

Consultation: Proposed Changes to the Registration and Licensure Framework for Veterinarians

September 17, 2026

Purpose of this Consultation & Background

The Manitoba Veterinary Medical Association (MVMA) is seeking member feedback on a proposed change to how registration and licensure requirements are established.

The proposed approach would provide the MVMA with greater flexibility to respond to changes in examination pathways, education requirements, supervision models, labour mobility, and other practical considerations, while maintaining meaningful member involvement in significant registration decisions.

Council has supported, in principle, the development of this approach, subject to member consultation.

This consultation closes **October 27, 2026**.

Why is the MVMA Considering a Change?

Following changes to national examinations and provincial requirements for specific registration parameters (language proficiency), the MVMA reviewed the registration provisions of *The Veterinary Medical Act* and the MVMA By-laws.

The review identified some limitations in the current framework.

Manitoba was in a somewhat unique position. In other Canadian jurisdictions, veterinary regulators are generally able to make registration requirement changes at the Council level. In Manitoba, the existing legislative and by-law framework requires greater reliance on membership approval, including membership voting on changes.

What Challenges Have Been Identified?

Restricted Members and Indirect Supervision

The current By-laws specifically name third-party assessment tools (the Preliminary Surgical Assessment) that is no longer offered to determine when a restricted member may move from direct supervision to indirect supervision. Under the MVMA's current registration and licensure framework, the MVMA cannot offer restricted members with an alternative pathway without undertaking by-law amendment, which requires a meeting of the members and voting.

Changing Practical Circumstances

Registration requirements may also need to respond to practical circumstances that can change relatively quickly.

For example, the availability of the Clinical Proficiency Examination (CPE) may be relevant to determining when a restricted member should be eligible to move to indirect supervision.

If the CPE waitlist is short, it may be reasonable to require completion of the applicable CPE component before moving to indirect supervision. However, if the waitlist is lengthy, requiring completion of the CPE may create an unnecessary barrier, and an alternative pathway may be appropriate.

The current By-laws are not well suited to making these types of timely adjustments.

What is Being Proposed?

The MVMA is proposing a change to the structure of its registration and licensure requirements.

The key change would be to move away from having the By-laws prescribe specific examinations and examination bodies and instead have the By-laws establish the overall registration requirements, with Council policies setting out the specific details.

Current Approach

Under the current approach:

- The By-laws identify specific examinations and examination bodies by name.
- Changes to those requirements may require amendments to the By-laws.
- The ability to respond quickly to changes in examination pathways or practical circumstances is limited.

- The current framework can require the MVMA to manage certain situations through interpretation or operational practices where the By-laws do not clearly contemplate the circumstances.

Proposed Approach

Under the proposed approach:

- The By-laws would establish the overarching requirement that applicants demonstrate adequate examination and/or education, as determined by Council.
- Council would establish policies identifying the specific examinations, examination bodies, education requirements, supervision requirements, and other registration criteria.
- These policies could be updated as circumstances change.
- The By-laws would continue to establish the fundamental legal framework for registration and licensure.

Why Use Council Policy?

The purpose of this change is not to reduce the importance of registration requirements or to give Council unrestricted discretion.

Rather, it would allow the MVMA to respond more appropriately to circumstances that can change over time.

For example, if an examination is replaced, a new examination pathway becomes available, an examination body changes its requirements, or access to an examination becomes significantly constrained, the MVMA could respond through policy rather than requiring the entire By-law amendment process.

This would also allow registration requirements to be reviewed and adjusted based on practical considerations while maintaining an overarching requirement in the By-laws that applicants demonstrate appropriate education, assessment and training.

Proposed Guardrails

Moving detailed registration requirements from the By-laws to Council policy would shift some decision-making authority from the membership to Council. The MVMA Council therefore believes that this shift should include explicit safeguards to ensure meaningful membership involvement and appropriate due diligence.

1. Mandatory consultation with membership

Where Council proposes substantive changes to registration or licensure requirements, the framework would require consultation with the membership before the policy is adopted or materially amended. This would preserve a meaningful role for members in decisions affecting the profession while allowing the regulatory framework to remain sufficiently responsive.

2. Mandatory consultation with provincial veterinary regulators

The framework would also require consultation with other provincial veterinary regulators when developing or materially changing registration requirements, particularly where the issue has implications for labour mobility. This would support consistency across Canadian jurisdictions and help ensure that Manitoba's requirements are developed with awareness of the broader regulatory environment. These guardrails would provide a balance between Council's ability to respond efficiently to changing circumstances and the membership's expectation of transparency and meaningful participation.

Specific questions for consultation

- 1) Do you have any questions that would help you better understand the challenges or proposed solutions?
- 2) Do you have any concerns with the proposed solution?
- 3) Other comments

Following the consultation period, MVMA Council will review the feedback received from members and consider whether changes should be made to the proposed approach. If Council determines that amendments should proceed, the proposed bylaw amendments will be developed and brought forward to the 2027 AGM.

Please [click here](#) to access the consultation feedback form.

This consultation closes **October 27, 2026**.