

**Veterinary and
veterinary
technologist locums
working in BC food
animal practices**

**Sustainable Canadian Agricultural
Partnership Pilot**

August 2024



Table of Contents

PROGRAM OVERVIEW	3
PROGRAM GOAL	3
PROGRAM FUNDING	3
PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY	4
APPLICATIONS	5
REIMBURSEMENT.....	5
Other Data Collection.....	6
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION	6
PROGRAM CONTACT	7
PROGRAM TIMELINE	7

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The goal of the *Veterinary and Veterinary Technologists Locums Working in BC Food Animal Practices Pilot Program* is to establish a locum bank of veterinarians and registered veterinary technologists (RVTs) that are willing to provide veterinary services for BC veterinary practices that offer food animal services, with a priority for servicing practices outside of the lower mainland.

As part of the program application form, applicants must indicate their willingness to provide 10 or more days of service per year at BC veterinary clinics that offer food animal services, including at least 5 days of service to practices outside of the lower mainland. It is anticipated that approximately 15 veterinarians and 15 RVTs will be accepted to the Program. If the number of applicants exceeds program spaces, applications will be ranked on capacity to provide in-person services for food animal species in different geographical regions across the province. A wait list may be established, and used to refresh the locum bank each quarter if needed.

Names and contact information of locums in the locum bank, and information about locum scope of practice will be shared with BC veterinary clinics that provide food animal services. This information will be shared via email when a request is received by Ministry of Agriculture and Food program staff from an eligible clinic.

The success of the program will be evaluated periodically via methods that will include surveys of participating locums and veterinary practices.

This program is funded in part by the Governments of Canada and British Columbia under the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership, a federal-provincial-territorial initiative.

PROGRAM GOAL

Support increased availability of veterinary professional locum services for BC veterinary practices that offer food animal services, with a priority for servicing practices outside of the lower mainland.

PROGRAM FUNDING

Maximum annual funding is anticipated to be \$10,953 for veterinarian locums and \$4,660 for RVTs per program year (April 1st to March 31st).

On acceptance to the locum bank, applicants can submit a claim to the program for reimbursement of their 2024 annual registrant/membership fees with either the College

of Veterinarians of BC (CVBC) or BC Veterinary Technologists Association (BCVTA). Veterinarians can also apply for reimbursement of Society of BC Veterinarians annual membership (SBCV) in their claim. If the locum remains active in the bank as of January 2025, then they can submit a reimbursement claim to the program for the 2025 annual registrant/membership fees.

Locum veterinarians working in-person at eligible veterinary practices will be eligible for support at a rate of \$300 per day, and RVTs will be eligible for \$150 per day. Locum veterinarians or RVTs providing telemedicine services for an eligible veterinary practice will be eligible for support at a rate of \$50 per day. These amounts are intended to be additional to remuneration negotiated between the locum and the practice. One day is defined as one 24-hour period during which the clinic offers services to food animal clients.

Under this program, a locum may claim for up to 30 days per year, with a maximum of 15 days per veterinary practice per program year. Locums will be reimbursed for a maximum of 5 days of service per year in the lower mainland.

PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for the program, applicants must meet the following eligibility requirements:

Veterinarians

- Hold full active registration in the Private Practice Registrant class with the College of Veterinarians of BC; or
- Hold active registration in the Provisional Supervised Active (PSA) registration in the Private Practice class AND ensure all CVBC practice requirements are met for the locum period

RVTs

- Hold active Registered Veterinary Technologist (RVT) membership with the BC Veterinary Technologists Association

Practices where the locum occurs must meet the following criteria:

- Be accredited by the College of Veterinarians of BC (CVBC) to provide food animal services.
- Actively offer food animal services to clients during the locum period. For this program, food animals are defined as animals raised to produce food or fiber, and include cattle, swine, sheep, goats, poultry, bison, and fish.

- Practices that provide services to clients at any production scale (e.g. large-scale, small lot) are eligible.
- If the practice is hiring a Provisional Supervised Active (PSA) locum, ensure that all CVBC requirements are met for the locum period.

APPLICATIONS

To apply, please complete the application form available [here](#). It is anticipated the application form will take 15 minutes to complete.

Applications will collect information that includes:

- Locum name, professional qualification and license number, address, phone number, email and business number
- Estimated geographic and temporal availability
- Information on capacity to provide different types of services
- Standard demographic information (Indigeneity, gender, age)
- Confirmation of willingness to provide 10 or more days of service per year at BC veterinary clinics that offer food animal services, including at least 5 days of service to practices outside of the lower mainland
- Consent for program staff to share locum contact information and scope of practice with BC veterinary practices that offer food animal services

REIMBURSEMENT

Funding is provided through a periodic reimbursement process to approved applicants via a claim form.

On acceptance to the locum bank, applicants must submit the [Direct Deposit Application Form \(PDF, 407 KB\)](#) for General and Service Suppliers along with copy of a void cheque.

Once an applicant is accepted and the Deposit form is approved, the locum can submit a claim for reimbursement of their annual registration fees for their professional licensing college.

For locum service provided, veterinarians providing services in-person at an eligible veterinary clinic can make a program claim for \$300 per day, and RVTs working in-person can claim for \$150 per day. Locum veterinarians and RVTs providing telemedicine services only can make a program claim for services at a rate of \$50 per day. These amounts are intended to be additional to remuneration negotiated between the locum and the practice. The program is distinct from, and takes no responsibility for, any aspect of the negotiated conditions and scope of work or remuneration agreement between the

locum and the practice.

Under the program, locums may claim for up to 30 service days per year, with a maximum of 15 days per veterinary practice per program year (Program year: April 1st to March 31st). Locums will be reimbursed for a maximum of 5 days of service per year in the lower mainland.

Claims for delivery of locum services will be processed by AF program staff once per quarter, after the end of the quarter. To be eligible for payment, claim forms must be submitted by the last day of the quarter when services were delivered (e.g. by June 30th for days worked between April 1st to June 30th, by September 30th for days worked between July 1st and September 30th, by December 31st for days worked between October 1st to December 31st, and by March 31st for days worked between January 1st and March 31st) without exception.

The claim form will collect basic information such as locum dates, and the names and email addresses of the practice(s) where the locum services were delivered, as well as the location, staff numbers, and estimates of the types of food animals served by the practice. Program staff may validate claims by contacting veterinary practices.

OTHER DATA COLLECTION

An annual voluntary survey will be sent to veterinary clinics using the locum bank that will collect the following information:

Number of:

- Full time (equivalent) veterinarians
- Full time (equivalent) registered veterinary technologists (RVTs)
- Herd or flock level veterinary-client-patient relationships (VCPRs)
- Types of animals serviced by the practice and approximate proportion of cases seen for each animal type
- Standard demographic information (Indigeneity, gender, age) of the practice owners
- Start date and end date of locums

An annual voluntary survey will be sent to locums that will collect information about their experience, areas for program improvement, and whether additional support (e.g. training) might be of value to them.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The program will not collect any information on the 'fit' of the locum and the practice.

These matters are the responsibility of the clinic and locum to manage. The locum and veterinary practice are responsible for employee-employer obligations with regards to the locum placement.

PROGRAM CONTACT

If you are a locum veterinarian or RVT, or a veterinary clinic, and have questions about the application process or eligibility criteria, please contact Program staff at chief.veterinarian@gov.bc.ca or call AGRIServiceBC at 1-888-221-7141.

PROGRAM TIMELINE

The pilot is planned to run until December 31st, 2025.

The first application intake window for locum veterinarians and RVTs to apply to the program will be open until **October 1st, 2024 at 4:30PM**. At that time, applications will close for a period until review of applications submitted by the deadline is complete.

After October 1st, 2024, additional application windows will be opened to accept new applications as funding permits.

Applicants who do not submit completed applications by the above timelines will be considered to have withdrawn their application; previously approved funding may then be reallocated to other applicants.