

Collaborative DVM Program (CDVMP)

Lakehead University and University of Guelph

Presentation to Northern Producers November 2025

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Becoming a food animal veterinarian

- Born in Sudbury, Raised in Copper Cliff
- No farms in my family – I had a pet dog
- Highschool – worked at small animal clinic
 - Volunteered at mixed animal clinic
- University – summer worked on brood mare farm
- 2nd summer - worked on dairy farm
- 3rd summer – externship mixed practice –dairy and pigs
- 1st vet job – dairy, beef, swine, poultry, dogs and cats
- 2nd vet job – beef, swine, dogs, cats
- Specialized in pigs – swine health management – since 1985

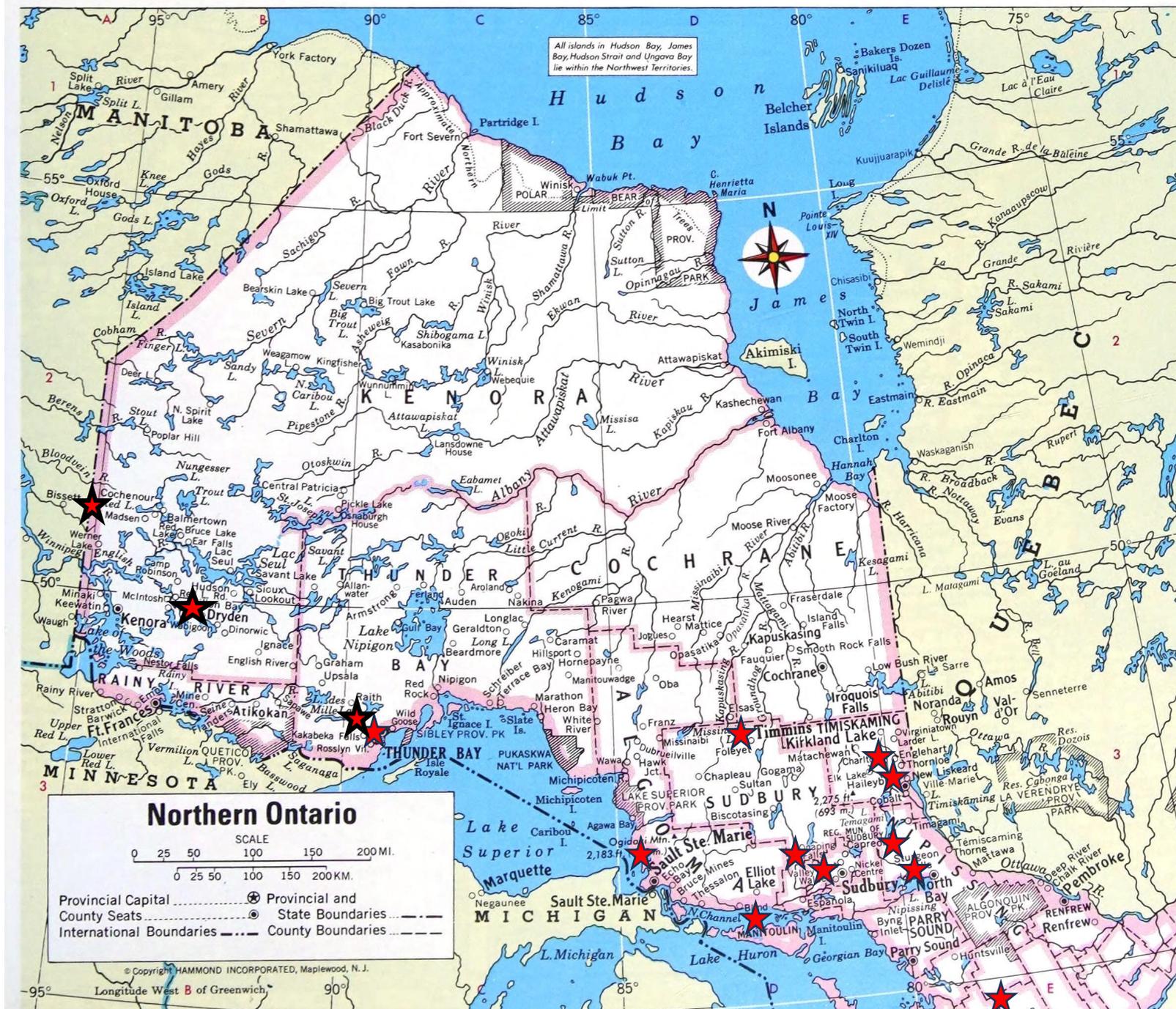


20 NEW VETERINARY STUDENT POSITIONS FOR NORTHERN ONTARIO

Ontario government funding 20 new veterinary student positions to educate veterinarians **who will support the communities of Northern Ontario, northern rural remote underserved areas, Indigenous communities, and agri-food industries**

Reinforce student connections to the North □ increased return and retention in the North, improving animal health and welfare

‘Underserved areas of Northern Ontario’ are those in the Ontario government’s Veterinary Assistance Program (VAP) □ Provides financial assistance for large animal veterinarians to travel to livestock producers



Northern Cohort –

20 students began
September 2025

Where are they from?

Cobalt, Corbeil,
Dryden, Haileybury,
Little Current, Murillo,
North Bay, Onaping,
Red Lake, Sault Ste.
Marie, Sudbury,
Thunder Bay, Timmins

ADMISSION CRITERIA FOR NORTHERN/LAKEHEAD COHORT

- Applicants must have lived in Northern Ontario for at least 12 consecutive months (excluding time when completing post- secondary education)
- Student's background before applying to the veterinary program
 - Animal experience; Veterinary experience
 - Extracurricular activities
 - 3 Referees' assessments (at Least one Veterinarian, + 2 others)
 - 1 Essay
- *"I'm honoured to be part of the Northern Cohort at OVC," he says. "I'm excited to meet my classmates and continue my journey toward serving my community as a veterinarian."- Aiden Lehto (Thunder Bay)*

NORTHERN COHORT BEGAN SEPTEMBER 2025

- The first two cohorts of students will complete all four years of the program at the University of Guelph (UofG)
- In 2027, students will complete first year at Lakehead and years 2-4 at UofG
- The ultimate goal is for students who enter the program in 2030 to complete the first 2 years at Lakehead University and the final 2 years at the University of Guelph
- *“I’m excited to serve both large and small animals in the Nipissing District, where I grew up.” – Paris Fuzy (Corbeil)*

Rural Community Practice- in the clinical year

- All students in the Northern Cohort must complete the Rural Community Practice Stream in the final year of the DVM program
- In the summer, students spend 8 weeks in private veterinary practices

Over the 40 days they must spend

- 15 to 25 days with dogs, cats, and/or exotics AND
- 15 to 25 days with cattle, swine, poultry, sheep, goats, and/or horses

Additionally – students complete 4 weeks in veterinary practices – typically during the winter and spring of final year

Thank you

- We hope to reinforce student connections to the North □ increased return and retention in the North, improving animal health and welfare
- Students who gain experience with food animals in summers during veterinary school are more likely to work with food animals after graduation
- Please help to build opportunities for students to gain hands-on experience

Questions and Discussion

Dewey, C.E., Leyenaar, J. The influence of swine-related work experience on career choice following graduation. J Veterinary Med. Ed. 2000;27(2): 28-32.