



SAVT



**SASKATCHEWAN
ASSOCIATION**
of Veterinary Technologists

Annual Report 2018-2019

*To Promote and Advance Registered Veterinary Technologists
Professional and Excellence in Animal Care*



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Member Communications

Student Support

Highlighting Added Value to RVTs

Relationship with the SVMA

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2018-2019 Board of Directors



Lois Ridgway, RVT, Past-President & SVMA/SAVT Liaison

Lois works at Prairie Diagnostic Services and has held various positions on provincial, national, and international boards in the veterinary medical profession.

Breanne Barber, RVT, President

Breanne works at Valleyflats Animal Hospital in Moosomin, SK. She currently sits on Sask Polytech's Program Advisory Committee and enjoys the Riders, slow pitch, and her animals.



Tamara McLoughlin, RVT, President-Elect

Tamara does contract work on PEDv surveillance for Sask Port and is a food safety and animal welfare auditor for broiler chickens and broiler breeder birds in Saskatchewan. She has four young children and loves to cook.

Shannon McCallion, RVT, Financial Officer

Shannon previously served in the Canadian Armed Forces and brings to the board an eclectic work history with a global perspective. She graduated in 2010 and has worked predominantly in small animal clinics.



Sheila Kucher, RVT, Secretary

Sheila works at Lakeland Veterinary Services in North Battleford. She served as President-Elect, President, and Vice-President from 2002-2004. She has a great passion for horses and enjoys showing and competing.

Tara Holland, RVT, Member-at-Large

Tara works at VCA Canada Frontier Animal Hospital and teaches part-time at Saskatchewan Polytechnic in Saskatoon. She has one daughter and enjoys sports, crafts, painting, reading, and gardening.





**Carolyn Cartwright, RVT, VTS (Anesthesia/Analgesia),
RVTTC Director**

Carolyn is the Manager of the B.J. Hughes Centre for Clinical Learning at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine. She serves on national and international boards to advance veterinary medicine.

Darlene Ford, RVT, RVTTC Director

Darlene has worked as an RVT for over 30 years. She is dedicated to promoting veterinary technologists at the national level and increasing awareness of what the profession includes.



**Marlayna Morgan, RVT, Second-Year Saskatchewan
Polytechnic Student Liaison**

Marlayna was a student at Saskatchewan Polytechnic and now works as an RVT at VCA Canada Central Animal Hospital. She was born in New Brunswick. She is a Hufflepuff and has spent the last two years working to help improve the program and

**Mabel Ng, RVT, Second-Year Saskatchewan
Polytechnic Student Liaison**

Mabel was a student at Saskatchewan Polytechnic and now works as an RVT at Moose Jaw Animal Clinic. She previously completed a degree in Animal Bio Science at the University of Saskatchewan.



**Ashley Martin, First-Year Saskatchewan Polytechnic
Student Liaison**

Ashley is a student at Saskatchewan Polytechnic. She grew up on a farm near Delisle and currently lives in Warman. She enjoys travelling, spending time at the lake, music, anything Disney, and gardening.

Jaclyn Noll, First-Year Lakeland College Student Liaison

Jaclyn is a student at Lakeland College in the Animal Health Technologist program. She grew up in Coronach, Saskatchewan, on a mixed farm. She attended Miles Community College in Miles City, Montana, on a full-ride rodeo scholarship for two years studying biology.



President's Report

Well we made it! Another year gone and the Saskatchewan Association of Veterinary Technologist (SAVT) annual conference and Annual General Meeting is approaching. I always look forward to the networking with colleagues, learning about the new products each company has, and expanding my knowledge of veterinary medicine from the amazing continuing education offered.

The past year has been an adventure and a learning opportunity. I do not know if my close friends and family would call me a social butterfly the past year but they knew that I was focused and determined to do better for a profession that I love and am passionate about. I defiantly stepped out of my comfort zone this year with my public speaking and professional writing capabilities which have both improved! I recently gave greetings at the Saskatchewan Veterinary Medical Association's (SVMA) Annual General Meeting in September and in these greetings I touched on our exciting recertification news for inactive veterinary technologists and I am happy to say that the DVMs and RVTs in that room were listening! The relationship between the SVMA and SAVT has remained strong over the past year due to the communication between both associations and the collaboration efforts by our Executive Director Jasmin and Lorraine, Regulatory & Education Coordinator for the Saskatchewan Veterinary Medical Association.

"We all have a role to play as professionals and we all care for each other in the veterinary community. Be the voice for someone that has none, be the mentor for a new graduate who is just learning to find their own way, be the voice of reason in an argument, guide someone back from the edge when they have lost their way, be passionate, be proud, be persistent. Inspire and lead change for progress" - Breanne Barber, RVT

To highlight a few key points from the past year I took time to reflect on the directions and objectives that we had decided for the year: communication to members, support to the veterinary technology students, look into new membership pathways, highlighting added value for RVTs working in and out of practice, maintaining a strong relationship with the SVMA, more public relations with the general public and continued committee support for the SAVT. I believe we have done a very good job in all areas this year!

This year at the annual strategic planning retreat held at the Outerbanks by Melfort, SK, the SAVT Board of Directors struck several committees. Some of the committees were new and others remained the same to continue the work they had started in 2018. As President, I sit as an ex-officio, which means I have no voting rights unless there is a tie over any motions that are made. Sitting on each committee and attending all meetings takes a lot of organization but I enjoyed

each meeting and being able to help with any decision-making, staying informed on the inner workings within the SAVT, and provide cross-collaboration ideas among the committees. I am excited by all the work accomplished by each committee and I encourage you to read all the committee reports for a more detailed outline of the past year.

Being President has allowed me the opportunity to attend conferences and annual general meetings to bring greetings from the SAVT to neighbouring provincial associations. These greetings reaffirm the SAVT's relationship with provincial associations, create networking opportunities, and create new connections with the veterinary community. The SAVT was represented at the annual CenCan conference held in Winnipeg and the BCVTA annual spring conference in April in Kamloops, BC. Through these conferences I was able to bring back knowledge and practices for the SAVT and to use in my own work-life balance. BCVTA created a movement for the public to use to promote our profession – #AskforaRVT. I look forward to seeing this hash tag being used regularly by the public and the veterinary community. I had the opportunity to attend the World Small Animal Veterinary Association (WSAVA) congress in conjunction with the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) conference this year in Toronto! I had reserved my spot for this conference months in advance but we had to be mindful of the SAVT budget so I used my Choice Reward points to book a flight. I was able to attend a socialization meet and greet hosted by the RVTTC Board of Directors, introduce myself to provincial RVTTC Directors, meet local and international RVTs and DVMs, had a great conversation with the President of Association des Techniciens en Sante Animale du Quebec (ATSAQ), and attended the CVMA Annual General Meeting. It was an amazing opportunity that I was able to share with everyone through an Instagram takeover for the entire week I was there. It was an amazing networking opportunity to talk with Veterinarians from all over the world and knowing how appreciated we are in the smallest of countries to the biggest. The lack of DVMs and RVTs is a global problem so each country has their own experiences to share which were very enlightening.

I want to extend a huge thank you to the SAVT membership for trusting me to represent this amazing association as your President. I have learned so much and I am honoured to have represented Saskatchewan. I love my profession and the veterinary community. We are a small group of wonderful people and do not let anyone tell you otherwise. I am looking forward to moving on to my next position as SAVT Past President. Thank you.



Breanne Barber, RVT
SAVT President

Executive Director's Report

Another year with the SAVT has come and gone. It has been a great year working with RVTs, the SAVT Board of Directors, SAVT Committees, the Saskatchewan Veterinary Medical Association, and other organizations and associations. This work created opportunities for RVTs and enhanced our services.

The SAVT Committees this past year were the Bylaw/Policy Committee, Continuing Education Committee, VTS/Mentorship Committee, Public Relations Committee, Advisory Committee, 35th Anniversary Committee, and the Recertification Committee. These committees accomplished completing a full review of the board policies, creating a recertification policy, ordering new banners, preparing for our 35th celebration, supporting students and RVTs, and increasing the understanding of the new Continuing Education structure.

Communication with our membership and with other stakeholders in the animal welfare and wellness community was a focus for the SAVT this year. This work did not begin this year but it's a continuation of work from previous years. We launched a blog that allows RVTs and veterinary professionals to share their experiences and stories and the SAVT office to share large amounts of information on a topic. Engagement with other organizations continued with the Saskatchewan Veterinary Medical Association, other provincial associations, Saskatchewan 4-H, Wildlife Rehabilitation Society of Saskatchewan, RVT Month Task Force, and the Western College of Veterinary Medicine.

The collaboration between the SVMA and the SAVT continued with regular meetings, consistent messaging, and regular feedback. The SVMA voted at their annual general meeting to levy a fee to RVTs and this year the SAVT will be collecting those fees and this is just one instance of the continued commitment we each have to the other association and the work we each perform.

Different projects were completed over the last year that positively impacted the direction and objectives that were identified at the annual retreat. These projects included student sessions, the blog, request for regular feedback, the recertification policy and procedure, a resource section on the website, a restructuring of the website, RVT Month, city proclamations, regular internal financial reviews and audits, and inclusion of career enhancement options on the website.

Continuing Education is a crucial part of the RVT profession and for me in the role as Executive Director. Last year I completed training and education in governance, bylaws, professional development, active engagement, truth and reconciliation, gender-based analysis, mental health first aid, community development, non-profits of Saskatchewan, and association management. This year I enrolled in the Canadian Society of Association Executives' Certified Association Executive Program. Completion of this program requires five different courses to be completed over the next two years.

The Recertification Process is a major success for the SAVT and the future of RVTs in the province and across Canada. We are excited to lead the country on this initiative and look forward to how this will improve veterinary medicine in Saskatchewan. More information on this can be found in the update later on in this report.

The wage and job satisfaction survey was undertaken in 2019 and the results will be used to facilitate conversations and discussions in clinics throughout the province. There is also interest in the results of the wage and job satisfaction survey on a provincial and national level to support the larger conversations that are occurring. The SAVT survey was shared with other provincial associations to work together and create a more cohesive approach to the information we are gathering.



Jasmin Carlton
Executive Director

*“Until one has loved an animal, part of one’s soul remains unawakened”
Anatole France*

Recertification Committee Report

The SAVT recognized that there is a critical shortage of Registered Veterinary Technologists in the province of Saskatchewan and across Canada and to do our part in ensuring that RVTs are available for continued excellence in animal care and to provide a high level of animal welfare throughout the province, we wanted to remove barriers for those wishing to return to practice. It is also crucial that the skills and abilities of those returning VTs meet the professional standards that our clients and patients deserve and expect.

Throughout 2019 the SAVT's Recertification Committee discussed, created, and instituted a Recertification Policy and corresponding procedure. This policy and procedure outlines the conditions under which a person is eligible to go through the recertification process and what steps are to be taken. The new policy and procedures were officially adopted in July 2019 by the SAVT Board of Directors.

The Recertification Committee with the support of the Saskatchewan Veterinary Medical Association (SVMA) removed the requirement for RVTs to have to rewrite the VTNE if they have been unregistered for more than three years. This shift puts RVTs more in line with DVMs and their re-registration process. DVMs are not required to have to rewrite the North American Veterinary Licensing Examination (NAVLE) and now RVTs in Saskatchewan are not required to rewrite the VTNE.

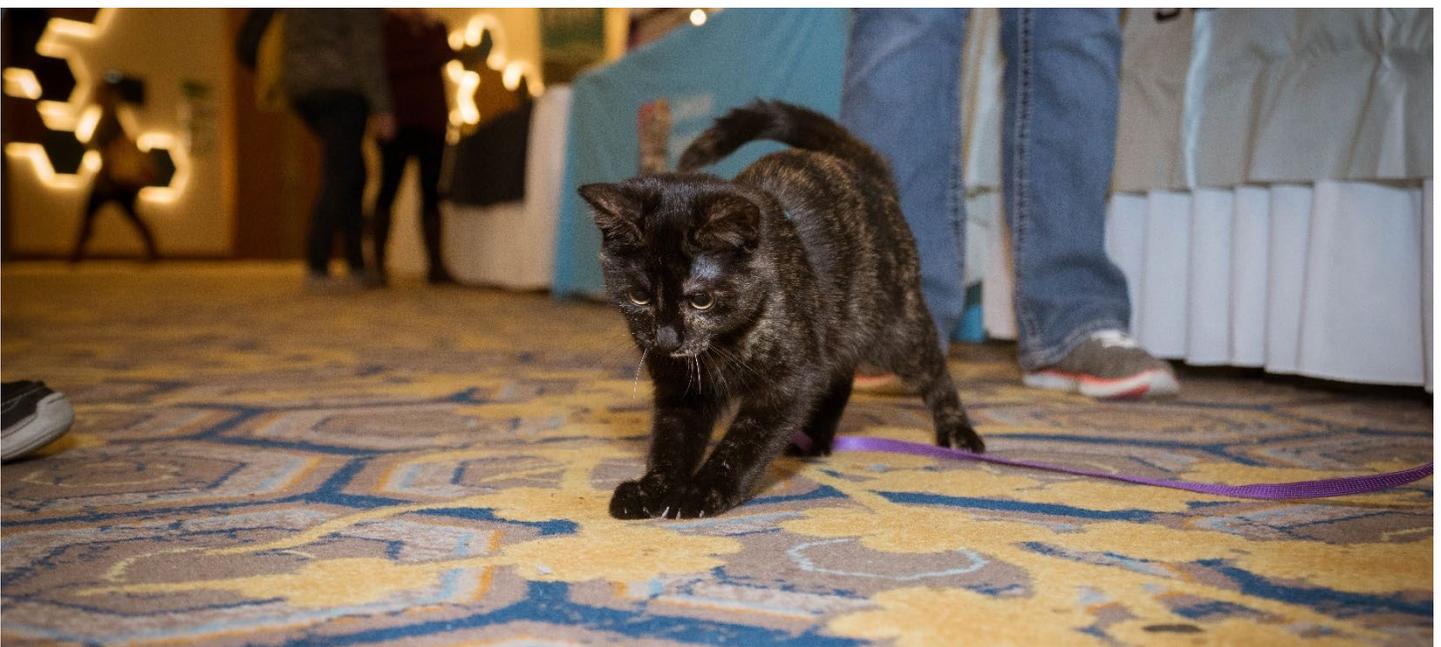
The process for VTs to become recertified in Saskatchewan is:

1. They will apply to the SAVT and SVMA. On the SAVT form, they should select the option that they wish to begin the recertification process.
2. Once all their documentation and requirements are met, the SAVT Office will contact them with a questionnaire that they must fill out for review by the Recertification Committee.
3. The Recertification Committee will be the group that is responsible for carrying out the required Executive Interview. The Executive Interview will take place between the committee and the individual who wishes to become recertified. The interview will allow the applicant to share any information with the committee and the committee to ask questions and better understand what the individual will be required to complete prior to becoming an active member again.

4. Following the Executive Interview, the Recertification Committee will outline the requirements that the individual must complete before they can have their restriction removed and become a full active member again. These requirements could include, but are not limited to, specific Continuing Education credits, a fine, supervised time, and required time in a clinic.
5. These requirements are shared with the SVMA and included in the official correspondence about membership status along with the timeline for completion. This will include a requirement to attend the next SVMA licensing seminar and then complete the online licensing exam.
6. Once all the requirements are met and approved by the SAVT and SVMA, the member will be transitioned from Temporary Active status to Active.

Throughout this process it is still the responsibility of the supervising veterinarian to ensure that all tasks are being completed adequately and performed within the governance requirements as outlined by the Province of Saskatchewan, SVMA Bylaws, SAVT Code of Conduct, and all other legislative bodies and documents applicable.

The work of the Recertification Committee could not have been completed without the dedication and hard work of its members: Shannon McCallion, RVT; Lois Ridgway, RVT; Tamara McLoughlin, RVT; Tara Holland, RVT; and Breanne Barber, RVT. The support of the SVMA and our Board of Directors has allowed us to lead the way across Canada in this groundbreaking shift to improve veterinary medicine, animal welfare, and improve the lives of RVTs.



Bylaw/Policy Committee Report

To sit on a committee is a time-consuming, sometimes thankless endeavor, and when unproductive, can feel as if you are beating your head on a brick wall, a truly painful experience.

***'Referring the matter to a committee' can be a device for diluting authority, diffusing responsibility and delaying decisions.'* - Antony Jay**

***'There's so much in the 21st century that is stymied by bureaucracy and mediocrity and committee.'* - Benedict Cumberbatch**

The authors of the above quotes obviously never had the opportunity to work with the Bylaw and Policy Committee! While serving on this committee has been a time-consuming endeavor, the commitment, participation and efforts of this diligent team of knowledgeable, cooperative and decisive women - Breanne Barber, Sheila Kucher, Michele Moroz, Lois Ridgeway, Bernice Ruf, and Jasmin Carlton – means the past year was neither unproductive nor too painful. Thank you ladies!

The Committee's focus for 2019 was the SAVT Policies. These policies act as a strategic outline for the Board of Directors on how to prudently administer the affairs of the SAVT, within the regulatory framework of the SAVT and SVMA Bylaws, The Veterinarian's Act, 1987, and The Non-profit Corporations Act, 1995. With the adoption of new bylaws in 2018 by both the SAVT and the SVMA, and the dynamic relationship between the Associations, many of the policies were redundant, outdated, or failed to accurately reflect the intent of the Bylaws or to support the Mission and Vision statements of the Associations. The completed amendments were presented to, and adopted by, the Board of Directors at the September meeting. The major highlights of the amended policies include a substantially streamlined disciplinary policy, an inaugural social media policy and the re-structure of the policy covering recertification of VTs wanting to re-enter the veterinary profession. The committee is in abeyance until the New Year, at which time, work will begin on developing a new set of 'Standard Operating Guidelines (SOGs)' based on the new Policies.

The Bylaw and Policy Committee meets approximately once a month, through an online meeting platform, and new members are very welcome. Anyone interested in joining the committee, or wanting to share ideas, is encouraged to contact the Executive Director, Jasmin Carlton, at savt@savt.ca.

Respectfully submitted,
Shannon McCallion, RVT
Chair, Bylaw and Policy Committee

Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart. ~Elizabeth Andrew

Continuing Education Committee Report

The members of the committee included Leigh Luker, RVT; April Penner, RVT; Kenzie Makowsky, RVT; Karen Laventure, RVT; Katherine Broker, RVT; and Breanne Barber, RVT. The committee met regularly to review how to best share the new structure and to find ways to answer the questions that members were not asking.

The committee aimed to communicate effectively and differently to share the information that they were excited about last year when they redid the Continuing Education structure. They recognized that there was information that needed to be shared and explained and it was not feasible to accomplish it with a short post on Facebook or a document on the website. The strategy required more and they turned to the blog for longer pieces of information and instruction. Additionally, they had the idea to share information in a way that many RVTs learn – with visuals.

The visual learning strategy resulted in the office creating a voice over video outlining how to upload Continuing Education credits to your account and answering some of the questions we recognized RVTs may have. This visual learning strategy is something that the office looks forward to carrying forward and utilizing with other opportunities for education and clarification.



*“Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart”
Elizabeth Andrew*

Public Relations Committee Report

The SAVT Public Relations Committee is a committee that focuses on the image of the SAVT and its RVTs. We design marketing materials such as merchandise, banners, brochures, and posters.

The Public Relations Committee had many projects and ideas this year. We have been mainly focusing on some new banners and brochures so that we can better represent what it means to be an RVT and we do. We are also very excited to get our new merchandise going to this year's conference.

Banners for the SAVT have been a priority. They are always the first thing people see so we wanted to make sure that we are properly represented. We worked through several drafts of our banners and discussed as a group what's best. .

The most recent brochures for the SAVT seem to be a little outdated with a few 'typos'. We would like to revise those and ensure that the role of RVTs in the veterinary world are described accurately. This project is still being worked on.

For the conference this year we want to try some new merchandising options. The other items we would like to have are still being decided, we are looking at prices and options currently but hoping to have merchandise that will last and be useful to our members.

We have worked very hard on volunteer recruitment this year. A new incentive has been introduced and this has helped significantly. The incentive including a gift basket, you get your name entered into the draw for the basket once for every hour of volunteer work. We want to keep up this attitude and continue to get our RVT students and current RVTs more involved and excited about volunteering.

Packages that are being worked on include our booth package and school packages. The booth packages are available to RVTs if they require it for a career fair or a special event in their town. The school packages, once funded and completed, will be sent out to high schools all over Saskatchewan. They will include information on what a Veterinary Technician does daily, jobs where you can work with your schooling, and where you can get your schooling.

The last and most exciting thing we created this year is our blog. Its purpose is to educate us, observe what other RVTs are doing with their diploma, explore new topics/topics that aren't usually covered, and create a dialogue between RVTs across the province and country. There are numerous blogs so far and they keep coming in! This blog can be found at: saskvet.tech

We are encouraging everyone and anyone to write a blog post. It's great to learn about what everyone is doing out there.

Submitted by
Jenna Powell, RVT
Chairperson of SAVT PR Committee



VTS/Mentorship Committee Report

The SAVT Board of Directors retained the VTS/Mentorship Committee this year to ensure that their work continued. This committee includes Danielle Mierau, RVT; Domini Wilkinson, RVT; Mabel Ng, RVT; Sharlene April, RVT; and Breanne Barber, RVT.

The SAVT office receives requests for mentorship and assistance throughout the year. The office refers these requests to the VTS/Mentorship Committee where they contact the member and provide them with resources and a mentor to assist them. The majority of requests that the VTS/Mentorship Committee receives is from students who are seeking assistance with the VTNE. We have amassed a list of resources that we can offer students and recent graduates and we have individuals who have recently been successful with the VTNE willing to step in and assist.



Conference Report

The Saskatchewan Association of Veterinary Technologist's 34th Annual Conference, AGM and Tradeshow was held Friday November 2- 4, 2018, in Saskatoon, SK. RVTs, speakers, students and industry representatives traveled to Saskatoon from all across Canada and even from the United States. Over 300 Registered Veterinary Technologists, and Veterinary Technology Students braved Saskatchewan's winter weather to be in attendance! There was a big change for SAVT conference in 2018 as members were given the option of three days to attend sessions. This resulted in the potential to earn 17 SAVT approved CE credits over the weekend.

Although planning of the conference starts well over a year in advance, the official 2018 event began with SAVT's first ever Friday Animal Welfare Afternoon. Starting the conference on the Friday afternoon allowed us to add four additional CE credits to the weekend. All of these sessions were based on the important theme of animal welfare and were presented by a passionate group of animal welfare experts. Topics such as swine enrichment, safe horse hauling and the Saskatchewan SPCA's changing role in animal safekeeping were covered. The response to the addition of the Friday sessions was extremely positive with over 150 members registering. Included in this number, were the first-year students from the Veterinary Technology program at Saskpolytechnic. It is always a pleasure when the students are able to join us with their bright and refreshing personalities.

Friday evening's Welcome reception, Registration, Trade show (and delicious poutine buffet) was brought to you by the Veterinary Medical Centre. The reception gave our attendees ample time to network with our exhibitors as well as socialize with colleagues. It was a busy, educational evening as usual. The SAVT urges our members to visit each booth, ask questions and thank our exhibitors as much as possible at our event. We also strongly encourage members to continue to support these companies beyond the conference weekend. Recommendations made back at our workplace will help to reinforce these mutually beneficial relationships. In turn, our sponsoring companies will continue to see the valuable contribution that RVTs make in recommending their products and services. Without the support of these amazing sponsors, we would not be able to keep our registration fees and labs to such a manageable cost.

Our Saturday morning started with Breakfast and morning Kick-off sponsored by WDDC. To start the morning, Ms. Ivana Novosel, RVT shared a thought-provoking presentation entitled "What does the Future of the RVT Profession look like." She gave valuable insight from her years of experience working in the Veterinary industry. Saturday's schedule was adjusted from previous years to allow us to add a 5th CE session to the day. With five tracks running simultaneously, and five hours of lecture per track, there were 25 CE topics to choose from! The majority of SAVT's 2018 conference sessions were chosen based on the results from the previous

year's member CE Survey. There were more Saturday sessions than ever presented by RVTs who have earned their VTS (Veterinary Technologist Specialties) in areas such as Anesthesia/Analgesia, Equine Nursing and Rehabilitation. In addition, there were numerous sessions offered for RVTs in clinical and non-clinical sectors of animal health care such as: ultrasound, poultry, dentistry, disease and communication just to name a few. SAVT's annual AGM, which took place right after the lunch break, was a productive meeting as always and resulted in some newly appointed board members. For the second year in a row, the SVMA provided an interactive, bonus session at the end of the day. Presented by SVMA Registrar, Dr. Judy Currie, this year's regulatory topic was all about Reporting Professional Misconduct. Members were encouraged to attend so they could ask their burning questions in person. There was also the option of submitting questions in advance. The room was filled to capacity with members eager to learn more about their association and governing body. Diamond sponsorship of the Annual Banquet, Awards and Entertainment (including a photo booth) was provided by Royal Canin Canada. The evening was a great opportunity to celebrate our successes, recognize our peers, and thank our sponsors in a more formal setting, The night was capped off with Improv comedy provided by The Saskatoon Soaps.

We were fortunate to have the WCVM donate the use of their facilities, equipment, staff and Audio-Visual services for our Sunday Wet Labs. We were once again able to offer our labs at a fraction of the cost of other conferences. Approximately 150 members participated in Sunday's lectures and hands-on labs that ranged in content from "refresher" to more advanced. A Clinical Skills Refresher lab was designed especially for those who have been out of a clinic setting for a while. For the large animal enthusiasts, there was an in-depth Equine Rehabilitation lab as well as a Stockmanship presentation that gave some great tips for handling cattle in a respectful, low stress manner. Some of the more advanced labs offered were focused on diagnostic techniques such as Abnormal Hematology, Small Animal Ultrasound and Dental Radiography. The skills gained from these labs help ensure our members are using the most up-to-date skills, knowledge and techniques. The second year Lakeland Veterinary Technology students were in attendance and had labs created specifically for them. Both "Mice and Rats 101" and "Equine Nursing Skills" were instructed by RVTs with a specialty or certification in their field; Lab Animal Technology and Equine Nursing respectively.

I would like to say a huge thank you all once again to the SAVT board of directors for all their help and advice throughout the year and to all those who attended the 2018 SAVT Conference. I hope to see you all back again in 2019 as we celebrate 35 years!



Submitted by
Kenzie Makowsky, RVT
Conference Coordinator

Ministry of Agriculture Report

Submitted by Dr. Betty Althouse, Chief Veterinary Officer

Legislation and Regulation Changes:

The *Animal Protection Act* was updated and proclaimed by the Saskatchewan Legislature September 2018.

Amendments to the Act include:

- Veterinarians' mandatory duty to report suspected animal cruelty cases
- Animal care duties required by the person responsible for the animal
- Addition of provisions for abandoned animals

Bill 140, *The Animal Health Act*, received royal assent on May 15, 2019. The new act will replace the *Diseases of Animals Act*. It is expected that both the Act and its regulations will come into force in the fall of 2019.

Consultations on updated *Domestic Game Farm Animal Regulations* took place in 2018-19 and new regulations will be proposed fall 2019.

Provincial Disease Response:

Anthrax: A provincial response program is in place, involving testing support, reporting, quarantines, and ensuring proper carcass disposal. Carcass-side test kits were distributed to clinics this summer as requested by those clinics. These kits are used by practitioners for suspected anthrax cases in the field. If these kits are used, they must then be sent to the Roy Romanow laboratory for confirmatory testing. Ensure the assay and diluent are stored in the refrigerator as soon as they are received by your clinic, as they must be kept cool to remain effective, and monitor expiry dates. There has been one outbreak in 2019 involving farmed ruminants (non-bovine), which occurred in September in the RM of Chester No. 125. The last outbreak in the province occurred in 2015.

Rabies: The Ministries of Agriculture and Health co-fund the provincial rabies response program, overseen by a Rabies Risk Assessment Veterinarian, Dr. Clarence Bishop. Clinics submit their invoices for expenses occurred directly to the Ministry. If you submit a suspect rabies case, ensure proper protective equipment, such as gloves, are worn. Rabies vaccination for staff that handle suspect cases is also an important protective measure. Ensure that your rabies titres are checked regularly and vaccine boosters are obtained as needed. Speak to your clinic manager to determine what protocol is in place for rabies vaccination at your clinic. New this year, invoices for sample submission fees must be sent to: agprograms@gov.sk.ca. Invoices must be submitted using the Ministry-approved template which is emailed to all submitters along with the directions for submitting samples by Dr. Bishop, provincial Rabies Risk Assessment Veterinarian.

Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea: Site surveillance continues in the province, with regular sampling at high traffic sites. There are contingency plans, developed with industry, and funds to respond to any positive production site. So far, Saskatchewan production sites remain PED-free; however, virus is occasionally detected from trucks or comingling sites, with follow up tracing, testing, cleaning and disinfection completed to reduce the risk to swine. With four PED outbreaks in Alberta this year, and 78 so far in Manitoba, it is important that Saskatchewan producers and animal health care providers remain vigilant about biosecurity to make sure that we continue to keep PED out of the province.

Salmonella Dublin: While not yet officially a provincially notifiable disease, it is anticipated that this disease will become notifiable when the new animal health regulations come into effect later this fall. PDS has increasingly been isolating Salmonella Dublin (Group D) from diagnostic samples submitted from cattle premises in Alberta and Saskatchewan. They have all shown the same antimicrobial susceptibility profile, being resistant to multiple antibiotics. While the number of cases diagnosed annually is still relatively low, there is a clear increasing trend, going from zero cases prior to 2015, to two, four and seven cases in each province in 2016, 2017 and 2018, respectively.

Infectious Laryngotracheitis (ILT): There was one case of ILT reported to the province in 2018 and two to date in 2019. Both were in small backyard or hobby flocks and all owners agreed to voluntarily depopulate the infected flocks. It is believed that ILT circulates in the small flock/hobby industry, so please be aware of this disease when dealing with your poultry-owning clients.

Prudent Antimicrobial Use:

Changes to antimicrobial access, led by the Veterinary Drug Directorate of Health Canada, came into effect on December 1, 2018. We are not aware of any major issues related to the change; the majority of complaints received involve small flock health with owners complaining about a lack of knowledgeable/willing veterinarians as much as they complain about the removal of over-the-counter access to antibiotics.

Animal Welfare:

The provincial Animal Welfare Strategy focuses on prevention of and response to animal welfare concerns. A meeting is planned for fall of 2019 to assess progress and set goals for the coming year.

An Interagency Task Force involving Ministries of Social Services, Justice, Corrections and Policing, along with Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Protection Services of Saskatchewan, RCMP and WCVM are exploring ways to better respond to cases of animal neglect with underlying human health issues, such as mental health concerns, hoarding or domestic violence.

Saskatchewan Veterinary Medical Association Report

The highest priority for the Council of the Saskatchewan Veterinary Medical Association (SVMA) this past year has been to address the shortage of veterinary professionals in Saskatchewan, particularly in rural areas. In 2018, we surveyed veterinary practice owners, veterinarians and registered veterinary technologists (RVTs) throughout the province, and the results showed that the effects of the shortage are clearly being felt in practices and in personal lives.

One strategy Council has been pursuing in its efforts to address the shortage is to increase the annual crop of veterinarians graduating from the Western College of Veterinary Medicine (WCVM). The primary obstacle in this initiative has been the need for increased funding for the WCVM. This financial challenge has resulted from the Alberta government's departure from the Interprovincial Funding Agreement which is a key source of funding for the DVM program and operations at the college. SVMA Council executives have met with provincial Ministries to discuss their concerns. They have also called upon the membership to write letters to their MLAs about the shortage of veterinarians and veterinary technologists that affects us all.

Another strategy Council has been pursuing is increasing retention of graduating veterinarians in Saskatchewan by attracting them to careers as rural mixed animal practitioners. The SVMA has been promoting the rural mixed animal practice lifestyle through its continued support and improvement of the student Mentorship and Preceptorship Programs.

The final strategy that Council is exploring is bringing more foreign trained veterinarians to Saskatchewan, by highlighting the benefits of rural mixed animal practice and by improving efficiencies with the licensing process which will enable these veterinarians to secure employment sooner.

This past year, the SVMA also said goodbye to Dr Judy Currie, who has been the association's registrar and secretary-treasurer since 2012. Her successor, Dr Marc Cattet, began in March 2019 and can be found most days at the SVMA office along with Jane Freimark (Licensing & Financial Coordinator), Sue Gauthier (Communications & Members Services Coordinator), and Lorraine Serhienko, RVT (Regulatory & Education Coordinator).

Looking ahead, the SVMA office has identified four medium-term (1-3 year) objectives that were supported by Council in July. These are:

- 1) To educate registrants and the public about why and how the veterinary profession is regulated in Saskatchewan;
- 2) To determine how the public wants the SVMA to protect and serve the public interest;
- 3) To review and improve the SVMA's complaints process; and
- 4) To increase VT and DVM student engagement in the SVMA.

More details on these initiatives will be provided through various SVMA communications (i.e., E-News, SVMA Newsletter) in the months to come.

Marc Cattet
Registrar and Secretary-Treasurer

Sue Gauthier
Communications & Members Services Coordinator



SAVT/SVMA Liaison Report

Pending

RVTTC Director Report

Pending

Second Year Saskatchewan Polytechnic Liaison Report

As students and recent graduates, these past 12 months have been, in short, an adventure. This year, we set out goals to explore the relationships and connections between VT students and RVTs, as well as that between RVTs and the general public. It is through these connections that we find ways to grow and embrace what it truly means to be an RVT.

Our journey began with welcoming the 2020 Class of (R)VTs, to whom we vowed to keep a close eye and to help support them in any way we could. Mentoring the VT1s involved, but was not limited to, helping them navigate the school, helping them with their studies, and introducing them to the open and welcoming arms of the SAVT. We hope that our communications with the next year of graduates will continue to reinforce the bond between industry and future RVTs, and inspire them to do the same for their future colleagues.

Mabel worked very hard to reenforce this bridge between students and RVTs by being involved with the SAVT Mentorship/VTS Committee. As a recent graduate, she felt she would be the best candidate to help ensure the success of her peers. Mabel was also involved with the SAVT 35th Year Anniversary Committee to help plan celebrations and decorations for the SAVT Conference 2019.

Meanwhile, Marlayna worked with the SAVT PR Committee to help form a more transparent relationship with the general public. Prior to the Sask Polytech VT Program, she had very little knowledge on the realm of veterinary medicine, and she realized that she was not alone. She is most passionate about volunteering for public events, recruiting future classes of (R)VTs, and helping other RVTs get involved in their own communities.

Words cannot describe the immense gratitude we feel for the SAVT in giving us a place to let our student voices and concerns be, not only heard, but appreciated. We are excited to go forward into the industry with friends, allies, and a better understanding of the roles that RVTs can play.



Thank you for another wonderful year!
Mabel Ng and Marlayna Morgan



First Year Saskatchewan Polytechnic Liaisons Report

I had the pleasure of holding the first year Saskatchewan Polytechnic Student Liaison position with the SAVT this past year. The highlight of the year included taking part in the 2018 SAVT Conference which was a fantastic experience. I learned so much that weekend and was proud to be part of it. Some other great moments this year included attending events such as Pets in the Park and holding student sessions at the SAVT office covering topics such as specialties, wildlife rehab, and sharing experiences with the graduating class of 2019.

I have really enjoyed my time in this role - promoting the SAVT with my classmates and getting to know my fellow Board members. It has been an interesting year full of learning and great opportunities, and I am grateful for the student support received from the SAVT. I look forward to the year ahead and continuing to be a voice for the Saskatchewan Polytechnic students.



Submitted by
Ashley Martin



Financial Report

Saskatchewan Association of Veterinary Technologists

BALANCE SHEET

As of September 30, 2019

	TOTAL
Assets	
Current Assets	
Cash and Cash Equivalent	\$103,564.85
Accounts Receivable (A/R)	\$0.00
Accrued Interest on GIC's	1,158.39
Inventory Asset	3,974.00
Office Rent	2,461.38
Prepaid Conference Expenses	3,163.88
Prepaid Insurance	1,401.15
Prepaid SAVT expenses	1,828.06
Repayment	0.00
MidMonth Advance	0.00
Total Repayment	0.00
Total Current Assets	\$117,551.71
Non-current Assets	
Term Investments	75,700.84
Total Non Current Assets	\$75,700.84
Total Assets	\$193,252.55
Liabilities and Equity	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable (A/P)	\$ -1,729.89
Accrued liabilities	6,000.00
GST/HST Payable	-1,301.21
Payroll Liabilities	0.00
Unearned Revenue Conference	23,150.00
Unearned Conference Sponsorship	28,595.00
Total Unearned Revenue Conference	51,745.00
Total Current Liabilities	\$54,713.90
Non-current Liabilities	
Legal Fund Reserve	21,000.00
Reserve Planning	1,800.00
Total Non-current Liabilities	\$22,800.00
Total Liabilities	\$77,513.90
Equity	
Opening Bal Equity	5,500.00
Retained Earnings	106,751.60
Profit for the year	3,487.05
Total Equity	\$115,738.65
Total Liabilities and Equity	\$193,252.55

Saskatchewan Association of Veterinary Technologists

PROFIT AND LOSS

October 2018 - September 2019

	TOTAL
INCOME	
Conference Income	0.00
Conference Registrants	65,101.90
Sponsorship	46,325.00
Total Conference Income	111,426.90
SAVT General Income	0.00
CE & Disciplinary	400.00
Interest	167.74
Memberships	0.00
Active Memberships	141,191.32
Short-Term Memberships	45.00
Social	600.00
Total Memberships	141,836.32
Merchandise	105.00
Clothing (deleted)	1,094.60
Total Merchandise	1,199.60
Sponsorship/Advertising	5,370.20
Total SAVT General Income	148,973.86
Total Income	\$260,400.76
GROSS PROFIT	\$260,400.76
EXPENSES	
Conference Coordinator	18,540.00
Conference Expenses	0.00
Audio Visual	6,200.79
Entertainment	2,100.00
Facility Rent	2,523.48
Favours	818.35
Friday Banquet	6,950.15
Meeting Expenses	112.97
Name Badges	363.72
Office Supplies	227.81
Printing	4,712.15
Saturday Banquet	793.66
Saturday Meals	42,874.57
Speakers	15,921.23
Sunday Meals	5,534.55
Sunday Wet Lab Supplies	1,082.43
Tradeshow	1,435.57
Website Support	2,247.75
Total Conference Expenses	93,899.18
Insurance	1,272.00
Payroll Expenses	0.00
Benefits	3,699.00
Taxes	3,783.72
Wages	54,472.01
Total Payroll Expenses	61,954.73

	TOTAL
SAVT Expenses	0.00
Awards	3,557.96
Grant	1,000.00
Legal and Professional Fees	377.40
Meetings	4,775.11
Minister of Finance	30.00
Office	0.00
Hardware	2,948.60
Rent	8,250.60
Software	3,257.22
Total Office	14,456.42
Phone/Fax/internet	0.00
PO Box	68.65
Postage	1,162.82
Printing/Photocopying	404.09
Professional Development	0.00
Board of Directors	168.00
Conference Coordinator	1,181.06
Executive Director	1,500.00
Total Professional Development	2,849.06
Promotional Expenses	7,809.79
Public Relations	7,875.32
Reports	3,142.35
RVTTTC Director Expenses	9,140.41
RVTTTC Membership Dues	6,802.00
Strategic Planning	4,686.82
Website	6,353.63
Total SAVT Expenses	74,491.83
Visa/MC fees	0.00
Bambora	6,601.55
Bank Charges Credit Card Fees	154.42
Total Visa/MC fees	6,755.97
Total Expenses	\$256,913.71
PROFIT	\$3,487.05

Committee Members

35th Anniversary Committee

Sharlene April, RVT
Carolyn Cartwright, RVT
Darlene Ford, RVT
Tara Holland, RVT
Mabel Ng, RVT
Angela Turner, RVT
Breanne Barber, RVT

Advisory Committee

Katherine Broker, RVT
Dr. Marc Cattet
Chrissie Engel, RVT
Karen Laventure, RVT
Michele Moroz, RVT
Susan Thiessen, RVT
Dr. Paige Wark
Breanne Barber, RVT

Bylaw/Policy Committee

Sheila Kucher, RVT
Shannon McCallion, RVT
Michele Moroz, RVT
Lois Ridgway, RVT
Bernice Ruf, RVT
Breanne Barber, RVT

Continuing Education Committee

Katherine Broker, RVT
Karen Laventure, RVT
Leigh Luker, RVT
Kenzie Makowsky, RVT
April Penner, RVT
Breanne Barber, RVT

Public Relations Committee

Darlene Ford, RVT
Erin Jellow, RVT
Marlayna Morgan, RVT
Jenna Powell, RVT
Renee Richard, RVT
Breanne Barber, RVT

Recertification Committee

Tara Holland, RVT
Shannon McCallion, RVT
Tamara McLoughlin, RVT
Lois Ridgway, RVT
Breanne Barber, RVT

VTS/Mentorship Committee

Sharlene April, RVT
Danielle Mierau, RVT
Mabel Ng, RVT
Domini Wilkinson, RVT
Breanne Barber, RVT

By the Numbers!

34

**Training sessions
attended by Board of
Directors & Executive
Director**

**Total meetings
attended by the
SAVT Executive
Director**

84

1,450

**Volunteer hours by the
Board of Directors**

**Other Associations our Board
of Director Members belong to**

13

**Kilometres travelled by the
Board of Directors**

27,985

Award Winners



**SAVT's
RVT of the Year**
Brenda Smith, RVT

**SAVT's
Veterinarian of the Year**
Dr. Tanya Duke

*Pictured from left to right:
Dr. Colette Neudorf and Lois Ridgway, RVT & President*



**SAVT's
Appreciation Award**
Family Pet Cremation Services



**SAVT's
Conference Appreciation
Award**

Jackie Elsasser, RVT

*Pictured from left to right:
Cindy Toy, RVT and Jackie Elsasser, RVT*

Merck Mentorship Award

Lois Ridgway, RVT

*Pictured from left to right:
Breanne Barber, RVT and Lois Ridgway, RVT*



SVMA RVT of the Year

Brenda Smith, RVT

*Pictured from left to right:
Brenda Smith, RVT and Dr. Tom Avey*



Student Award Winners



Lakeland College SAVT Student Award

Sarah Moore, Student

*Pictured from left to right:
Carolyn Cartwright, RVT and Sarah Moore*

Saskatchewan Polytechnic SAVT Student Award

Mabel Ng, Student

*Pictured from left to right:
Jasmin Carlton and Mabel Ng*



The Student Awards are chosen by faculty of the programs at their respected educational institutions

Service Awards in 2018

5 YEARS

Laurel Dimmock	Hayley Down	Megan East	Victoria Forsberg
Shyla Heagy	Derek Riley	Crystal Wintonyk	Justine Hetherington
Vanessa Janzen	Brianne Knutson	Holly Kuntz	Amber L'Heureux
Jacquelyn MacDuff	Sarah Mooney	Courtney Quesnel	Lindsey Hildebrandt
Ashley Roberts	Megan Ross	Desiree Rudniski	Adriana Schiffer
Tammy Schropp	Amy Small	Kaitlynne Swaney	Megan Turton

10 YEARS

Shelagh Barclay	Caitlyn Botterill	Jennifer Garbutt	Krysten Gravelle
April Mulholland	Danielle Renaud	Jackie Slywka	Meghan Taylor
Brianna Thiemann	Jennifer Wright	Dahlea Kohle	Michelle Martinuk
Pam McMillen-Van Meer			

15 YEARS

Crystal Breault	Theresa Bullock	Kristin Caldwell	Tawyna Campbell
Patricia Drake	Leigh Fuessel	Wendy Mock	Leeanne Olynick
Terra Rader	Carla Rangel	Brianne Schneider	Lesley Wilson

20 YEARS

Tanya Brown	Julie Chinksi	Erin de Coninck Smith	Lindsey Fenez
Glenda Hawken	Karen Laventure	Juanita Ivanochko	Danielle Mierau
Colette Schick	Brandi Tebb	Sandra Temsland	Angelee Thierman
Karen Watson			

25 YEARS

Lynne Dyck	Darla Erbach	Lori Haugrud	Kristen Hunter
Annette Lorenz	Lisa Mallory	Valerie Riffel	

30 YEARS

Lesa Altrogge	Brenda Beierle	Susan Bernauer	Wendy Fernets
	Jim Tourand	Cindy Toy	

35 YEARS

Michele Moroz	Lois Ridgway
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Long-Term Service Award Photos



Thank You!

The Saskatchewan Association of Veterinary Technologists wants to thank all of our sponsors, partners, volunteers, and members for a successful year. Everyone's support is vital and we look forward to another year of working on our mission and vision:

SAVT Mission Statement: *To Promote and Advance Registered Veterinary Technologists*

SAVT Vision Statement: *Professionalism and Excellence in Animal Care*



Long-Term Service Award Sponsor



Thank You!

The Saskatchewan Association of Veterinary Technologists wants to thank all of our conference sponsors who are committed to Registered Veterinary Technologists in Saskatchewan and throughout Canada.

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Milestones

The SAVT celebrated a number of milestones this past year. The growth of our association and continued advancement of RVTs throughout veterinary medicine have seen the SAVT and our members reach new heights!



Nadine Schueller, RVT became the first voting RVT member on the Saskatchewan Veterinary Medical Association Council.

Pictured right is Nadine speaking at the SVMA AGM.



RVTs with their voting cards at the SVMA Annual General Meeting. This was the first time RVTs had the opportunity to vote at this meeting.

Dr. Judy Currie retired as the Saskatchewan Veterinary Medical Association's Registrar.

Pictured to the right from right to left Jasmin Carlton and Dr. Judy Currie



You're Invited!

Next Year's Conference

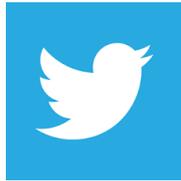
36th Anniversary and Conference
November 6-8, 2020
Saskatoon, SK



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Blog: saskvet.tech



We wish to acknowledge that the SAVT office is on Treaty 6 Territory and the Homeland of the Metis and that SAVT members practice and live on Treaty 2, Treaty 4, Treaty 5, Treaty 6, Treaty 8, and Treaty 10 Territory. We pay our respects to the First Nations and Metis ancestors of these places and reaffirm our relationship with one another.



SAVT

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