



Veterinary Practice Owners Association of Ontario

The voice of veterinarians for a stronger profession & excellent patient care

August 14, 2018

The Honourable Ernie Hardeman

Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

By fax to 416-326-3083 and email to minister.omafra@ontario.ca

Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
77 Grenville Street
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1B3

Dear Minister:

Re: College of Veterinarians of Ontario

First, warmest congratulations on your election and appointment to Cabinet. We know that your experience in the agriculture industry, as an MPP and Cabinet Minister will serve Ontarians well.

We are writing to you on behalf of our organization, the Veterinary Practice Owners Association of Ontario (VPOA).

The VPOA advocates for a healthy community of large and small animal veterinary practitioners in Ontario that will, in turn, help to ensure the optimal health and welfare of pets and livestock and to serve the needs of their owners. One of the major concerns of our membership regards the current heavy-handed approach taken to regulation of veterinarians by the Ontario regulator, the College of Veterinarians of Ontario (CVO), and the CVO's current campaign to amend the *Veterinarians Act* (Act) to create what would effectively be an autocracy, answerable to neither elected representatives nor the profession.

We had opened a dialogue regarding our concerns with your predecessor. As part of that dialogue, he had encouraged us, in the fifth paragraph of a letter dated March 2, 2018 (copy included for your convenience), to recommend a candidate for an open position for a non-veterinarian on the CVO Council.

The candidate that we recommend, without reservation, is Brendan Ginty. Mr. Ginty has applied and has been interviewed. He is a non-veterinarian, is retired from long experience in the veterinary industry and is in a position to provide to the CVO wise and objective counsel. We recommend him highly. If you do not receive Mr. Ginty's resume and paperwork from the CVO along with the rest of the candidates credentials I would be more than happy to provide them to you.

Under paragraph 4(2)(b) of the Act, this appointment to the CVO Council is the responsibility of Cabinet, which we believe will act on your recommendation. We hope that you will give Mr. Ginty's candidacy serious consideration.

Thank you for your attention in this matter. If you have questions, comments or concerns regarding this matter, or any other veterinary issue, please contact us. We are open to further discussions at any time.

Sincerely,

Dr. James McCleary
President

Letter of March 2, 2018 included