



Canadian Council on Animal Care Conseil canadien de protection des animaux

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE NEW CCAC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dr. Willis is an internationally recognized professional with significant experience, both with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. His areas of specialty include foreign animal diseases, and virological diagnostics and research. As Director General he managed Canada's animal and plant health programs, and the national chain of eight animal and plant health laboratories. He served as Canada's Chief Veterinary Officer for nine years.



Dr. Norman Willis

His accomplishments include, managing the construction of five laboratories, one of which is the Canadian Science Centre for Human and Animal Health, which is jointly managed with the Public Health Agency of Canada. This is Canada's only maximum security (Level IV) laboratory for which he served as its first Executive Director. As well, he has drafted a National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Strategy and has been elected to the National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council. Dr. Willis served for fifteen years on specialist commissions in the OIE (World Organization for Animal Health), including leading the organization as President. Dr. Willis is the only North American to be elected as President since the foundation of OIE in 1924. In addition, Dr. Willis has served as Senior Technical Advisor on BSE in Asia to Canada's Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food. He participated in an evaluation of the Veterinary Services for Kenya for the OIE, and has advised on an animal health diagnostic program in the Kyrgyz Republic.

Dr. Willis' awards include Agriculture and Agri-food Canada Manager of the Year; the Carl Block Award in recognition of his contribution to Canada's National Health Program; and the Don Matthews Memorial Award for Excellence in Animal Health. In 2007, he received the prestigious Gold Medal for meritorious service to the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE). This is the first time that this award has ever been presented to a Canadian.

Dr. Willis is a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and holds a PhD (Virology) from the University of Toronto.