



Canadian Veterinary
Medical Association
Association canadienne
des médecins vétérinaires

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Dr. Harpreet S. Kochhar
Deputy Minister
Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship
Government of Canada
Harpreet.Kochhar@cic.gc.ca

Dear Dr. Kochhar:

On behalf of the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA), I extend my warmest congratulations to you on your recent appointment as Deputy Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship for the Government of Canada, effective January 27, 2024.

Your transition to this significant role marks a milestone in your career, and we are proud to witness your continued dedication to serving our nation in a new capacity. As you embark on this journey, we have no doubt that your expertise, leadership, and unwavering commitment to public service will greatly contribute to the advancement of Canada's immigration and citizenship initiatives.

It is with deep appreciation that we reflect on the longstanding collaboration between the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) and the CVMA under your guidance as President. Your steadfast support and advocacy for the veterinary profession have been invaluable in fostering a collaborative environment aimed at ensuring the health and well-being of both animals and Canadians. Your contributions have left an indelible mark on our shared objectives, and for that, we extend our heartfelt gratitude.

CVMA looks forward to working with you in your new role, including efforts to use Canada's immigration policies to help ease the serious workforce shortage we are facing. ESDC's Canadian Occupation Project System (COPS) shows that the labour market supply of veterinarians is in a structural supply deficit in the short term and in projections until 2031.^[1] This shortage has significant implications for animal health and welfare, public health, the Canadian economy as well as the well-being of individual veterinary professionals and paraprofessionals. One specific policy requirement we look forward to reviewing with you is the requirement for a Labour Market Impact Assessment (LMIA). The LMIA is a significant barrier to our efforts to bring more foreign trained veterinarians to Canada to help solve our workforce shortage.

Please accept our sincere congratulations once again, Dr. Kochhar.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Trevor Lawson, DVM
President CVMA

^[1] Employment and Social Development (ESDC). "Canadian Occupational Projection System (COPS)." COPS Home - Canadian Occupational Projection System (COPS) - Canada.ca, November 16, 2021. <https://occupations.esdc.gc.ca/sppc-cops/w.2lc.4m.2@-eng.jsp>

