

BCVTA Fall General Meeting
October 3, 2021

Mission

We 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.

Vision

Gold Standard of Animal Care

Our vision is for every animal care facility in British Columbia to employ a Registered Veterinary Technologist. We partner in the veterinary healthcare industry to empower our members to utilize their training to deliver the gold standard of care.

Strategic Statement

The BCVTA, acting with integrity, serves to educate and advocate for our members, to advance the profession of veterinary technology.

Strategic Pillars

Educate, Advocate and Advance

Meeting called to order by A.Gregg at 11:30am. With 136 members in attendance, quorum has been met.

Motion to accept Minutes from April AGM: Jennifer Bell-Irving

Second: Nicole Jackson

Passed

Motion to accept agenda: Julie Kerr

Second: Gayle Paquette

Passed

President's report - Amber Gregg

We have experienced some changes to the Board this year. In April we said farewell to Heather Shannon and Kirsten Wilson, and recently Mia Ciroto and Tina Douglas have stepped down from their positions. Each one of these Board members provided valuable experience, skills, and resources for the Association and their absences have been felt.

The remaining Board members are a skilled and dedicated team. Each individual member brings their own unique perspectives that help guide decision making. Meetings have continued to be very productive and tonight we will welcome two new

Directors to the team to further create a diverse Board of Directors that will benefit the Association.

We are fortunate to have Denise Hitt as our steady hand at the wheel, and if you have seen her posts from her jeep adventures, you will know what she is made of! Denise has a strong work ethic, a great attitude, and an excellent sense of humor. We are lucky to have her.

A few Key Highlights since our AGM in April 2021 are:

- Creation a Complaints Committee to line up with our Bylaws and are in the process of creating documents to support the complaints process.
- Ongoing updating of our policies. The Board refers to these policies to help guide decision making and it is important for them to be clear and effective.
- Engaging in meetings with the CVBC to build a working relationship. We will provide further details on this in the CVBC Liaison Report
- Researching alternative options for regulation of RVTs in BC.
- Researching courses for Professionalism and Ethics which would be necessary to regulate RVTs in BC.
- Updated website with a new member portal which will be demonstrated later in the meeting.
- Continuing discussions on Diversity and Inclusivity including Sport for Life diversity training courses, and how to encourage representation on the Board of Directors.

You will hear from each of our directors as to what they have been up to for a more complete picture of the work we have been doing. Thanks again for allowing me to be part of the team!

Executive Director report - Denise Hitt

Denise provided a detailed demonstration of the new member portal, including Q&A on entering CE.

Things are running smoothly otherwise. Time has been spent changing over to the new member platform, planning CE events, and providing orientation for new incoming Board members.

Strategic planning in November will be good to get all members of the Board up to speed and working toward the same goals.

Treasurer Report - delivered by Leanne Hills-Schmidt on behalf of Tina Douglas

COVID-19 has continued to have an impact on the financials for the BCVTA. Expenses have decreased in comparison to the planned budget. We did not need to rent space, provide catering, and our amazing speakers were virtual, meaning we did not have to pay travel expenses. It allowed us to gather a vast array of great speakers for a lower cost than we could have if they were to travel to us for an in-person conference. We can appreciate that in person conferences are great, but we were less able to predict expenses which resulted in a net surplus that will only benefit the members of the BCVTA.

Currently we have:

Chequing: \$142,434.77

Savings: \$185,367.45

GIC (2 of them totalling): \$20,649.88

April 30 is our year end, we had budgeted:

Revenue: \$181,000

Expenses: \$180,546.08

Meaning our Net Income would be: \$653.92

Actual: Revenue: \$216,326.46

Expenses: \$90,392.75

Net Income: \$126,494.02

We will keep the members updated as to what is happening with the funds.

Motion to approve year-end financials: Nicole Jameson-Fritz

Second: Laurie Dew

Passed

RVTTC Report - Tinille Mackenzie-Wyatt RVT, VTS (ECC) and Kalaya Donchi RVT, VCC

1. National Standards of practice for the registered veterinary technologist and technician profession in Canada. Released in August 2021, this document was created through the collaboration of technicians across Canada. This document was created with the intent to:

- Foster a better understanding of professional obligations across Canada since regulation is currently provincially mandated
- Define an RVT and their professional standards
- Reaffirm the importance of professional development

- Reaffirm RVT's ethical values and commitment to patients, the public, and their profession
- Describe the foundational knowledge expected of an RVT, various career paths and the advanced level of expertise that's come with earning a Veterinary Technician Specialty Designation

To view the complete document you will find it [here](#)

2. RVT Career Ladder Website continues to take strides forward with a planned release in the near future.

3. RVTTC Strategic planning took place in July 2021 facilitated by Halmyre
This event was held virtually and we will continue to use the information we learned with them to continue working with the Provincial Associations to find out how we can support them as they support their RVT's

4. RVTTC is striving to have our documents and newsletters translated to French with the rejoining of Quebec into the RVTTC

5. The RVTTC annual report has been released and can be found on the RVTTC homepage under the RVTTC tab. Don't forget to check out the RVTTC strategic projects, provincial association reports, RVTs advocacy reports sharing where RVTs are represented across Canada, our award winners and so much more!

6. This Fall Board members completed two courses online through Sport for Life called Canadian Indigenous Culture Training and the Diversity and Inclusion Training

7. This year the Annual General Meeting did not occur during the CVMA convention this year, instead choosing to host it virtually. Next year the CVMA convention will be held in Halifax, NS.

8. Both Tinille and Kalaya worked with the organizer of VET Fall conference (Veterinary Education Today) to help plan the RVT tracks- taking place virtually this year- Nov 10-13 2021- check it out

9. To find out about more CE opportunities check out the Continuing Education tab on the RVTTC homepage

10. Don't forget to check your e-mails from the BCVTA for a copy of your RVT talk. Not only will it give you a quick update on what is happening in BC but what is happening with RVT's across Canada!

Tinille McKenzie-Wyatt RVT, VTS (ECC)
Kalaya Donchi RVT, VCC

RVT Month Task Force Report - Ashley Hansen

Hello Everyone,

Happy RVT Month! This is the 5th year of celebrating RVT Month, and I hope everyone enjoys it! Over the past several months I have been collaborating with members of other provincial associations and the RVTTC to collectively develop materials for RVT Month as well as update the “app”. This year we are highlighting 5 RVT superpowers: being essential, resilient, professional, passionate, and responsible.

In September, the RVTTC started to release posters that display the various environments and career paths RVT work in, as well as a description of how RVTs display each superpower quality. All the posters can be accessed on the RVTTC website as well as the RVT Month “app”.

The “app” has been updated, offering a bilingual platform, a search function in the “Thank an RVT” section, and events that can be linked to your personal calendar. The app offers:

- Access to the swag shop – where RVT Month clothing and accessories can be purchased.
- The “Thank an RVT” comment board.
- The resource hub – all events, documents, posters/images, and videos can be viewed here.

If you would like to add the “app” to your phone's home screen, go to “rvtmonth.ca” in your web browser, press the share button at the bottom of your screen, and select “add to home screen”. Once that is done, you will have an icon that links you directly to the website.

During October, we will be running weekly photo contests with awesome prizes for the winners. Everyone who posts a picture with the appropriate tag will be entered into a draw at the end of the week. Week 1 of the photo contest will be #myRVTSuperpower, week 2 - #StillanRVT, Week 3 - #teamworkmakesthedreamwork, and week 4 - #selfcarematters. The prizes that are up for grabs are four \$100 VISA gift cards. To encourage everyone to focus more on themselves this month, we have created a self-care bingo card for anyone who would like to use it. The bingo card can be used at home by yourself or made into a game for you and your coworkers (who doesn't like a little friendly competition?). The bingo card can be found on the “app” in the resource hub.

For any trivia lovers out there, the ABVTA will be hosting a Netflix edition trivia night on October 15th that is open to all RVTs. Further information about this event can be found on the “app” in the events sections.

I hope you all have a great October!

CVBC Liason Report - Delivered by Amber Gregg

Past CVBC Liaison, Mia Cirotto, and myself met with the CVBC earlier this year. We provided them with an update on BCVTA activities and stated our intention to work towards regulation of RVTs to move the profession forward. At that time, they were in transition with a deputy registrar, with a new registrar expected to start in August.

In August, the new Registrar, Dr. Megan Bergman started and shortly after, reached out to schedule a meeting with the BCVTA. Denise and I attended this meeting last week and we both came away with an optimistic feeling for the future. Dr. Bergman made it clear that the Council had indicated that the regulation of RVTs was a priority for them. We all felt that it was important to build the relationship between organizations to make an effort to come together when needed to better support RVTs and DVMs in BC. Dr. Bergman has experienced the process of the regulation of RVTs at the Manitoba Veterinary Medical Association so has valuable experience that will make the process more efficient, with a focus on increasing the value of RVTs. .

Over the next few months, we will have our new CVBC Liaison in place and getting up to speed on where we are at. That individual will attend meetings as required to continue to build the relationship and work with the CVBC toward regulation.

We have some time scheduled later in the meeting for open discussion on regulation, so we will move on for now.

Old Business

- Registration Numbers: 1136 RVTs, 13 Retired, 98 Students, 58 Sustained members
- Member Portal Demo - done in ED Report
- RVT regulation - open discussion

The RVT regulation discussion involved many of the same points that the BCVTA has heard in past years. The following is noted for future meetings and planning by the BOD:

- OJT Techs - would they be “grandfathered” in
- How would annual dues be affected
- What is the benefit of being registered? I.e. better wages, benefits, etc

Moving forward to regulation is predicted to be a slow process and the BCVTA BOD would be consulting the membership at each step along the process. The focus at this time is to work with the CVBC and government to update and modernize the language in the CVBC Bylaws and the Veterinary Act to better reflect the value of RVTs and to clarify the scope of what RVTs are allied to do. In addition to this, the BCVTA believes that building a stronger working relationship with the CVBC will be of benefit to the profession.

New Business

- BOD Elections

Reminder with new bylaws – members are voted onto the Board and the Board decides on positions

Board of Director nominees: Amanda Barker and Christa Charbonneau

Motion to elect both nominees onto the Board of Directors: Donna Lasser

Second: Kari Jones

Passed

- Service Awards
- Lifetime Achievement Award - Tina Douglas

Closing Remarks

Meeting declared closed at conclusion of business by A.Gregg at 1:18 pm