

**BCVTA Fall AGM**  
**October 23 2022, 12:15pm - 1:45 pm**  
**Via Zoom**

Meeting Called to Order at 12:18pm

**Acceptance of the Agenda:**

Motion to accept the agenda with the power to add: Brynne Hagerman

Second: Tracy Heyland

Motion Carried

**Accept the Past AGM Meeting Minutes**

Motion to accept the spring AGM meeting minutes: Lindsay Adams

Second: Jennifer Bell Irving

Motion Carried

**Confirm Quorum:** 68 Registered Members in attendance

**Welcome, Acknowledgements and Greetings**

**Greetings from:**

- Stacy Thomas (CVBC) Deputy Registrar
- Darryl Haugen ABVTA
- Cera Youngson RVTTC Executive Director

**Board of Director Introductions and Reports**

**Treasurer's Report:**

The association is coming up to the 2021-2022 fiscal year end. The unpredictability of the COVID-19 pandemic has led to some changes to the regular activities of the association, resulting in some differences in the actual revenue and expenses from previous years. Most notably, conferences and strategic planning meetings were held virtually which decreased the total expenses for the year. Without travel and accommodation costs, the Spring 2021 conference resulted in a surplus which allowed the association to host the Fall 2021 conference for members at no cost. At this time, the association anticipates a surplus of approximately \$70,000.00 which will be allocated to the cost of regulation and advocacy activities. For the 2022-2023 year, the association plans to resume in-person activities including the Spring 2023 conference and Board of Director Strategic planning. These activities will result in increased expenses to pre-pandemic

numbers. At this time, the Board has discussed continuing to offer the Fall Conference virtually, to take advantage of quality speakers while saving money on travel and accommodations. At this time, the association predicts a small surplus of approximately \$11,000 for the upcoming fiscal year. This budget will be monitored and updated on a monthly basis.

Currently Holding:

\$256 751.99 in Savings

\$99 136.84 in Chequing

\$ 70 699.40 in GICs

As of the end of August we have a surplus of \$123 053.10

**Submitted by: Leanne Schmidt**

**Motion to Accept the Treasurer's Report: Karen Phelps**

**Second: Danielle Barbeau**

**Motion Carried**

#### **RVTTC Update:**

The RVTTC provides leadership and advocacy on behalf of our Provincial Association members and continually works to unite, advance and strengthen the RVT profession across the country. We represent our RVT members on many committees and organizations including American Association of Veterinary State Boards (AAVSB), Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA), AHT/VT Program Accreditation Committee, Animal Welfare Committee, International Veterinary Nurses and Technicians Association (IVNTA), World Veterinary Association and World Small Animal Veterinary Association (WSAVA).

The RVTTC published its highly anticipated National Standards of Practice for the RVT profession across Canada in August 2021 to support the advancement of the RVT profession. The standards are for Registered Veterinary Technicians and Technologists, students of veterinary technology, provincial veterinary technology associations, Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and students, employers and stakeholders in the general public. Last October, we celebrated RVT Month as a national initiative for the fifth year. Five posters were created and shared to celebrate RVTs' superpowers – their resilience, professionalism, passion and the essential roles they play as dedicated and responsible animal healthcare providers. Partners and veterinary teams across Canada were encouraged to join in a number of activities and contests throughout the month of October to help promote and recognize the RVT profession.

We are so excited to have launched the RVT Career Navigator™ in December 2021. It is a new and unique bilingual national career planning and advancement website

dedicated to Registered Veterinary Technologists/Technicians, developed with input from an advisory panel of RVTs, provincial veterinary technician associations and other leaders in the animal health field. The RVT Career Navigator™ will enable high school students, second career/mature students, students of veterinary technology and RVTs to investigate, explore, and create their own career pathway based on their skills, experience, education, interests, and professional goals. The RVT Career Navigator™ already is benefitting the profession by reaching more than 10,000 unique visitors since launch and earning the 2022 VMAE (Veterinary Medical Association Executives) Best in Business Award for small practices. It has the potential to continue to grow into a key career tool for the RVT profession, now and into the future of this essential and growing profession. If you haven't already, please check out the website at [rvtcareernavigator.ca](http://rvtcareernavigator.ca) and share it with current and prospective RVTs. Congratulations to Alyson Howard of New Brunswick, who was named 2022's Canadian RVT of the Year. This esteemed award is presented to a Registered Veterinary Technologist/Technician (RVT) who exemplifies the definition of an outstanding individual in the RVT profession. Alyson was presented her award at the CVMA Awards Luncheon in Halifax in July.

RVTTTC wishes to recognize two outgoing leaders for their dedication and many contributions to the organization and RVT profession. Thank you to Heather Shannon, outgoing President who is transitioning from her role after serving for four years and thank you to Shannon Thompson who is retiring after eight years as Executive Director of RVTTTC. Shannon Thompson and Heather Shannon oversaw major initiatives such as the development and launch of RVTTTC's new RVT Career Navigator, a National Standards of Practice for the profession; and the expansion of RVTTTC's advocacy and education network. RVTTTC extends our thanks and wishes them both success in their next endeavours. Welcome to our new executive, Cally Merritt, RVT, CEMT of Ontario steps into the role of President, as Lorraine Serhienko, RVT, of Saskatchewan, has accepted the role of Vice-President of the Board of Directors. They join Tinille McKenzie-Wyatt of BCVTA who is continuing in the role of Financial Officer. We have also welcomed a new Executive Director, Cera Youngson.

The RVTTTC Board is in a period of renewal and transformation and has been busy developing a new mission, vision, and a new value proposition statement. The board was able to meet in person for our Annual General Meeting and strategic planning sessions held in Halifax in July conjunction with the CVMA Convention. The opportunity to meet in person for the final strategic and governance sessions will have significant impact as we bring our past years work together in the process of finalizing a new 2022-2025 Strategic Goals. We are setting out to outline our priorities as a national trade organization and the areas that we want to focus on over the next three years to advance our profession. We have expanded our staff capacity with the hiring of a

full-time Executive Director as well as the addition of a part-time Communications staff person. RVTTC will always focus on the needs of its provincial associations and support their drive in advancing their RVT members. We will continue to extend opportunities for RVTs with our advocacy voice, expand member benefit opportunities, and continue to increase the involvement of RVTs in the veterinary community.

**Report Submitted by: Kalaya Donchi and Tinille Mckenzie -Wyatt**

### **CVBC Liason Report**

I am just completing my first year as the CVBC Liaison, and am excited with the progress we have made. I have maintained a presence with the CVBC and have regularly attended their Council meetings, ensuring that RVTs have a voice in matters that concern us. Council is open to our feedback and suggestions, and the College often asks for input prior to publishing online blogs and articles that speak to RVTs. I will be attending their Annual General Meeting in a couple of weeks, and am looking forward to meeting the Council and staff outside of a Zoom meeting. A few members of our Board are also attending their Bylaws & Ethics Course next week, and will be able to provide feedback on how adjustments can be made to encompass RVTs. The relationship between the BCVTA and CVBC continues to grow and we have been enjoying working together towards the regulation of RVTs in BC. We are currently working on Bylaw revision with the CVBC, and will be starting a working group with them to explore the different avenues of regulation and finalize the next steps for us to take. This is an exciting step for the RVTs in British Columbia as it will provide a protected scope of practice, and give RVTs a voice in the veterinary profession in our province.

I'm looking forward to what the next 12 months will bring for our association, and our profession, and am excited to be a part of the positive change for RVTs in British Columbia.

**Submitted by: Amanda Barker, RVT**

### **Membership Update**

As of October 17, the BCVTA has 1130 Registered active members, 11 retired members, 18 non-resident members, 110 student memberships, and 32 sustained members.

I have been busy learning the ins and outs of the member platform, the website, and getting to know the members. I have been focussing on three main areas, member communications, updating information, and user experience. As busy RVTs, I want to make sure that your records are accurate and up to date, and that you are able to easily find what you need and do what you need to do when you log in. I have found several records with missing or incorrect information and plan to reach out in the new year to

request all members review their accounts and email me with any information that needs updating.

I have spent some time updating the Continuing Education pages on the Website. The links are now current and are separated into three categories: BCVTA Conference, Online CE Opportunities, and Upcoming CE Opportunities. I plan to keep these pages up to date on an ongoing basis. In addition to this page, I will be reviewing the rest of the website to polish up the information. If anyone comes across any glaring errors on the site, please send me an email and let me know!

The BCVTA exists to support its members. To do so, it is important that we effectively communicate with all of you, so that you can focus on doing your job, while we continue to do ours. There are currently a ton of options for communication, so it is important to us to communicate in a way that gets you what you need, but doesn't overwhelm you. Here is what you can expect moving forward:

- Member only information about upcoming events, member renewals, election information, etc. will always be sent via email. Please make sure that your email address is up to date so that you have access to these emails. Emails will include a monthly RVT Talk newsletter from the RVTTC with information from across Canada, and a bi-monthly BCVTA newsletter with links to job postings, member benefits, and upcoming CE.
- BCVTA Member Support Facebook Page - this page is monitored by the BCVTA Board of Directors and is a good way for members to connect with each other.
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- BCVTA Facebook and Instagram pages - we will use these channels to share news of upcoming events, to highlight members, and to promote RVTs to the general public. Content for these channels is created by Sticks Marketing in consultation with the BCVTA. The channels are monitored continually by myself. We will not use these channels to connect with members exclusively.

**Submitted by: Amber Gregg**

### **WorkSafe BC Presentation**

Reducing the Risks of Antineoplastic Drugs in Veterinary Clinics and Hospitals

### **Board of Director Nominations:**

Marina John

Call for additional nominations from the floor - none

Motion to elect Marnia John to the board of directors: Janelle Lynch

Second: Daniel Harvey

Motion Carried

**Committees: Call for Volunteers**

Advocacy

Awards

Membershop

Conference planning

Complaints

If anyone is interested in joining the committees please email [BCVTAboard@gmail.com](mailto:BCVTAboard@gmail.com)

**Final Reminders**

CE credit update - carry over credit glitch; please if you feel your credits are not correct please reach out. We are happy for feedback and comments as well as questions

RVT Month Photo Contest: one week left, please post a photo and tag us and you will be entered for the prize draw

RVT Month Trivia Night: Thursday October 27th - info on our website

**Adjourn the Meeting 1:29pm**

**Motion: Karren Phelps**

**Second: Marina John**

**Motion Carried**