

March 8, 2019



Dear Luisa,

The BCVTA works closely with the Registered Veterinary Technologists and Technicians of Canada, and we have developed strong relationships with individual Provincial Veterinary Technologist Associations and their regulatory bodies. The profession of veterinary technology is now recognized across Canada using the title "RVT"; the RVTTC has over 8500 members and 850+ of those are from BC.

**BCVTA members have spoken loud and clear that their wish is for the veterinary facilities of British Columbia to stop hiring people off the street to perform veterinary tasks of a medical nature that only RVT's should be doing, as has been implemented across the other western provinces.** We partner in the veterinary healthcare industry to empower our members to utilize their training to deliver the gold standard of care. We look forward to working with the CVBC to implement the BCVTA's vision that every animal care facility in British Columbia employs a Registered Veterinary Technologist.

Thank you for your recent email dated February 28, 2019 with respect to the drafting of Bylaws Regarding Certified Technicians: proposed application and certification fees. While the BCVTA appreciates that the process has been re-started, we feel that the inclusion of certified technicians on Schedule C is premature without proper RVT bylaws being created within the CVBC.

We recognize that there is no requirement for approval of fees by BCVTA members; however, our members will want an explanation of fees they are being charged and what they will benefit from it.

*If we can't guarantee that veterinarians in BC will be mandated to stop allowing uneducated, unregulated individuals to perform veterinary procedures, then there is no reason to proceed with the inclusion of Certified Technician fees on Schedule C.*

Our 850+ BCVTA members are requesting that the CVBC protect the public and animals of BC:

- 1) By creating bylaws that will establish aspects of the practice of veterinary medicine that a registrant may delegate to a certified technician/RVT to provide and those that a registrant **must not** delegate to an employee that is not a certified technician/RVT.
- 2) By creating a class of certified technician whose conditions of qualification include being a registered member of the BCVTA and the ability to use the title

Registered Veterinary Technologist, a title which is being standardized and publicly recognized across Canada.

- 3) By allowing that the certified technician/RVT may be delegated all aspect of veterinary medicine except surgery, diagnosis or direction of a course of treatment; this allows the DVM to focus their attention on those tasks.

Your email mentioned preparing a draft of the Bylaws prior to setting a teleconference of the Multi-Disciplinary sub-committee; please provide us with your timeline. We will be answering to our membership at our AGM in April 2019 and would like positive motion forward to report.

With respect to the email from Zaman Valli-Hasham regarding website and databases: we will be happy to share information once we are closer to a mutually agreeable plan for certification of BC Registered Veterinary Technologists. Until then, it seems a bit premature.

In closing, the BCVTA would like to see veterinary medicine as one profession with two publicly recognized registered veterinary medical professionals: registered veterinarians and registered veterinary technologists. This can only result in positive outcomes for all concerned: veterinary professionals, the public and their animals. BCVTA members are leaders and advocates for professional animal health care, helping to raise veterinary standards for the protection of the public and the animals of British Columbia. We look forward to working with the CVBC to create this vision of increasing the standard of veterinary care in BC.

Sincerely,



Kirsten Wilson, RVT  
BCVTA/CVBC Liaison



Heather Shannon, RVT  
President

On behalf of the BCVTA Board of Directors

cc: Arlene Anderson, Heather Anderson, Mark A. Bartle (Gillespie & Company, LLP), Lorie Hrycuik, Dr. Joanne Weetman



March 20, 2019

Ms. Kirsten Wilson  
BCVTA/CVBC Liaison  
Box 26091 Valleyview PO  
Kamloops, BC V2C 0A9  
Email: kjwilson1@gmail.com

Ms. Heather Shannon, RVT  
President  
Box 26091 Valleyview PO  
Kamloops, BC V2C 0A9  
Email: Hshannon@tru.ca

Dear Ms. Wilson and Ms. Shannon,

**Re: Bylaw changes to certify BCVTA members and other applicants**

Thank you for your letter dated March 8, 2019, responding to my February 28, 2019 email. The CVBC supports the BCVTA's vision of having trained RVTs employed in veterinary facilities.

We also support the use of the title "RVT". In order to implement the title "Registered Veterinary Technologist", we will draft our Bylaws to propose that the current statutory definition of "Certified Technician" includes both "Certified Veterinary Technician" and "Registered Veterinary Technologist", with the hope that the Ministry will eventually amend the *Veterinarians Act* to conform with title usage. You may recall that this approach was discussed last year during a teleconference call with the Ministry.

I would like to clarify why it is important for our registrant veterinarians to vote on the enclosed proposed fee schedule no later than May 2019: Bylaw s. 1.80(3) provides that: *if registrants do not approve ... an amendment to Schedule "C" [by majority vote], to be paid in the next fiscal year, the prescribed fees and assessments ... will continue to apply* [emphasis added]. That means a fee cannot be levied in the fiscal year in which it passes.

Since both the Ministry and the BCVTA have urged the CVBC to set up the certification process for CVT/RVTs, we need a fee schedule in place **before** June 30, 2019 if we are to start certifying in 2019. Otherwise the process will be delayed until at least July 1, 2020. I see no impediment to having a fee schedule in place before we draft Bylaws and accept applications.

Suite 210, 10991 Shellbridge Way, Richmond, BC, Canada V6X 3C6  
TEL: 604-929-7090 FAX: 604-929-7095 TOLL FREE: 1-800-463-5399 WEB: cvbc.ca

You will note that the annual fees compare favourably to our neighbours in Alberta but not as favourably as Manitoba. The attached table does not set out the Alberta application fee of \$124.24 (plus GST).

**Responding to the numbered points in your letter:**

1. We are committed to drafting the bylaws in accordance with this request, for registrant veterinarian vote.
2. We are aware of a current (chronic) shortage of RVTs in BC and across the country. We will need to consider the impact on the public of preventing registrant veterinarians from providing services in the absence of availability of BCVTA members (if we understand your letter correctly). Ultimately the registrant veterinarians will vote on this issue before it is considered by the Province. Currently we have close to 700 facilities in BC, some requiring many more than 1 RVT. Your current membership numbers of 850+ will not fully service all those facilities, particularly in certain areas of BC.
3. Delegation will be based on experience and expertise, under the responsibility of each registrant veterinarian.

We look forward to future dialogue and thank you for your attention.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Luisa Hlus".

**Luisa Hlus**  
Registrar, CVBC

Encl. Draft Fee Appendix (for BCVTA feedback)  
Alberta fee schedule  
Manitoba fee schedule

cc: Lorie Hrycuik, Ministry of Agriculture