



Canadian Veterinary  
Medical Association  
Association canadienne  
des médecins vétérinaires

November 13, 2024

The Honourable Marc Miller, P.C., M.P.  
Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship  
Immigration Refugees and Citizenship Canada  
Ottawa, ON

Sent via: [marc.miller@parl.gc.ca](mailto:marc.miller@parl.gc.ca)

Dear Minister Miller:

The Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) is deeply concerned by the federal government's recent decision to reduce Canada's immigration targets over the next three years—from 485,000 in 2024 to 395,000 in 2025, 380,000 in 2026, and 365,000 in 2027. This change is coming at a critical time, as Canada grapples with a significant shortage of new veterinarians entering the profession, forcing Canadian veterinary clinics to rely on internationally trained professionals to help address gaps in the system.

According to Employment and Social Development Canada's Canadian Occupation Project System, the veterinary labour market is facing a structural deficit that is projected to continue through 2031. This shortage of skilled veterinarians has serious implications for animal health and welfare, public health, and the Canadian economy. It also poses a serious threat to the veterinary profession's capacity to deliver high-quality care, as many practice owners struggle to recruit and retain skilled veterinary professionals. The current graduation rates from Canadian veterinary colleges only marginally meet the attrition rates in the field, while there remains an increased and growing demand for veterinary services.

The CVMA urges the federal government to address these pressing needs by developing and implementing strategies for recruiting and assessing internationally trained veterinarians who can help fill the current labour shortage. This includes supporting the CVMA's call for a National Testing Centre for streamlined accreditation of internationally trained veterinarians. While veterinary schools are doing everything they can to recruit and train Canadian veterinarians, they are unable to meet the growing demands of veterinary services without the support of internationally trained veterinary professionals. Recent cuts to permanent residence targets set by IRCC has the potential to make this solution increasingly difficult to achieve.

As Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, the CVMA is advocating that you provide clarity on the proposed reductions as they relate to the veterinary profession and to support initiatives designed to alleviate veterinary workforce shortages through the recruitment of internationally trained veterinarians.



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The CVMA would greatly appreciate an opportunity to discuss this matter further and look forward to your response and collaboration. Thank you for your continued commitment to Canadians.

Sincerely,



Dr. Tim Arthur, DVM  
President, CVMA

cc: Minister of Health, Mark Holland, P.C., M.P.  
Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, Lawrence MacAulay, P.C., M.P.  
Minister of Rural Economic Development and Minister responsible for the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency, Gudie Hutchings, P.C., M.P.  
Minister of Mental Health and Addictions; Associate Minister of Health, Ya'ara Saks, P.C., M.P.  
Deputy Minister of Health, Greg Orencsak  
Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Lawrence Hanson  
Deputy Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, Dr. Harpreet S. Kochhar  
Shadow Minister to the Minister Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, Tom Kmiec, M.P.  
Shadow Minister to the Minister of Health, Dr. Stephen Ellis, M.P.  
Shadow Minister to the Minister of Agriculture, Agri-Food, and Food Security, John Barlow, M.P.

