



April 3, 2024

Aris Babikian, MPP, Chair
The Standing Committee on the Interior
Whitney Block, Room 1405
Toronto, ON M7A 1A2

Subject: Ontario Pork's Submission on Bill 171, An Act to Enact the Veterinarian Professionals Act, 2024

Dear Chair Babikian,

Ontario Pork welcomes the opportunity to provide a submission to the Standing Committee of the Interior on *Bill 171, An Act to Enact the Veterinarian Professionals Act, 2024*.

Ontario Pork is the voice of the province's 997 pork farmers, and a leader in the agriculture industry. Led by producers, Ontario Pork is committed to sustainable growth in the pork sector, delivering government representation, research investment, and industry improvements in areas including animal care and environmental sustainability, while growing the brand and reputation of producers and their product. Ontario's pork sector represents a significant part of the Canadian economy, combining - from "farm to fork" - \$1.35 billion in GDP, over 19,906 full-time jobs and \$3.78 billion in economic output.

Ontario Pork welcomes Bill 171 and commends the Ontario government for its efforts to modernize the Veterinarians Act. Ontario Pork supports the delivery of veterinary care using a team-based approach, and the importance of Registered Veterinary Technicians (RVT) in providing veterinary care. By enabling better access to veterinary services and the scope of care provided, the proposed bill will help to ensure that farmers receive veterinary care for their livestock when needed.

The following provides Ontario Pork's comments regarding Bill 171.

1. Omission regarding porcine and pregnancy ultrasounds undertaken by producers

In reviewing Bill 171, we wish to identify an omission regarding the swine sector. Under Section 1, Authorized Activities, exemptions are stated for the delivery of medicine or services to animals and where it states confirmation of pregnancy in the genus ovis or capra (sheep or goat) via ultrasound, porcine is not included. **We request that porcine be included as many pork producers ultrasound their own bred animals.**

2. Scope of practice

Foreign animal diseases, such as African swine fever (ASF) and foot and mouth disease (FMD), require producers to have the ability to perform euthanasia quickly and compassionately, with or without a

veterinarian present. Also, if African swine fever is found on a farm(s), professionally trained crews will be required to perform euthanasia on swine herds. **Ontario Pork believes that it is imperative that OMAFRA permit euthanasia to be performed by those trained to do so and that this not be limited to veterinarians.**

3. Council of the College


Ontario Pork believes that the process to become a member of the Council of the College, especially those non-vet public-interest appointees, needs to be transparent. **Ontario Pork recommends that the Council include an appointee who represents large animal livestock/food production.**

4. Regulation development

We also understand that the regulation development process will provide additional opportunities to provide input on any issues of concern and **ask that Ontario Pork be included regulation discussions and development.**

On behalf of Ontario's pork producers, thank you again for the opportunity to participate in this important consultation.

Sincerely,



John de Bruyn
Board Chair

cc: The Honourable Lisa Thompson, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs