

**Press release :**

**\$101M investment from Quebec government will expand veterinary medicine program leveraging an innovative training approach**

Université de Montréal's Faculty of Veterinary Medicine (FMV) and Université du Québec à Rimouski (UQAR) are proud to announce that they have formed a partnership to create a unique 3+2 decentralized training program to counter the veterinary workforce shortage in the province, specifically in rural regions.

The decentralized program consists of a "3+2 model": years 1, 2 and 3 completed at the UQAR campus in Rimouski, year 4 at the UdeM campus in Saint-Hyacinthe and year 5, devoted entirely to clinical rotations, completed partly at the FMV's VTH and partly at veterinary practices in the regions. As of 2024, 25 new students will be admitted to the decentralized program, bringing the total number of students enrolled in the FMV's DMV program to 121, an increase of 26% in class size.

UdeM's FMV achieved a pivotal step in the development of its 3+2 program when it obtained approval from the province's Ministry of Higher Education on May 24<sup>th</sup> 2022 and from the American Veterinary Medical Association Council on Education October 14<sup>th</sup> 2022. The decentralized program in veterinary medicine represents a Canadian first.

Moreover, the Government of Quebec will provide a 101M\$ grant for the infrastructures required for the decentralized program in Rimouski and for the FMV campus in Saint-Hyacinthe.

"We are grateful for this commitment by our provincial partner, which affirms Quebec's leadership and determination to meet the needs of the regions and to ensure animal health services and support for the agricultural sector and the bio-food industry throughout the province of Quebec" said FMV Dean, Dr. Christine Theoret (DVM, PhD, Dipl. ACVS).