

BE WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS



Western College of Veterinary Medicine

**The Campaign for the
University of Saskatchewan**



UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

Western College of
Veterinary Medicine

WCVM.USASK.CA



**WITH YOUR
SUPPORT,
USASK
VETERINARIANS
WILL CHANGE
OUR WORLD**



"To demonstrate my love for animals, my vision is to continue building a sophisticated 'hands-on' learning centre for students of veterinary medicine that is recognized as the most advanced simulation facility of its kind in the world."

BEV HUGHES, donor

From the Dean



Now, more than ever, veterinarians play a vital role in the lives of animals and people around the globe.

While many immediately associate the veterinary profession with their local vet clinic, our reach and impact go far beyond pet care.

The global pandemic has shown us how connected we are with animals and the essential role that animals play as loving companions and family members, the reality of diseases in animal populations that emerge as threats for people, and the need for a sustainable, disease-free food supply.

Veterinarians play crucial roles in delivering animal health, monitoring emerging diseases, protecting the safety of our food supply, and so much more. For nearly 60 years, western Canadians have turned to the Western College of Veterinary Medicine (WCVN) for excellence in veterinary education, innovative research and clinical expertise. We have aspirations to do even more, with your help.

To meet the growing need for more veterinary professionals in communities across Western Canada and the North, we are developing innovative ways to train new generations. Through the WCVN's BJ Hughes Centre for Clinical Learning, which was made possible through donor generosity, our students learn hands-on skills, experience simulation learning and hone their clinical abilities.

We're also developing exciting opportunities for our veterinary students to learn more about Indigenous culture while providing essential animal health care in

underserved communities. We envision new visionary spaces in our Veterinary Medical Centre that will house advanced diagnostic technologies for critical care and help to train future veterinarians. We envision having more scholarships and awards that will support our students so they can go on to be the leaders the world needs.

As the world faces new pressures affecting animal, human and environmental health, the WCVN is here to meet those challenges — but we can't do it alone. The generosity of our college's alumni and donors has been vital to our success, and we sincerely thank you for believing in us. So many novel ideas and projects have come to light because of your support, and our efforts are having an impact here in Canada and around the world.

As a veterinary graduate and a long-time faculty member of the WCVN, I know how much this college has achieved in the world of animal and human health — and how much more we can do. These new opportunities are very exciting, and I look forward to working with you — our alumni and donors — on these efforts that will improve the lives of animals and people, together.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gillian".

Gillian Muir, DVM'88, PhD
Dean, Western College of Veterinary Medicine



BE WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS

Campaign priorities:

- Lead Critical Research**
Confront humanity's greatest challenges and opportunities through research and engage with communities to find solutions.
- Support Indigenous Achievement**
Work with and for Indigenous communities to enact our firm commitment to mutual learning, Indigenization and Reconciliation.
- Inspire Students to Succeed**
Respond to current student need and attract future learners.
- Design Visionary Spaces**
Create gathering places for people to collectively address the challenges of the future.

USASK CAMPAIGN AT-A-GLANCE

OUR USASK

\$500M

**to be the university
the world needs.**

Donor Opportunities in the Western College of Veterinary Medicine

With help from our alumni, donors and community partners, we will transform the support for students in the University of Saskatchewan's *Be What the World Needs* campaign priority areas. Give to the area that speaks to you. All donations make a positive difference in the lives of our students, researchers and animals, and together, we will address important issues in our communities and our world.



LEAD CRITICAL RESEARCH

Establish Pollinator Health Research Chair — **\$750,000**

Support oncology research and tumour tissue bank — **\$250,000**

Investment in large and small animal research — **\$500,000**

SUPPORT INDIGENOUS ACHIEVEMENT

Provide mobile veterinary clinics to offer affordable veterinary care in remote communities, including spay-neuter procedures — **\$200,000**

Establish Northern Engagement and Community Outreach Chair — **\$1 million**

Increase the number of Indigenous communities where the WCVM provides veterinary care — **\$250,000**

Increase the number of student awards and bursaries for Indigenous students — **\$50,000**

INSPIRE STUDENTS TO SUCCEED

Establish student awards and bursaries — **\$750,000**

Expand BJ Hughes Centre for Clinical Learning and provide innovative simulation equipment and technologies for enhanced student learning — **\$500,000**

DESIGN VISIONARY SPACES

Create more flexible classroom and clinical skills space

Expand the WCVM Veterinary Medical Centre with improved patient and client areas, more exam rooms, and expanded intensive care unit (ICU) and oncology areas

Invest in advanced medical equipment

- Linear accelerator — **\$2.5 million**
- MRI — **\$2.5 million**
- General equipment — **\$250,000**

Lead Critical Research

RESEARCH THAT KEEPS ANIMALS AND PEOPLE HEALTHY TOGETHER

Pollinator Health Research Chair — \$750,000

Birds, bats, bees, butterflies and beetles pollinate plants and are critical to our world. They contribute to the foods we eat, they sustain our ecosystems and they enhance our natural resources. However, pollinator health is deteriorating rapidly worldwide. Threats to pollinators affect the long-term sustainability of agriculture and food security which, if compromised, will have significant effects on public health, ecosystem health and biodiversity.

With your support, we can meaningfully address this pressing issue with the creation of a **Pollinator Health Research Chair**, the only position of its kind in Canada. By dedicating a leading research position to pollinator health, we will be able to build a robust research program here at USask focused on finding solutions to protect our threatened ecosystems and food supply.

The challenges we face are worrisome, with global demand for pollination exceeding the current supply of insect pollinators. With your support, researchers, farmers, industry, beekeepers, veterinarians, policy makers and consumers can work together to build a brighter and more sustainable future for all of us.

Animal Cancer Research — \$250,000

By using new approaches to study cancer in animals and humans, WCVm researchers are making significant progress in diagnosing and treating this devastating disease — but there is more we can do to find answers so we can save more lives of both people and animals. With the addition of new tools and advanced technology, USask's WCVm can perform further groundbreaking oncology research.

Our leading veterinary oncology research team is eager to **create a tumour bank** that would allow us to use advanced diagnostics and therapeutic agents from human medicine in our work with animals. The tumour bank would support critical research led by Dr. Behzad Toosi, who holds the Allard Research Chair in Oncology and who runs the first comparative oncology research program in Western Canada.

Thanks to the generosity of the Allard Foundation, the WCVm was the first veterinary college in Canada to have a PET-CT (positron emission tomography-computed tomography) unit, making USask uniquely positioned to do this work.

Animal Health Research — \$500,000

At the WCVm, researchers continue to make internationally significant discoveries in a range of areas, including basic and applied sciences, clinical sciences, comparative medicine, food safety, toxicology, public health, environmental health and One Health — all aimed at improving the health and quality of life for small and large animals.

Groundbreaking research is a cornerstone of what we do, but we need your support to continue to be a leader in this area.

Through your support of the **Companion Animal Health Fund** and the **Townsend Equine Health Research Fund**, our research teams can continue to investigate and find solutions to important health issues such as cancer in pets and people, lameness in horses and dogs, zoonotic diseases affecting wildlife, domestic animals and people, antimicrobial resistance in pets, and genetic diseases in pets and horses.

Support Indigenous Achievement

NORTHERN ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Mobile Vet Clinics in Remote Communities — \$200,000

The veterinary profession has a duty to support optimal health and welfare for animals, people and the environment — but many northern and remote regions lack regular access to veterinary care. While animals hold important roles in underserved communities, managing the health and welfare of animal populations is challenging without regular and sustained access to services.

To address these gaps, the WCVM has partnered with northern and Indigenous communities in Saskatchewan to offer **temporary mobile veterinary clinics**. This service provides animal care in these communities, hands-on experience for our students, and an introduction to careers in animal health for local youth.

The benefits are substantial: more animals will receive the care they need and more communities will benefit from the improved well-being of their animal populations. Our veterinary students also develop an appreciation for the cultural significance of animals for Indigenous peoples by meeting with and learning from local Elders, Knowledge Keepers, educators and youth. These opportunities help foster cultural humility and a sense of social accountability in our veterinary graduates, developing the next generation of leaders and change-makers in the veterinary profession.

Scholarships & Awards for Indigenous Students — \$50,000

With your support, we plan to increase the number and value of student awards and bursaries available for Indigenous students at the WCVM. By enabling access and providing financial support during their studies, we can prepare more Indigenous students to be future leaders and veterinary professionals that communities around the world need.



Northern Engagement and Community Outreach Chair position — \$1 million

We plan to expand our reach and bolster our work with Indigenous and northern communities by establishing a **Northern Engagement and Community Outreach Chair** position that will focus on:

- increasing veterinary access through remote clinics in northern and Indigenous communities
- providing pet wellness in the community by partnering with Indigenous and northern communities
- establishing more partnerships in Indigenous communities to help provide veterinary access
- exploring the potential for expanding into other partner provinces to offer remote clinics in other northern, Indigenous and underserved areas
- broadening cultural awareness and social accountability in our veterinary graduates

Inspire Students to Succeed

SUPPORT FOR CURRENT AND FUTURE LEARNERS



Awards and Bursaries — \$750,000

Through your generous support, you can help to ensure that aspiring veterinarians can achieve their dreams, despite the pressure and cost that comes with pursuing their educational goals. Thanks to scholarships and bursaries that reward exceptional achievements and support those in financial need, your gift gives students the opportunity to better themselves, while relieving emotional and financial stress and improving their ability to focus on their studies.

BJ Hughes Centre for Clinical Learning — \$500,000

Our students prepare for real-life veterinary practice by gaining hands-on skills, and the WCVM's **BJ Hughes Centre for Clinical Learning** enables students to practise their skills on models rather than on live animals. The lab's flexible learning space also offers the college's faculty the opportunity to teach various levels of simulation — from running through client scenarios with actors to practising surgical techniques on computerized models.

To keep the BJ Hughes Centre for Clinical Learning current, we require further investment in **simulation models and technology** to support hands-on learning. With your donation, our students can hone their techniques and master their clinical skills in a safe learning environment so they are better prepared to care for animals.

Design Visionary Spaces

SPACES THAT ADDRESS THE CHALLENGES OF THE FUTURE

Today, the pressure has never been greater to meet the growing demand for veterinarians across Canada. To address this urgent need, we need your help to expand and enhance our learning, teaching and clinical spaces at the WCVM so we can educate and train more veterinary professionals.



“The intensive care unit (ICU) is a vital area of the hospital where we care for the sickest animals and provide crucial teaching to future veterinarians, veterinary technologists, interns and residents. Our current ICU is too small — larger dogs are housed on the floor or in wards where it is difficult to keep an eye on them. Having a larger space with a better layout would ensure that patients receive ideal monitoring and would provide a quiet, peaceful space for cats, exotics pets and patients recovering from anesthesia. It would allow owners a more serene area to spend time with their beloved pet when they are too sick to be moved for a visit.”

DR. JEN LOEWEN, emergency and critical care specialist





Veterinary Medical Centre Expansion

The **WCVM Veterinary Medical Centre** is in urgent need of more clinical space due to a growing demand for emergency and critical care services from the public who rely on us for care of sick and injured animals, and for ongoing medical care.

Our small animal intensive care unit (ICU) is currently overcrowded, and we need more **exam rooms, patient and client areas, and expanded ICU and oncology areas**. Expanded space will allow us to better provide specialized care to patients, conduct vital research studies, and respond to the rising demand for emergency and critical care in Western Canada. With your support, we can design and build new spaces that will allow us to provide the best care to our patients and their families.

Flexible Classroom and Clinical Spaces

We require additional classrooms for teaching growing class sizes, as well as more clinical skills space where our veterinary students learn the hands-on skills they need to become health professionals. More clinical space will also allow us to expand our capacity for hosting national clinical proficiency exams for veterinarians, as WCVM is the only site where foreign-trained veterinarians can become qualified to practise in Canada.

ADVANCED MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

Another critical need is an investment in the hospital's advanced technologies and medical equipment, with **a new linear accelerator and a new top-model MRI machine** being urgent requirements. Our oncology team needs these specialized technologies for diagnostics and to continue providing radiation therapies to cancer patients. Having this state-of-the-art equipment in our college will allow us to better diagnose and treat cancer in animals, train our students on the most current and sophisticated techniques, and conduct cutting-edge research.

Our top needs include:

- Linear accelerator — **\$2.5 million**
- MRI — **\$2.5 million**
- Diagnostic and general equipment — **\$250,000**



Together, let's

BE WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS

Veterinarians play critical roles in animal and human health care, and right now, we are experiencing an unprecedented demand for veterinary professionals in communities across Canada and globally. The WCVM is helping to address this issue by training veterinary students and veterinary specialists who provide essential health care for animals and help to protect the health of both animal and human populations in Western Canada and around the world.

Our research teams also conduct vital research that will help to improve the health and welfare of animals, as well as the health of people in areas such as cancer and antimicrobial resistance where key information can contribute to human medicine. Through innovation and creativity, WCVM scientists are finding solutions to health issues that face both animals and people in our world today.

But we can't do this without partners like you — our alumni, friends and supporters.

With your help, we can expand our critical research initiatives, support our students' education journeys, expand our impact in Indigenous communities, and continue to offer world-class animal health services to patients and their families.

With your donation, we can help keep animals and people healthy, together. Join us in helping to create a healthier future for animals and humans. Thank you for your support.

Will you join us?

In our next chapter, we will transform Saskatchewan and the world by addressing those things you care most about: your world now and the world that generations will inherit.

With your support, vision and spirit the University of Saskatchewan will bridge our deep roots with a bright future.

With your support, we will be what the world needs.



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