



May 22, 2026

Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness  
Food Safety and Environmental Policy Branch  
1 Stone Road West, 2nd Floor S.W.  
Guelph, Ontario N1G 4Y2

***Sent via the Ontario Regulatory Registry***

**Re: Proposed amendments to the Veterinary Professionals Act, 2024 - 26-OMAFRA006**

Beef Farmers of Ontario (BFO) appreciates the opportunity to comment on 26-OMAFRA006 *Proposed amendments to the Veterinary Professionals Act, 2024*. We would like to thank the province for bringing forward the proposed amendments which will help our members access large animal veterinary services across Ontario. BFO represents the 19,000 beef farmers in Ontario by advocating in the areas of sustainability, animal health and care, environment, food safety, and domestic and export market development.

The lack of access to large animal veterinary care for producers in many areas of northern Ontario and some parts of eastern and southern Ontario has been a longstanding issue. BFO and many of our members have been seeking and examining solutions to address the challenges associated with accessing large animal veterinary care.

BFO has worked with the College of Veterinarians of Ontario (CVO), the Ontario Association of Veterinary Technicians, the Ontario Veterinary Medical Association and the Ontario Veterinary College (OVC) to get a better understanding of how best to address this problem and have outlined a number of actions that need to be taken. One of the key actions identified to improve access to large animal veterinary care is the need to optimize the full utilization of the veterinary team and the increased role for veterinary technicians providing care on-farm.

BFO supports the introduction of Bill 109, *Protecting Ontario's Food Independence Act, 2026* and OMAFA's efforts to modernize the *Veterinarians Act, 1990* with the *Veterinary Professionals Act, 2024* and improve the scope of practice provisions. This includes the creation of regulatory pathways to support Registered Veterinary Technician (RVT)-owned businesses, allowing them to perform authorized activities outside a traditional accredited veterinary facility.

BFO supports maintaining flexibility for on farm and mobile services. Any exemptions that allow members to perform authorized activities outside of an accredited veterinary facility, subject to appropriate terms, conditions, or limitations, should be designed with the practical realities of large animal and livestock care in mind. Future regulations should continue to reflect these needs, ensuring they are workable and not unnecessarily restrictive for agricultural settings.

BFO encourages ongoing consultation with farmers and agricultural organizations during the drafting of these regulations to ensure they reflect the realities of on-farm conditions and livestock production. It is important that the rules are practical, effective, and designed with input from all those directly impacted, and not only be based primarily on the needs and circumstances of small animal clinics.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JL', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jason Leblond  
President