the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) does not directly fund these projects; however, your advocacy carries significant weight in promoting federal investment in veterinary infrastructure. We urge the CVMA to support this initiative and advocate for the necessary funding to bring this center to fruition.

Strengthening the national capacity for training and testing is essential for building a resilient veterinary workforce. The MVMA fully supports WCVN's vision and is committed to backing this important step forward.

Sincerely,



Dr. Joe King

President
Manitoba Veterinary Medical Association