

# Understanding the Roles of a Regulator, Professional Association, Union and the Government



Proposed updates to the Veterinarians Act include a new regulatory college; one that regulates both veterinarians and RVTs together. The OAVT would transition to be the professional association for RVTs. Regulators, professional associations, unions and the government all have distinct roles and functions:

	Regulator	Professional Association	Government	Union
Purpose	Created by the Ontario government to regulate the profession(s) in the public interest.	To advocate on behalf of member interests and the profession.	Responsible for the administration of the province of Ontario.	To bargain with intent to promote collaborative labour relations
Membership	<b>Mandatory</b>	<b>Voluntary</b>	<b>Elected officials</b>	<b>Mandatory</b>
Leadership	Councils comprised of both members of the profession (professional members) and members of the public, who are appointed by the provincial government.	Board of Directors comprised of members of the profession who can be elected to the Board. (The elected members are accountable to the people that elected them.)	124 elected representatives called Members of Provincial Parliament (MPPs) elected from across the province. This includes the Premier of Ontario, and Ministers	Democratic body that elects leaders responsible for advocating for the good of the employee
Duties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regulating the practice and conduct of members by setting regulations, standards, policies and guidelines</li> <li>Maintaining a public register of members, ensuring that only qualified professionals meeting entry to practice requirements can practise or use the protected titles</li> <li>Assessing whether a member is fit to practice;</li> <li>Disciplining members, where necessary</li> <li>Promoting inter-professional collaboration</li> <li>Offering practise guidance and support to members and assisting public with information about the profession and its members.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Accreditation of veterinarian technician programs</li> <li>Advocate in the interest of members</li> <li>Promote the profession</li> <li>Provide educational opportunities, networking events, resources, and perks and benefits programs</li> <li>Monitor new developments that may impact the profession</li> <li>Posting employment opportunities</li> <li>Inter-professional collaboration</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Responsible for creating new legislation and amending existing legislation</li> <li>Works with partners and stakeholders across all sectors</li> <li>Responsible for all areas/ sectors that affect the province, including but not limited to:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Health</li> <li>Rural affairs</li> <li>Agriculture</li> <li>Education</li> <li>Infrastructure</li> <li>Environment</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Negotiates employment conditions such as wages, benefits, conditions of work, hours and job security</li> <li>Processes contractual grievances</li> <li>Assists employees with labour issues</li> <li>Protects health and safety of employees</li> </ul>