

## Animal Health Canada Announces Changes to its Board of Directors

**Elora, Ontario, Canada**

**October 6, 2023**

Animal Health Canada (AHC) is pleased to announce that Leigh Rosengren, Chief Veterinary Officer for the Canadian Cattle Association, is the new Chair of AHC, and that Dave Taylor, from the Dairy Farmers of Canada is the new Vice-Chair.

“On behalf of the AHC Board of Directors I’d like to congratulate Leigh and Dave on their new roles.” said Dr. René Roy, former Co-Chair of AHC. “Both have been invaluable at the AHC table and have provided strategic insight into the formation of Animal Health Canada as it is today.”

Both Leigh and Dave have previously served as directors since 2022 and 2019, respectively. As per the newly ratified AHC bylaws, the Chair of AHC does not vote on any board decisions and acts as a neutral party in its discussions. The voting director to represent the Canadian Cattle Association at the AHC Board is Matthew Atkinson. AHC also welcomes Norine Moore (nominated by the Canadian Sheep Federation) and Marie Ly with the Dairy Processors Association of Canada (nominated by the Canadian Meat Council) to the AHC Board of Directors.

“I look forward to working with Matt, Marie and Norine in their new director roles as each brings unique perspectives and skillsets with respect to animal health and welfare and will be able to provide meaningful contributions to the leadership of our organization.” said Dr. Keith Lehman, AHC Co-Chair and Chief Veterinary Officer for Alberta. “I’d also like to take the opportunity to thank my colleagues, René Roy and Jim Fairles for their tireless commitment to AHC over the last number of years.”

In recognition of their strong leadership, guidance and commitment to farmed animal health and welfare in Canada, AHC would like to offer sincere thanks to its outgoing Chair and Vice Chair, René Roy and Jim Fairles. René joined the AHC board in 2017 as the Canadian Pork Council representative and not long after became the industry co-chair. Jim joined the AHC board of directors in 2013 as a Director at Large, nominated by the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association, and oversaw AHC’s finances during his tenure.

“René and Jim’s leadership has supported AHC through its substantial organizational change initiative over the last few years.” said Colleen McElwain, Executive Director of AHC. “Their contributions were integral to ensure open dialogue and a shared vision to ensure that AHC could become an organization founded on partnerships between federal, provincial and territorial governments and farmed animal industry sectors for animal health and welfare.”

## **About the Directors**

**Leigh Rosengren** graduated from the Western College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Saskatchewan in 2001. After graduation, Leigh worked in mixed animal practice in Humboldt and Weyburn, Saskatchewan. She received a PhD in Veterinary Epidemiology from the University of Saskatchewan (2008) and established a consulting service for Canada's livestock and poultry sectors with their animal health and food safety issues. Most recently, Leigh completed a Masters of Agribusiness from Kansas State University (2021) and oversaw the family cow-calf operation.

**Dave Taylor** is the past Chair of the BC Dairy Association and a Director on the board of the Dairy Farmers of Canada. He is a passionate advocate for the BC and national dairy industry. Dave and his family have been the recipients of the Top Quality Milk Award for Vancouver Island for eight of the last 10 years and have been in the top five herds for milk quality in the province each of the past five years. They are strong advocates of Dairy Farmers of Canada's on-farm quality assurance program, proAction.

**Norine Moore** is a sheep and goat producer and has been involved in the industry for many years. She has had significant involvement in organizations working on animal health and welfare issues, such as the Agricultural Products Marketing Council of Alberta, the Alberta Livestock and Meat Agency, and the Sheep Biosecurity Advisory Committee and is a past director on the Canadian Sheep Federation and Alberta Lamb Producers.

**Marie Ly** is the VP, Policy and Regulatory Affairs at the Dairy Processors Association of Canada and holds a range of roles in numerous committees and organizations within the agricultural sector. She is the Chair of the DPAC Animal Welfare Committee, a member of the National Farm Animal Care Council board (NFACC is a division of AHC) and a former member of the Animal Health Canada Working Group which was integral to set the vision and goals for the transformation of AHC to meet its new mandate.

**Matthew Atkinson**, along with his wife and daughter, owns and operates a cow-calf operation outside of Neepawa, MB. He is currently chair of Manitoba Beef Producers and a director with Canadian Cattle Association. Matthew still works in meat processing facilities, troubleshooting equipment repairs and installations. Matthew brings a diverse experience, having previously ridden in and managed a community pasture, trained horses, groomed horses for the Canadian team, and commercially transported cattle and horses, both locally and internationally.

For more information on the AHC Board of Directors, including the FPT Governments Advisory Council, please visit the AHC [website](http://www.animalhealthcanada.ca).

*Animal Health Canada (AHC) is a unique not for profit organization which is funded jointly by federal, provincial, territorial, and industry/non-government stakeholders. AHC engages expertise to address important One Health and One Welfare topics such as emergency management, animal welfare, and animal health surveillance. AHC along with its divisions leads the initiation of projects to address animal health and welfare stakeholder needs in Canada.*

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