College of Veterinarians of British Columbia

Candidate Biography

Candidates are invited to provide biographies to be circulated with the Nomination Committee's Declared Slate of Candidates to the registrant body during the Council Election. The following form has been developed for the purpose of gathering candidate biographical information in a uniform context for ease of review and comparison by registrant voters, but it is the choice of the individual candidate whether or not they complete the included questionnaire in its entirety or in part, and whether or not they prefer to provide a separate submission. Each candidate's form (however it is filled out) and any additional submissions will be included in the voting materials circulated to all eligible registrant voters for their consideration.

Candidate Name: Michele Martin

QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Are you, or have you ever been, a Practice Owner?

   - ☐ Yes – currently
   - ☐ Yes – previously
   - ☑ No

2. What year did you graduate with your veterinary degree?

   2000

3. In what geographical area of BC do/did you **practice?** (check all that apply)

   - ☐ Northeast
   - ☐ Nechako
   - ☐ North Coast
   - ☐ Cariboo
   - ☐ Kootenay
   - ☐ Thompson-Okanagan
   - ☑ Mainland/Southwest
   - ☑ Vancouver Island/Coast

4. In what geographical area of BC do you **currently live**?

   - ☐ Northeast
   - ☐ Nechako
   - ☐ North Coast
   - ☐ Cariboo
   - ☐ Kootenay
   - ☐ Thompson-Okanagan
   - ☐ Mainland/Southwest
   - ☑ Vancouver Island/Coast
   - ☐ Other (please describe):

6. What is/was your **field of practice** (check all that apply)?

- [ ] Large/food animal
- [x] Small animal
- [ ] Exotic animals
- [x] Mixed
- [x] Laboratory animal
- [ ] Equine
- [x] Academia
- [ ] Government
- [ ] NGO
- [x] Industry
- [ ] Zoo/Wildlife
- [ ] Shelter
- [ ] Other (Describe): _____

7. Do you hold any specialty board certifications or graduate degrees?

- (•) Yes (Describe): PhD Immunology
- ( ) No

8. Do you have past or current experience as a member of any of the following CVBC Committees or council? (check all that apply)

- [x] Council
- [ ] Discipline Committee
- [ ] Investigation Committee
- [ ] Registration Committee
- [ ] Practice Facility Accreditation Committee
- [ ] Continuing Competence Committee
- [ ] Other (Describe): _____

9. What areas of expertise or interest do you have that might be helpful in your work with the CVBC?

I now have 10+ years experience working with an academic "collegial governance" model as the University Veterinarian at UVic, and 2.5 years working on CVBC Council. I am very keen to continue to apply the principles of collegial governance to the work of CVBC, particularly as we work towards reform of the complaints system. My work as a Council liaison with the SBCV Animal Welfare Committee will continue, and means that I can provide both organizations with input on how animal welfare touches both the regulatory and advocacy components of veterinary medicine in BC.

10. Any additional information you would like to provide? (You may include a "candidate statement" here if you wish)

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Background: Since graduating from OVC in 2000, I have worked clinically in mixed and companion animal practice as an associate and as a locum on Vancouver Island and in the lower mainland. Prior to my veterinary practice, I was employed in banking in Ontario, after earning a Bachelor of Commerce from the University of Toronto.

I completed my PhD in Immunology from the University of Victoria in 2010, focused on the immune response to breast cancer in women. I have held the position of University Veterinarian at the University of Victoria since 2010. I continue to work as a small animal locum practitioner and a consultant for biotechnology firms on Vancouver Island.

Relevant experience: My experience in a regulatory role has been primarily through my work as University Veterinarian in the development, implementation and revision of policies and procedures for the use of animals in research and teaching. Working within the university's consultative culture, I have collaborated with diverse groups of stakeholders with varied backgrounds to achieve this goal. This has required successfully balancing collegial relationships, conflicting goals and motivations, and the overlying expectations of the Canadian public and the national peer-review oversight body, the Canadian Council on Animal Care.

As a member of the SBCV-CVMA Animal Welfare Committee, I have worked in person and remotely with veterinary colleagues from diverse backgrounds and areas of practice interest to advance welfare initiatives provincially and nationally through the CVMA.

Potential Contributions: The BC public must trust that veterinarians are committed to and will self-regulate to protect the interests of the public. BC Veterinarians must trust that their peer-regulators will develop and implement regulations following processes that are fair and are seen to be fair and transparent. All stakeholders engaging in the self-regulation process deserve to be treated with respect, as colleagues and citizens whose mutual interest is in the maintenance of animal health and welfare for the greater benefit to this province. I strongly support the work that is being done specifically to address the challenges many have experienced with the complaints process, and I am committed to seeing the reform and continuous improvement process through to completion as a Council member.

The CVBC describes council members as "directors and regulators of the veterinary profession," with the responsibility to maintain "positive relations among the Council Members, staff, registrants, the public and other stakeholders." To meet this responsibility, the Council must ensure that regulations, bylaws, standards and guidelines are developed and implemented following processes that engage appropriately and openly with all relevant stakeholders. Broad stakeholder engagement will greatly lessen the risk of regulations being ambiguously or inconsistently interpreted and applied. It will also assist all stakeholders — including the public and practicing veterinarians — in gaining a clear understanding of the Council's intentions and reasoning in applying a process, a bylaw or a standard. The past 2.5 years have seen many changes for the College, and the CVBC is heading in a much more positive direction, taking seriously its obligation for transparency and meaningful engagement and consultation.

I will continue to be an actively engaged, informed, respectful and inclusive Council member, committed to the hard work of ensuring that trust in the profession remains high amongst the members of the BC public.