



Strategic partner in Canada's dairy industry

January 6, 2022

Gordon Krebs
MountainView County Councillor

Via email gkrebs@mvcountry.com

Dear Gordon,

This letter of support is to acknowledge the long-term trend of fewer veterinary practices in Alberta's rural communities and to encourage initiatives aimed at reversing this trend and improving the situation. Alberta Milk represents the nearly 500 dairy farm families across the province.

Veterinary medicine is an important element of dairy farming and the Alberta rural lifestyle because it supports farmer sustainability, food safety, and animal health and welfare.

Dairy farmers across Canada participate in a mandatory consumer assurance program called proAction®. This program requires each dairy farmer in Alberta to have a Veterinary Client Patient Relationship (VCPR), meaning each dairy farmer must engage with a dairy herd health veterinarian to help ensure the best possible herd health assistance and management. The reality of fewer veterinary practices in rural communities means dairy farmers will be hard-pressed to continue to be able to access and have a working relationship with a dairy veterinarian for their herd.

The dairy industry is a significant contributor to the Alberta economy with annual total net farm cash receipts (including genetics) over \$650 million and dairy manufacturing more than \$1.4 billion.

Alberta Milk acknowledges the shortage of veterinary professionals in rural communities has been occurring over many years and that it is a complex matter. We also recognize that this situation requires a wide scope of actions to reverse the trend. To that end, Alberta Milk wholeheartedly supports the commitment and leadership demonstrated by the rural counties and the Rural Municipalities of Alberta as they begin to address this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mike Slomp".

Mike Slomp
Manager, Producer Services

