



## CAAHTT/ACTTSA History – 1988-2007

### 1988

Prior to July of 1988, Provincial Association Presidents were corresponding with each other for various reasons. It became clear that even though technicians across Canada were trained in the same manner, the professional organizations that ‘governed’ these technicians were vastly different.

With the prompting of three educators, Ralph Topp, ON, Sarah McLaughlin ON, and Robin Knudson, AB, it was decided that a ‘Canadian Council’ meeting would be held in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. In order to get a good drawing of techs and vets alike, it was decided to hold it at the same time as the CVMA’s Annual General Meeting and Conference.

Who would attend?

Invitations were sent out to the provincial associations.

DELEGATES

Val Myka - BC (member)

Ila Lewis - AB (parliamentarian for AAAHT)

Nancy Serhienko - SK (past president)

Lorna Verschoore - MB (president)

Marg Brown - ON (past board member, newsletter editor)

no delegate from ATSAQ present

Marion Drake, Eastern (no association on East Coast)

CHAIR: Sandy Hass SK (member)

A 52 page document was produced detailing all of the association’s similarities, or as it turned out, huge differences.

#### BC highlights:

Registry which is recognized by the BCVMA

BCVMA has a list of competencies

Own exam - only non-accredited write

Animal Health Technologists

#### Alberta highlights

1986 AVMA included them in their act

Grandfather open - three years to register so that you can register with the AVMA

Own exam - only non-accredited write

Animal Health Technologists

#### Saskatchewan highlights:

1984 association started

Included in the SVMA by-laws

Own exam - all members required to write

Animal Health Technicians

#### Manitoba highlights:

MVMA has a list of duties for technologists

Association just changed from technician to technologist

Manitoba Veterinary Medical Board registers technicians



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Use the PES - VTNE - all members write  
Animal Health Technologists

### Ontario highlights:

Maintains own registry

OVMA's by-laws are quite liberal so there is greater flexibility on duties.

No exam - open to the VTNE

Animal Health Technicians

ALL DELEGATES PRESENT REPORTED THAT THEIR ASSOCIATIONS WERE IN FAVOR OF A CANADIAN ASSOCIATION.

ONTARIO stressed that we should have one common exam, have one or two representatives from each association; make it a 'dual membership', a levy be included in membership of "say \$10.00). "Communication is going to be a big problem and we thought one way to get around it is to have the representative be the person responsible for getting the information and having the information put into the provincial newsletters, rather than a newsletter on its own....."

A questionnaire developed by Robin Knudson (educator - Olds College) was circulated to the members of the associations - questions included were:

1. Should there be a common association in Canada
2. What form should it take: association, council, other
3. Common objectives:
4. What financial support should be given:
5. Where should the meetings be held:

The Canadian Animal Health Technology Educators (CAHTE) gave \$844.75 in seed money to CAAHTT to start the association.



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### 1989

A meeting was held on July 9, 1989, Chateau Laurier, Ottawa, Ontario

**PRESENT:** Carolyn Haughton BC, Peggy Johnson AB, Sandy Hass SK, Lorna Verschoore MB, Marg Brown & Barb Parsons ON, Jean Nadeau & Julie Tremblay QC, Wendy Oliver PEI, Donna Barnes PEI

- a decision is made to continue to hold our meeting venue in conjunction with the CVMA. The board deems it important to be visible to the veterinarians
- provincial association will plan the Continuing Education portion and will host the conference
- exams were discussed and it was decided that a common exam would be an excellent idea for the future. For the time a ‘minimum standard’ of membership would be set
- the term reciprocity was used. It was decided that policing of each association’s members was up to them, they would put forth whether a member was in good standing
- NAVTA support not a big priority, communication informational
- continuing education: a pool of speakers to be shared. CE is not mandatory
- communication between associations would be coordinated by the association, prompt response will help
- CVMA communication extremely important!
- communication with the Provincial VMA’s important
- AHT Programs will be communicated to with informational letters
- Animal Health Week - leave to associations to determine whether they participate
- brochures - leave provincial (remind our members to promote themselves!
- continuing education sharing of articles - have a blanket form of consent in all the newsletters that, “permission need not be granted for republication as long as the author and the association is recognized.”
- financial support - \$2.00 per active member as of January 1989

NAME WAS CHOSEN - BIG DECISION - *technician or technologist?* A vote was held - the name CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF ANIMAL HEALTH TECHNOLOGISTS AND TECHNICIANS was finalized.

**Executive:** Carolyn Haughton BC - President  
Sandy Hass SK - Secretary, Peggy Johnson AB - Treasurer

#### **Canadian Association of Animal Health Technologists and Technicians Objects**

1. The name of the corporation is “Canadian Association of Animal Health Technologists and Technicians,” and in French, “Association Canadienne Des Techniciens Et Technologistes En Santé Animale”.
2. The objects of the corporation are to:
  - a. Establish and maintain a national standard of membership
  - b. Promote and assist in Continuing Education for Animal Health Technologists/ Technicians and Veterinary Technologists / Technicians
  - c. Promote greater communications nation wide
  - d. Promote the profession of Animal Health / Veterinary Technology within the animal health community and to the general public
  - e. Be a resource regarding national and international issues.



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### Historical Summary

- 1988 - delegates met and decided to start an association
- 1989 - exams discussed - common exam goal
  - CVMA communication extremely important
  - provincial VMA communication extremely important
  - NAVTA communication informational
  - name was chosen
- 1990 - by-laws worked on
  - reciprocity GOAL - provinces do the policing of members
- 1991 - letters patent
  - logo chosen
  - participant in CVMA accreditation
- 1992 - booth was purchased
  - two reps chosen as CVMA liaisons
- 1993 - criterion reference accepted as passing mark / candidates given PASS or FAIL for VTNE
  - representative sent to Chicago for PES - VTNE construction and standard setting meeting
  - reciprocity by-law accepted!
  - representative sent to IVNTA inaugural meeting in England
- 1994 - membership increased from \$2.00 - \$3.00
  - CAAHTT appoints two members to VTTC committee
  - all provinces implemented reciprocity by-law
- 1995 - surveys done
  - educator's survey compiled
  - representative sent to NAVTA AGM in Florida
  - transfer form developed
- 1996 - first presidential meeting with the CVMA
  - FOCUS IS COMMUNICATION, COOPERATION, SHARING IDEAS AND LEARNING
  - representative orientation package developed
  - start investigation in to NAFTA
- 1997 - pamphlet printed
  - resource guide printed
  - appointment to the accreditation review committee
  - representative to AAVSB workshop in Reno Nevada
  - question-writing workshop held in Saskatoon
  - mission statement adopted
  - permanent office position
  - first information letter sent to graduates at the four veterinary colleges in Canada
  - work done on ease of movement of technicians to the U.S.
- 1998 - appointment to accreditation revision committee
  - representative to State Representative workshop in Kansas
- 1999 - brass name tags made
  - web site set up
  - policies developed & director procedure information manual developed
  - mandatory CE in all provinces encouraged
  - delegated tasks article sent to all English clinics in Canada (Hill's sponsor)
  - sent a representative to the AVTE meeting to further goal of U.S. recognition
- 2000 - National Events Calendar published & circulated via newsletters
  - NVTW planning guide published & circulated via newsletters
  - national NVTW proclamation pursued



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- accreditation still up for discussion, there is a committee of three, CAAHTT recommends to the CVMA to do a full review of the accreditation Policies & Procedures
  - CAAHTT also recommends that at least two technicians recommended by CAAHTT be on the accreditation committee
  - CAAHTT will pursue recognition of Canadian education to ease the process for technicians wishing to work in the US
  - Executive Secretary title is changed to Executive Director
  - VTTC reps will bring up development of a French version of the VTNE
- 2001
- OAVT and Bayley group proposed to publish a national magazine called 'TECHNEWS'
  - 1<sup>st</sup> summit meeting held with NAVTA; a letter of agreement was signed
  - NAVTA and CAAHTT agree to continue to host common NVTW date
  - CVMA's accreditation Policies and Procedures submitted to the AVMA /CVTEA for review and recognition
  - CAAHTT Recognition Award initiated
- 2002
- AHT/VT of the Year Award initiated in conjunction with Hills – association nominated
  - CAAHTT officially supports TECHNEWS as a national CE magazine and will promote associations to utilize rather than their own newsletters. They will use a provincial news insert
  - CAAHTT's recommendation of a committee member for the AHT/VT PAC is accepted
- 2003
- first professional Strategic Planning session with a review of the Mission and Vision Statements
  - ATSAQ is translating the Mosby's study guide for the VTNE
  - CVMA AHTVT PAC will now have two members from CAAHTT
  - the CVMA agrees to campaign on CAAHTT behalf for education recognition in the US
  - Career Choice pamphlet was sent to all high schools in Canada in French and English
  - National Survey results are compiled and circulated to the member associations
- 2004
- IVNTA meeting went well, disappointing turnout
  - CAAHTT fee increase to \$10.00/member with a 3% increase per year is approved
  - CAAHTT name change to incorporate VT was discussed and turned down
  - CAAHTT approves its own National Veterinary Technician Week resolution
- 2005
- AVMA invited representation from CAAHTT to their CVTEA committee weekend
  - information letter is sent to the AHT/VT graduates of all colleges
  - CAAHTT and OAVT will plan for a Leadership Development Workshop in Toronto in 2007
  - CVMA requests CAAHTT representation on their Professional Development Committee. Two board members attend the meeting
  - Technicians have inclusion in the technician track but not the whole conference scientific programming
  - the Reciprocity bylaw is discussed and reviewed, it has not been looked at since inception and is outdated
  - a Letter of Undertaking is drafted for review by the associations. The intent is to "Facilitate national unity and mobility through recognizing equality of standards and competencies."
  - the National Events Calendars, a total of 6250 were sent to: every active member of CAAHTT in Canada (over 3622), to the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> year students and staff of every AHT/VT program in Canada, members of the International Veterinary Nurses and Technicians Association (over 10 countries), the Veterinary Medical Associations in Canada, the Veterinary Colleges in Canada, AVMA/CVTEA, AAVSB, AAHA, CAHI, VLS, WDDC and our sponsors.



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2006

- Sandy Hass gives the board her resignation with an outline of retirement plans, which include full succession plans for the following year
- Appreciation award is developed
- National NVTW poster inserted in TECHNEWS so every technician in Canada receives one, it is also translated and sent to ATSAQ
- a sample employment contract is developed by Lois Ridgway and made available on the CAAHTT website
- Technicians are able to register for the first time in any portion of the scientific program of the CVMA conference
- CAAHTT appoints a member to the CVMA Professional Development Committee; Becky Taylor – the PDC meets in March at the CVMA committee weekend for the first time
- CAAHTT takes out a full-page ad promoting NVTW in the CVMA directory
- CAAHTT will promote Doggone Safe, a dog bite prevention initiative to the provincial associations; the OAVT already participates
- CAAHTT appoints Tara Sefton as a committee member on the CVR
- CAAHTT participates in the CVMA award luncheon for the first time
- Board votes unanimously to hire Phyllis Mierau of K3 Consulting to be their new ED
- letters are sent to 50 veterinary state medical boards requesting they recognize Canadian technicians as meeting the eligibility requirements for registration in their state
- the National Events Calendars are sent to: every active member of CAAHTT in Canada, to the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> year students and staff of every AHT/VT program in Canada, members of the International Veterinary Nurses and Technicians Association (over 10 countries), the Veterinary Medical Associations in Canada, the Veterinary Colleges in Canada, AVMA/CVTEA, AAVSB, AAHA, CAHI, VLS, WDDC and our sponsors.
- CAAHTT plans in conjunction with the OAVT a first ever Leadership Development Workshop (LDW) for leaders of the associations in Canada. CAAHTT promotes OAVT's conference and commits financially to assist associations to ensure delegates are able to attend.

2007

- the Letter of Undertaking is signed at the LDW, it reads;

***Letter of Undertaking  
Membership transfers for Canadian Animal Health Technologists/  
Registered Veterinary Technicians***

***Membership transfers for Canadian Animal Health Technologists/ Registered Veterinary Technicians are available from one jurisdiction to another provided the following criteria have been met.***

***They:***

- ***Are an Active member of a provincial association;***
- ***Are a Canadian resident;***
- ***Have passed the National Registration Exam;***
- ***Are current with their Association dues;***
- ***Accept the association's Code of Ethics.***

***Membership requirements of the associations will be reviewed annually.***

***Additional Special Provision(s) may be required in certain jurisdictions as follows:***

- CAAHTT appoints two members to the CVMA Professional Development Committee; Barb Donaldson and Roberta Rouse
- National NVTW poster sent to every technician in Canada with mailing of summer TECHNEWS
- National NVTW poster sent to all CVMA members in Canada

Updated – January 2008



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- CAAHTT takes out a full-page ad promoting NVTW in the CVMA directory ad in CVJ
- National Career Advertising available on the website
- the National Events Calendars (~8,000) are sent to: every active member of CAAHTT in Canada, to the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> year students and staff of every AHT/VT program in Canada, members of the International Veterinary Nurses and Technicians Association (over 10 countries), the Veterinary Medical Associations in Canada, the Veterinary Colleges in Canada, AVMA/CVTEA, AAVSB, AAHA, CAHI, VLS, WDDC and our sponsors.



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### AHT/VT Associations in Canada - History

Founded	Name	# of Founding Members	CAAHTT members as of 2007	Paid Staff	TECH NEWS
1981	Animal Health Technologists Association of British Columbia (AHTA of BC)	~69	386	1989	2003
1978	Alberta Association of Animal Health Technologists (AAAHT)	~45	887	1992	2004
1984	Saskatchewan Animal Health Technologists Association Inc. (SAHTA)	~42 in 1986 116	270		2002
1995	Saskatchewan Association of Veterinary Technologists Inc. (SAVT)				
1982	Manitoba Animal Health Technologists Association (MAHTA)	~15	178	2005	2005
1970	Ontario – graduate AHTs formed Canadian Association of Animal Health Technicians (CAAHT) for Ontario technicians	~64 in Dec 1972	1767	1996	2001
1977/78	CAAHT dissolved its name and became the Ontario Association of Animal Health Technicians (OAAHT)	177 as of 1984			
1991	OAAHT changes to the Ontario Association of Veterinary Technicians (OAVT)	900 in 1995			
1988	Canadian Council for AHTs met in Saskatoon (technicians representing each of the provincial associations) to discuss the need for a national association.				
1989	Canadian Association for Animal Health Technologists and Technicians / Association Canadienne des Techniciens et Technologistes en Santé Animale (CAAHTT/ACTTSA) was formed.	856	3864	1997	
1979	Quebec – students at Sherbrooke formed Association des Techniciens en Sante Animale du Quebec (ATSAQ)	~47	209		
1988	Eastern Animal Health Technicians/Technologists Association (EAHTA)	~30	167		2004
1996	Eastern Veterinary Technician Association Ltd. of the Atlantic Provinces (EVTA)				

In 1989 the Canadian Animal Health Technology Educators (CAHTE) gave \$844.75 in seed money to CAAHTT.

In 1992 a conference call cost ~\$2000.00 vs \$66.25 in 2007 same time / same # of people

As of 2007 there were 24 AHT/VT Programs in Canada recognized by CAAHTT

The oldest programs:

West - Olds College in Olds Alberta that was started in 1974

East – Centralia in 1967 the same program changing names and locale to Ridgetown College in Guelph Ontario in 1994

CAAHTT Members in each of the Provincial Associations

Year	AHTA of BC	AAAHT	SAVT	MAHTA	OAVT	ATSAQ	EVTA
1989	168	299	66	26	250	133	13
2007	386	887	270	178	1767	209	167



**CAAHTT/ACTTSA**  
**ANNUAL AWARD RECIPIENTS**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Recognition</b>	<b>AHT/VT of the Year</b>	<b>Appreciation</b>
<b>2003</b>	Sandy Hass RVT - SAVT Corrine Hutchings AHT - AAAHT	Steve Hood RVT – OAVT	
<b>2004</b>	Maryon Siemens AHT – AAAHT	Susan Thiessen RVT - SAVT	
<b>2005</b>	Lorna Verschoore RAHT - MAHTA	Tina Douglas RAHT – AHTA of BC	
<b>2006</b>	Susan Thiessen RVT – SAVT	Doraine Wachniak RAHT - MAHTA	CVMA
<b>2007</b>	Cathy Hall-Patch RAHT – AHTA OF BC		Sandy Hass RVT - SAVT
<b>2008</b>			