

July 19, 2022

Mr. Colin Hornby
Manager, Communications & Stakeholder Relations
Keystone Agricultural Producer
Colin.Hornby@kap.ca

Dear Mr. Hornby:

Thank you for your organization's letter dated June 28, 2022 to Honourable Derek Johnson, Minister of Agriculture and Honourable Jon Reyes, Minister of Advanced Education, Skills and Immigration, regarding the Spring 2022 advisory note from the Manitoba Veterinary Medical Association (MVMA). As Deputy Minister, I am pleased to respond.

We appreciate your passionate support for animal veterinary services in our province. Manitoba values the role the Western College of Veterinary Medicine (WCVM) plays in ensuring Manitoba receives the high quality professionals it requires to meet the needs of the province's animal agriculture sector and to ensure safe animal welfare practices overall. I would also like to thank you for sharing some of the findings of the MVMA sector scan. The department is actively working with Manitoba Agriculture and other stakeholders to ensure that the partnership with the WCVM continues to address Manitoba's veterinary needs for both large and small animals. The information you have provided is valued and will inform us as we review and evaluate veterinarian training options going forward.

We value your concerns raised on behalf of Manitoba commodity groups. The information provided by the MVMA and other stakeholders is vital labour market information that brings valuable context to ongoing discussions regarding the training and retention of veterinarians in Manitoba. The department continues to work with the MVMA, the WCVM, the Department of Agriculture and key stakeholders to ensure that the WVCVM remains responsive to the needs of Manitoba's veterinary sector.

Sincerely,



Eric Charron

- c. Honourable Jon Reyes, Minister of Advanced Education, Skills and Immigration
Honourable Derek Johnson, Minister of Agriculture
Dori Gingera-Beauchemin, Deputy Minister, Agriculture
Agnes Wittmann, Senior Director of Post-Secondary Institutions