

EAST NIPISSING-NORTH PARRY SOUND VETERINARY SERVICES COMMITTEE

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Mayor and Councilors
Municipality of East Ferris

Dear Mayor and Council members,

As the Secretary-Treasurer for the **East Nipissing-North Parry Sound Veterinary Services Committee**, I am collecting annual funds for the contract fees for the large animal veterinary clinics that service our area.

Our veterinary services committee collects the funds from the Townships in the geographic region from North Bay east to Papineau/Cameron and south to Trout Creek. Our area is serviced by the Springer Animal Hospital (in Sturgeon Falls) , and Dr.Fritz Verzijlenberg from Sundridge. The vet from Sundridge serves the areas in the North Parry Sound region.

After collecting the township funds, we then send the contract fee to the **Northern Producer Animal Health Network** that represents all the vet services committees throughout the North, from Kenora to Renfrew from Hearst to Muskoka and the Bruce Peninsula. **NPAHN** is the go between for the **Veterinary Service Committees** (producers), the **Designated Area Veterinarians Association (DAVA)** and the **Ministry of Northern Development (MND)**.

NPAHN helps the vet committees with problem issues and will assist with the cost of looking for new vets, when needed. NPAHN also help vet clinics to bring in summer externship vet students. There are up to ten students per summer. NPAHN also has helped fund a training program for first responders going to livestock transport accidents. In 2024 we helped fund Dr. Temple Grandin, a famous animal behaviorist, to come and speak with Vet technicians and producers in the north.

The "Veterinary Assistance Program" is administered through the Ministry of Northern Development. The total budget is \$830,000.00. There are twenty-four vet contracts across Northern Ontario. Each contract is worth \$40,000.00. This budget covers conditional grants to the vets to offset the cost of driving to the clients, locum assistance for vacation coverage and continuing education costs incurred by participating vet practices. At present, the travel grant is \$1.20 per k.m. for the contracted vets to visit the livestock for up to 70k.m.one way (on a return basis). The vets may charge an extra charge to a client that is further than 70k.m. from their base. In Southern Ont. where this program is not available the vets are charging \$4.00(plus) per k.m. return to their clients, this is the fee sanctioned by the OVC.

Once the vet arrives at the farm, the livestock owner pays the call fee and medicine charges, and procedure charges.

This program covers anyone who owns at least one large animal, such as horses, cattle, sheep, pigs, goats, bison, (25) rabbits, deer, flock of poultry, or animals maintained in the production of fur, velvet, or meat.

In the North, there are not enough large animals in any area to sustain a large animal vet that does not have to travel a great distance. With the public's concern on animal welfare and healthy food, the vets are the front-line professionals that can teach bio security and the proper care and treatment of animals. This guards against tragic outcomes. It is by Ontario Provincial law that large animal owners purchase any Anti- microbials and vaccines from a licensed large animal vet. To do this a vet-client relationship must be established. This program is particularly important to keep vets in the North.

The **East Nipissing North-Parry Sound Vet Services Committee** needs a representative from each contributing township. The person can be a council member or a person from the community, preferably someone that would have an interest in the program.

I have Michel Champagne as your representative. He has been invited to a meeting on Feb.13/25 at the Powassan United Church 7 p.m.

Please inform me if there is any change to your representative's name, address, phone #, e-mail, so I may contact them for our annual meeting.

Your municipality's contribution for **April 1, 2024, to March 31, 2025, is \$300.00**

April 1, 2025 to March 31, 2026, is \$300.00. \$600.00 total

This goes towards the **\$2000.00** annual vet contract fee that enables producers in your township to benefit from the Veterinary Assistance Program.

Please make the check payable to the **East Nipissing- North Parry Sound Vet Committee** and send it to **Pauline Carmichael, 470 Galston Rd. Mattawa, Ont., P0H 1V0.**

If you do not want to contribute to the program, please inform me in writing. Animal owners in your Township will not be covered by the program and they will be charged extra by the vets while attending their animals.

If you wish for more information, please do not hesitate to call me. I would be willing to come to a council meeting to answer any questions.

Thank you for your support.

Pauline Carmichael
Secretary-Treasurer
East Nipissing-North Parry Sound Veterinary Services Committee
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