

## EAST NIPISSING-NORTH PARRY SOUND VETERINARY SERVICES COMMITTEE

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April 19, 2021,

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 to pay 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), Dr. Fritz Verzijlenberg and Dr. Norma DeRose from Sundridge. The vets from Sundridge serve the areas in the North Parry Sound region.

After collecting the 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 **MENDM**. **NPAHN** helps the vet committees with problems that may arise with vets 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 10 students per summer. **NPAHN** also help fund a training program for first responders going to livestock transport accidents.

The "**Veterinary Assistance Program**" is administered through the **Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines**. The total budget is \$830,000.00. There are 24 vet contracts across Northern Ontario. This budget covers conditional grants 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 a client that is further that 70k.m. from their base an extra charge. In Southern Ont. where this program is not available the vets are charging \$3.50 per k.m. return to their clients. Once the vet arrives at the farm, the livestock owner pays the call fee and medicine charges, and the 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 in order to guard against tragic outcomes. This program is very important to keep vets in the North.

It is by Provincial and Federal Law that a large animal owner must purchase all Anti-Microbials and vaccines through a licensed large animal veterinary. The owner must develop a vet/client relationship.

The **East Nipissing North-Parry Sound Vet Services Committee** needs a representative from each township. Your representative is Michel Champagne.

The fees have been reduced by \$50.00 this year.

Your municipality's contribution for **2021** is **\$300.00** and will go towards the **\$2000.00** 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., POH 1V0.** Thank you.

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

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

Thank you for your support.



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