



BRITISH COLUMBIA CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Representing the Beef Cattle Industry of British Columbia

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August 3, 2022

Regional District of Fraser-Fort George

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SENT BY EMAIL*

Attention: Art Kaehn, Chair and Board of Directors

RE: Request for Support for an Economic Impact Study On Veterinarian Shortage

The BC Cattlemen's Association, in support of the Nechako Valley producers group and UNBC have been working with multiple partners and stakeholders across the Province to address the current shortage of large animal veterinarians.

Although this veterinary shortage includes all sectors of animal care, it has greatly affected the viability of the livestock producers. Livestock producers now require a VCPR (vet-client patient relationship) in order to purchase animal health products, which in turn increases the safety and minimizes the resistance issues we see in animal and human pharmaceuticals. The limited number of large animal veterinarians makes it extremely difficult to build a VCPR and therefore access important animal health products, adding stress and operational instability for livestock producers.

We believe a comprehensive economic study is needed to see the true value of the veterinary services to the livestock industry. We have selected to work with MNP, a leading accounting firm in Canada, because they have completed a similar project¹ for Alberta recently. This will be a comprehensive study that includes both large and small veterinary services and will clearly demonstrate the lack of funding for training and seats. This economic impact study will complement a labour study² completed in 2019.

In seeking solutions, there are several options that the group have been exploring and one solution for our northern producers may be to follow the lead of the medical doctor's partnership and program at the University of Northern BC, where recruiting and training in the north can lead to staying in the north.

Northern students will benefit from this opportunity and most likely come home to the region they grew up in.

¹ Economic Impact Assessment of the Veterinary Medical Sector in Alberta. December 2021.

<https://abvma.in1touch.org/document/5524/Economic%20Impact%20Assessment%20of%20the%20Veterinary%20Medical%20Sector%20in%20AB.pdf>

² Labour Market Study for Canadian Veterinary Medical Association – Society of British Columbia Veterinarians. May 2019.

<https://www.canadianveterinarians.net/media/g1pa5qpr/labour-market-study-may-2019.pdf>

Having competent and capable large animal veterinarians throughout BC is of utmost importance to not only those in the ranching and farming industries, but also for the general public.

Animal welfare has been an extremely important topic for all British Columbians and showcasing to the public that farmers and ranchers have a team of trained professionals, such as large animal veterinarians, only increases society's trust in animal agriculture.

We kindly ask that the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George to contribute \$5,000 toward this study for which BC Cattlemen's Association is acting as the administrative agency. We have a quote from MNP of \$30,000 to conduct this study. We are pleased with the positive response from our northern Cattlemen's Associations and the Nechako Kitamaat Development Fund to partner on this project.

Thank you in advance for considering our request.

Best regards,

A black rectangular redaction box covers the signature of Kevin Boon. There are some faint, illegible handwritten marks above the box.

Kevin Boon, General Manager
BC Cattlemen's Association

cc: *Nechako Valley Agriculture Producers group*