

IN THE MATTER OF THE *VETERINARIANS ACT*, S.B.C. 2010, c. 15

AND

**IN THE MATTER OF THE COLLEGE OF VETERINARIANS
OF BRITISH COLUMBIA**

AND

DR. PAVITAR BAJWA

Counsel for the College

**B. Olthuis, K.C.,
B. Risk**

Counsel for Dr. Bajwa

C. Parfitt

1. This matter was scheduled for hearing on June 18 and 19, 2026. It had been adjourned previously due to Dr. Bajwa's health. On June 5, 2026, Ms. Parfitt notified the College that she had received information from Dr. Bajwa's nephew, a physician in India, that Dr. Bajwa had died on the morning of June 4, 2026. Ms. Parfitt suggested these proceedings should therefore be concluded.
2. As a result of discussions between counsel, it was agreed that the proceedings should be adjourned generally, that is, without any specific date, while we await formal documentation of Dr. Bajwa's death. A consent adjournment order was issued by the panel on June 24, 2026.
3. Counsel for the College submits and the panel agrees that it would be useful to document the history of this matter. To that end, counsel for the College has prepared a summary of the proceedings from its commencement. The panel finds that summary as submitted to be concise and accurate and, as a matter of convenience, we have adopted the chronology of the proceedings prepared by the College in these reasons for the indefinite adjournment.

Chronology of this Proceeding

4. The citation that initiated these proceedings was issued on January 10, 2025, and the hearing of this matter was set for May 26 and 27, 2025.
5. Those hearing dates were adjourned by consent in May 2025 as Dr. Bajwa was experiencing health issues and had only just retained counsel to represent him at the hearing.
6. The hearing was then reset to November 13 and 14, 2025. On the eve of that hearing, the Respondent's counsel applied for an adjournment on the basis that Dr. Bajwa had left the country and travelled to India for health reasons. The College did not oppose the adjournment but asked that any adjournment be granted on conditions aimed at protecting the public interest and mitigating the possibility of further adjournments.
7. The Panel granted the adjournment on the condition that Dr. Bajwa provide the College with semi-monthly updates on his health, prognosis, and treatment plan, and to alert the College should he return to Canada or intend to return to the practice of veterinary medicine in British Columbia.
8. In February 2026, the hearing of this matter was rescheduled for June 18 and 19 2026, but on May 13, 2026, counsel for the Respondent applied to adjourn those hearing dates on the basis that Dr. Bajwa was too unwell to participate in a disciplinary hearing.
9. The College initially opposed that application on the basis that the available evidence did not demonstrate that the hearing could not proceed. However, on May 27, 2026, counsel for the Respondent informed the College and the Panel that Dr. Bajwa's condition had worsened considerably, and he was receiving intensive care in a hospital in India.
10. On June 2, 2026, counsel for the Respondent delivered evidence to the Panel confirming that Dr. Bajwa was hospitalized in the intensive care unit of the Sarvesh Health City hospital, and on June 4, 2026, the College delivered submissions to the Panel consenting to an adjournment of the scheduled hearing dates.
On June 5, 2026, the Respondent's counsel advised the College that Dr. Bajwa had passed away.

General Adjournment and the College's Request for Reasons

11. The College asks that these proceedings be adjourned generally, with reasons setting out the history of this proceeding and the basis for the adjournment.
12. There is currently no scheduled date for the hearing of this citation. When the news of Dr. Bajwa's passing was received, the scheduled hearing was only two weeks away. Counsel for the parties agreed upon the terms of the adjournment and counsel for the College prepared an order which was subsequently issued by the panel.

13. Counsel for the College requested that a published decision be issued by the panel providing background the adjournment and the history of this matter to provide clarity for the parties regarding the future of this disciplinary matter and to satisfy the public interest.
14. The panel is aware that there are several other outstanding disciplinary proceedings against Dr. Bajwa. In each case Dr. Bajwa has disputed the allegations. The College intends to seek a general adjournment of each of them. The multiple proceedings concerning Dr. Bajwa, which raise allegations of professional misconduct, are known to, or followed by, complainants, members of the profession and members of the public.
15. The College submitted that it is important to bring the various proceedings to an end formally, with an explanation for why they are concluding without a decision on the merits. It is important that observers of the proceedings, including complainants, not be left asking why no hearings are occurring in respect of the outstanding disciplinary matters.
16. There is a duty of fairness associated with any professional disciplinary process. In all proceedings the panel must conduct its work in an unbiased and fair manner, that duty includes hearing evidence and submissions of both parties before reaching a decision. That duty cannot be satisfied when the respondent has died before the hearing has begun.
17. There is process in the Criminal Law whereby criminal charges, no matter how serious, are ended upon proof of death of the accused person. We intend to follow a similar process here. Once the College has received formal notice of Dr. Bajwa's death, this citation must be referred back to the Investigation Committee of the College to take steps to conclude the citation and to take all necessary steps related to Dr. Bajwa's registration with the College.
18. In this way we believe the statutory obligations of the College to enforce standards of practice, pursuing matters of discipline and governing registrants in accordance with the Act will be satisfied. Transparency is important to the College's processes, so the public can perceive what it is doing in fulfilment of its duties and objects.
19. Further, it is the members of the profession whose dues contribute to paying the College's legal expenses in relation to disciplinary proceedings, including the costs of prosecuting the various disciplinary actions against Dr. Bajwa. It is important that members of the profession understand why those proceedings are not concluding with hearings and decisions from the various panels.
20. The College says it does not think it is appropriate to seek an omnibus general adjournment of all outstanding proceedings from the Discipline Committee as a whole. The College has several reasons for taking that position.
21. First, the College notes that the Committee has delegated the control and management of the proceeding to the various panels. Second, it is the various panels which have the

power to adjourn the proceedings under s. 284(1)(b) of the Bylaws. Further, as the different proceedings are at different stages, it is possible that the College will seek specific directions in one hearing but not another, and it is possible that different panels will make specific directions on their own motion. Finally, as indicated above, the College submits that brief reasons for each of the adjournments will be in the public interest. There may be case-specific facts appropriately included in such reasons.

Conclusion

22. These proceedings have presented the Panels hearing each of the citations against Dr. Bajwa with a challenging task of balancing the public interest in the timely resolution of disciplinary proceedings with Dr. Bajwa's interest in ensuring the hearing was fair, a matter impacted by his inability to prepare for and attend the hearing due to his medical condition, particularly in the past six months.
23. We therefore order that this matter be adjourned generally pending the receipt of formal documentation respecting the death of Dr. Bajwa. Once that information is received the matter is to be referred to the Investigation Committee for further action without the need to reappear before us. However, either of the parties may request a further appearance before this panel if it is deemed necessary for any reason.

Dated this 8th day of July, 2026.

Keith Bracken

Keith Bracken, Chair

Catharine Shankel

Dr. Catharine Shankel

Carsten Bandt

Dr. Carsten Bandt