

News Release

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Animal Health Canada Hosts a Strategy Session to Advance Efforts to Combat Antimicrobial Resistance in Animal Health

OTTAWA, ON - Animal Health Canada hosted an inaugural and highly successful AMR strategy session on November 22, 2023. This event brought together a diverse group of stakeholders to discuss the essential structures and mechanisms needed to foster leadership, collaboration, and coordination for the successful implementation of the Pan-Canadian Action Plan (PCAP) for AMR from an animal health perspective. The event, attended by 78 participants both in person and online, was marked by dynamic discussions, collaborative problem-solving, and a shared commitment to fostering responsible antimicrobial use.

The strategy session had active participation from 40 different stakeholder organizations, representing various sectors, including producers and veterinarians to policymakers and researchers. The diverse perspectives contributed to a comprehensive discussion on the challenges and opportunities in addressing AMR.

Participants emphasized the need for sector-specific strategies to address the unique challenges of AMR in Animal Health. Recognizing the differences in each sector, the discussions focused on tailoring a unique framework in which to maximize impact and efficiency to implement the initiatives identified in the Pan Canadian Action Plan for Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR).

“A unanimous consensus emerged on the importance of coordinating initiatives, advocating for resources, and serving as a hub for information flow and education while advocating responsible antimicrobial use,” said Colleen McElwain, Executive Director for Animal Health Canada. “Participants underscored the role of knowledge dissemination, top-down and bottom-up education approaches, and the need for an active advocacy role in pushing for resources and influencing training and continuing education specific to animal health.”

The outcomes of this strategy session will define the mandate and vision for a new leadership team to implement the initiatives of the Pan-Canadian Action Plan for AMR for animal health.

Animal Health Canada remains committed to fostering collaboration and engagement among stakeholders. Future initiatives, including workshops, educational programs, and networking events, are being planned to sustain the momentum generated during the strategy session.

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Animal Health Canada is the only national organization that brings together industry, federal, provincial, and territorial partners to provide collaborative guidance on a cohesive, functional, and responsive farmed animal health and welfare system in Canada. For more information, visit <https://animalhealthcanada.ca>.

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