

Reference No: 2026-M&C-03

April 14, 2026

The Honourable Susan Holt
Chancery Place
P.O. Box 6000
Fredericton, NB E4B 5H1
By Email: Susan.Holt@gnb.ca

Dear Premier Holt:

I am writing to you on behalf of our agricultural community. Our farmers, livestock producers, and agri-businesses contribute significantly to the province's food security, employment, and rural stability. It is from this perspective that I express deep concern regarding the proposed budget plan to phase out provincial veterinary field services and laboratory services over the next three years.

For communities like ours, these services are not optional supports; they are essential infrastructure. Provincial veterinary services provide timely, accessible expertise that many producers simply cannot replace through private alternatives, especially in remote or underserved areas. The provincial laboratory system is equally critical, offering disease surveillance, diagnostic capacity, and rapid response tools that protect not only individual farms but the entire provincial herd and flock health status.

The proposed phase-out raises several serious risks:

- **Reduced access to veterinary care**, particularly for large-animal and herd-health needs that private clinics may not be able to meet consistently.
- **Slower disease detection and response**, increasing the likelihood of outbreaks that could devastate livestock populations and impose heavy economic losses.
- **Greater financial strain on producers**, who already operate within tight margins and cannot absorb the increased costs associated with privatized or out-of-province services.
- **Weakened food security**, as disruptions in animal health inevitably affect the stability of local and provincial food supply chains.

Agriculture is one of the few sectors that cannot simply "pause" or adapt quickly to service gaps. Animals require care every day, and disease does not wait for administrative transitions. The proposed cuts would disproportionately affect rural communities, undermine long-term sustainability, and jeopardize the very industries that help keep New Brunswick's economy resilient.

We respectfully urge your government to reconsider this aspect of the budget and to engage directly with producers, veterinarians, and agricultural organizations before moving forward. A collaborative approach could identify cost-effective alternatives that preserve essential services while still meeting fiscal objectives. Our community is ready and willing to participate in these discussions. We hope you will give serious consideration to the concerns of the many rural families and businesses who depend on these services every day.



Andrew Black
Mayor

cc: MLA Megan Mitton
Jennifer Borne, Chief Administrative Officer
Tantrammar Council