

SHAPING CHANGE PARTICIPATING IN THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION



LEARN

The Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) is consulting on modernizing the Veterinarians Act, the legislation regulating veterinary medicine practice in Ontario.

OMAFRA has released a [detailed discussion paper](#) online that outlines proposed changes to the Act. OMAFRA is looking for feedback from stakeholders and industry professionals, like RVTs, and the public.

Legislative reform has been a goal of the OAVT for many years. The OAVT, along with our partners, the OVMA and the CVO, has worked to get meetings and share the data, testimonials, and information necessary to align the Government of Ontario with the need for changes to the Veterinarians Act. More background information can be found at www.oavt.org/reform.



REFLECT

The current Veterinarians Act has several issues that impact the work of RVTs. The Act does not distinguish between RVTs and other staff, it doesn't provide a scope-of-practice that allows RVTs to work independently to the full extent of their training and education, and it doesn't enable RVTs to have seats on the Council of the regulatory college (CVO).

The OAVT supports the work being done to modernize the Act because it lays the foundation for our profession in the future. Right now, we have an opportunity to help create a future-ready legislative and regulatory framework that can help address the increasing demand for veterinary services and professionals.

When reading the discussion paper, consider how it will (or won't) allow RVTs to serve their patients and the public to the fullest extent of their credential.



ENGAGE

Write your response to OMAFRA. A letter format works well. In your response, reflect on these themes:

- Ensuring that the work of RVTs in veterinary medicine is formally recognized and protected through an updated Act for veterinary professionals is an integral part of modernizing the practice of veterinary medicine in Ontario.
- RVTs are highly trained professionals who can safely do work that others without the necessary training cannot. Defining a scope of practice that allows RVTs to work to their full skill set is a crucial element of protecting and enhancing the safety of the public and the animals they rely on.
- RVTs play a significant role in veterinary practices, often outnumbering veterinarians by 2-1 and assuming significant risk and accountability. The oversight of the practice of veterinary medicine in Ontario should reflect this reality by ensuring that RVTs are fairly represented at the highest decision-making levels.



SUBMIT

The consultation period will be open until May 30, 2023. You can submit your response by email to vetact.omafra@ontario.ca or by mail to:

Ontario Ministry of Agriculture,
Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA)
Food Safety and Environmental Policy Branch
1 Stone Road West, 2nd Floor SW
Guelph, Ontario N1G 4Y2
Attention: Consultation on Proposal to
Modernize the Veterinarians Act

We are also here to answer any questions! Email advocacy@oavt.org.



Not sure how to write an impactful response? Join us at our webinar, "Responding to the Discussion Paper" on May 10th at 8:00 pm!