OUR VISION
for veterinary medicine in Western Canada
More than 50 years ago, the Western College of Veterinary Medicine (WCVM) opened its doors to the first veterinary students to be trained in Western Canada. This was made possible by a strong commitment from the governments of Saskatchewan, Alberta, Manitoba and British Columbia to establish a regional veterinary college.

Since then, the WCVM has become the region’s premier centre for veterinary education, clinical expertise and research – producing preeminent graduates and forging strong partnerships at home and around the world. Research conducted at the WCVM improves the health of people and animals, as well as supporting a diverse range of industry interests from animal health to food security.

The college is a leader in promoting One Health – fostering interprofessional collaboration in the fields of human, animal and environmental health. We excel in teaching clinical skills – and our new simulation laboratory will help students fine tune their abilities. As well, we are expanding our role in service learning and working with local groups to organize remote spay-neuter clinics in northern communities.

As we develop new facilities, programs and partnerships, we continue to value our core commitments to Western Canada. The Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) program, post-graduate programs, research, continuing education, veterinary technology training, a veterinary medical centre and public extension programs are all essential aspects of our agreement.
INNOVATION
fuels program development

One Health
At the University of Saskatchewan, the Western College of Veterinary Medicine is a leader in One Health — a global concept that encourages professionals involved in human, animal and environmental health to work together. Since 2012, the veterinary college has led the annual One Health Leadership Experience. The three-day conference brings together U of S health science students to learn more about One Health and how they can integrate it into their future careers. The WCVM also facilitates a six-credit graduate certificate in One Health and has been the academic home for the Integrated Graduate Training Program in Infectious Diseases, Food Safety and Public Policy (ITrapP) program for graduate students.

Service learning
Our service learning initiative has allowed WCVM faculty and students to pair research and community service in Saskatchewan’s rural, remote and indigenous communities. Senior students have the option to participate in the remote clinical practice rotation, with spay-neuter and wellness clinics held twice a year for the communities of La Ronge, Air Ronge and the Lac La Ronge Indian Band. Teaming up with volunteers, WCVM students help to combat dog overpopulation and address the lack of veterinary care available in northern communities. WCVM researchers have also worked with First Nations on projects that reinforce the importance of spaying and neutering animals to control dog populations and to prevent potential dog attacks.

Clinical skills
The WCVM’s new B.J. Hughes Centre for Clinical Learning — a clinical simulation lab — creates a safe learning environment for students and aligns with Canada’s new animal care standards and protocols. Using computerized mannequins, models and task trainers, students can practise clinical techniques and hone their skills before they begin working with live animals. The flexible learning space in the laboratory is equipped with audio-visual technologies so scenarios can be observed by others. Faculty can also record students’ actions and responses during clinical simulation labs for discussion and evaluation.
Our commitment to WESTERN CANADA

Through the interprovincial agreement, the WCVM delivers key services to the western provinces.

DVM PROGRAM
The four-year Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) program prepares students for careers in private practice, public service, research, academia and industry.

POST-GRADUATE PROGRAMS
More than 150 graduate students work throughout the college, pursuing master’s and PhD degrees, clinical internships and residencies.

VETERINARY AND BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH
WCVM researchers are making significant discoveries in a range of areas including basic and applied sciences, clinical sciences, food safety, toxicology and public health.

CLINICAL AND DIAGNOSTIC SERVICES AND CONSULTATION
The Veterinary Medical Centre offers primary care to animal owners as well as advanced referral services to western Canadian veterinarians. It’s also a place for veterinary and graduate students to develop clinical and diagnostic skills.

CONTINUING VETERINARY EDUCATION
The WCVM provides continuing education courses and seminars in conjunction with provincial and national veterinary medical associations.

PUBLIC EXTENSION
WCVM faculty regularly present information and discoveries at conferences organized by industry associations, associations, equine performance organizations or wildlife groups. They offer information in response to critical health issues as well as disease surveillance.

VETERINARY TECHNOLOGIST TRAINING
Students enrolled in the veterinary technology program at Saskatchewan Polytechnic complete their final semester at the Veterinary Medical Centre, working directly with veterinary technologists and veterinary specialists.
A key part of the WCVM’s mandate is to strengthen and build mutually beneficial partnerships with government, universities, industry, veterinary medical associations and community organizations.
Livestock and Forage Centre of Excellence (LFCE)

A new $36-million centre for U of S researchers, students and agricultural producers is under development in co-operation with the U of S College of Agriculture and Bioresources, the provincial and federal governments, the Saskatchewan Cattlemen’s Association and a range of other partners. The LFCE will unite livestock and forage field laboratories and science labs in a collaborative centre. It will allow researchers to respond directly to the needs of industry and governments, allowing the province to make major gains in research and industry.

Combined degree programs

WCVM students have the option of entering combined degree programs that enrich their experience and prepare them for future careers. Students can enrol in a combined Doctor of Veterinary Medicine-Master of Science program that allows them to focus on a specific research area while completing their veterinary education. Students also have the option of earning combined DVM-Master of Business Administration (MBA) degrees through a partnership with the U of S Edwards School of Business. This new program recognizes the need to prepare graduates for diverse careers in industry and business.

International partnerships

The WCVM is building a global network in an increasingly connected world. This includes research partnerships, professional and graduate student opportunities and clinical exchanges. Partnerships exist between academic centres in Germany, India, Uganda, Australia and Brazil. WCVM leadership and faculty also collaborate and engage with veterinary colleges across North America and around the world. The federally-funded ITraP program has built international partnerships between graduate students in the area of One Health. Partner institutions are located in Germany, India and Brazil.

STRENGTH in numbers
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Interprovincial Agreement

When was the WCVM interprovincial agreement created?
The WCVM interprovincial agreement has been in place since 1963 when Canada’s four western provinces agreed to establish a veterinary college at the University of Saskatchewan. It is renewed every five years by the college and the provinces.

What does the agreement cover?
The interprovincial agreement outlines the provinces’ financial commitment to the regional veterinary college over a five-year period. In return, the WCVM is responsible for providing the region with high-quality veterinary education, clinical expertise and research.

How does this agreement differ from others?
Provinces can reserve seats in other provincial post-secondary institutions for students pursuing specialized careers in health. In these cases, the province pays a specific fee that’s only used to fund each student’s education. In contrast, the WCVM’s provincial partners receive much more than student seats. See page 2 for the WCVM’s list of commitments.

Does the interprovincial agreement cover capital funding?
No, interprovincial agreement funding is only used to maintain the college’s operations, programs and services. Capital funding comes from other sources such as the U of S, government, industry partnerships and private donors.

How has the WCVM benefited from over 50 years of steady support?
Consistent financial support has allowed the WCVM to meet and exceed its potential over the past half-century. The result is a veterinary college that’s recognized throughout the world for its outstanding graduates as well as its high-quality veterinary education, research and clinical programs.

What about Alberta’s decision to withdraw from this provincial partnership?
In October 2017, the Government of Alberta pulled out of the college’s longstanding interprovincial agreement. The WCVM and its supporters are urging the Alberta government to reconsider its decision and reinstate full funding to veterinary education in Western Canada. Visit keepvetmedstrong.ca to learn more.
**AVMA-CVMA accreditation**

In October 2017, the WCVM hosted a seven-member team as part of the American Veterinary Medical Association-Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA-CVMA) accreditation process. In addition to the five-day visit, the WCVM prepared a comprehensive self-study report that addresses the college’s performance in the 11 standards outlined by the AVMA Council on Education. Our team anticipates that the WCVM will receive full AVMA-CVMA accreditation for the maximum seven years (2017-2024).

**Comparative oncology centre**

The WCVM has plans to establish a centre for comparative oncology. The college will expand the building where its magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) unit and linear accelerator are located. The next step is to add a new PET-CT (positron emission tomography-computed tomography) scanner to the WCVM’s family of technologies. PET-CT will aid the WCVM oncology team in identifying rapidly-growing cells, a very important element in cancer diagnostics and oncology research. The acquisition will make the WCVM one of very few veterinary facilities in North America — and the only one in Canada — to have MRI, CT and PET-CT units available at one site.

**Global education**

The WCVM is developing international partnerships with several universities around the world. The five-year NSERC-CREATE graduate program is a successful partnership that links the U of S with Germany’s Free University in Berlin and Guru Angad Dev Veterinary and Animal Sciences University in India. The college also has a steady stream of graduate students from universities in Brazil through the Emerging Leaders in the Americas Program (ELAP). At the DVM level, WCVM is developing student exchanges with universities in Uganda, Australia and New Zealand.

**Collaborative research**

On the U of S campus, the WCVM is a leader in interdisciplinary research — especially in areas such as infectious disease, medical imaging and oncology. Our leadership role will only become stronger as our research team helps to develop initiatives linked to the Livestock and Forage Centre of Excellence, VIDO-InterVac, Sylvia Fedoruk Centre for Nuclear Innovation, Global Institute for Food Security, Canadian Light Source and other U of S centres.

**Veterinary CE program**

Part of the WCVM’s mandate is to provide relevant and applicable continuing education opportunities to all Canadian veterinarians. The WCVM has teamed up with national partners to organize Veterinary Education Today (VET). This annual veterinary CE conference is held each fall in Toronto — Canada’s largest city. The event’s aim is to provide high-calibre continuing education at an affordable cost to small animal and large animal veterinarians across Canada.

**Leadership in One Health**

The WCVM will continue to expand its leadership role in One Health through undergraduate education opportunities like the annual One Health Leadership Experience and multidisciplinary research partnerships in areas such as oncology, infectious disease, wildlife and environmental health, food safety and security, and medical imaging.

**Integration in society**

The veterinary profession has the unique ability to offer society a diverse range of skills and knowledge in several areas such as public health, food safety, disease surveillance and prevention and disaster planning. For instance, veterinarians can play a key role in developing successful, integrated health programs for homeless and low-income people in urban centres. Over the next few years, the WCVM will continue to build on new initiatives such as the veterinary social work program and its service learning program in northern communities. The college will also explore new ways of helping veterinary students discover how they can play a much larger role in society — whether it’s through their daily work or volunteer opportunities in their communities.