



## **Yukon Agricultural Association – Federal Election 2025 Candidate Responses Summary**

On April 4, 2025, the Yukon Agricultural Association (YAA) sent a letter to all federal candidates running in the Yukon riding. The list of confirmed candidates was released on Wednesday, April 9, 2025.

We received responses from the following candidates:

- **Gabrielle Dupont**, Green Party of Canada
- **Ryan Leef**, Conservative Party of Canada
- **Katherine McCallum**, New Democratic Party (NDP)
- **Brendan Hanley**, Liberal Party of Canada

### **RE: Support Northern Agricultural Producers**

At the Yukon Agricultural Association (YAA), we are committed to advocating for the sustainable growth and success of Northern Canadian agriculture. As the cost of essentials like food, fuel, and agricultural products continues to rise, our local farmers are grappling with labor shortages and the associated disruptions in agricultural production. These challenges impact not only Yukon producers but the broader Canadian agricultural sector and national economy. In response, the YAA has outlined key priorities for federal action to address these critical issues and ensure a thriving agricultural future for the North.

Our mission is to foster and promote sustainable Yukon agriculture for the benefit of both private and commercial producers and consumers.

### **Yukon Agricultural Association 2025 Federal Election Priority Themes:**

1. **Competitiveness:** To strengthen Northern Canadian agriculture, we must reduce barriers to market access, expedite local food procurement, and invest in agricultural and agri-food infrastructure, innovation and agriculture soil health and protection.
2. **Resiliency:** Northern Canadian Agricultural producers need improved access to capital, stronger risk management programs applicable in the North, and reliable labor solutions to address critical shortages.



### **Questions Posed to Candidates:**

1. How will your government support the long-term competitiveness of the Northern agricultural sector?
2. How will your government strengthen the resilience of the Northern agricultural sector and ensure Northern producers receive equitable support in both new and existing programs?

### **Green Party of Canada (Gabrielle Dupont)**

#### **Quote from Response letter:**

#### **Competitiveness Initiatives:**

*"The Green Party supports the creation of policies and programs that strengthen food sovereignty and incorporate this lens into political decision making to advance the public interest.*

*We will implement safeguards to prevent speculation of agricultural lands and support farmland preservation in partnership with territorial and municipal governments.*

*We support the ban of bulk acquisition of farmland by non-resident investors, ensuring Yukon farmers retain ownership and control over agricultural land.*

*We will expand farmers' markets, culinary tourism, and direct-to-consumer food sales and incentivize carbon sequestration in soil by expanding support for regenerative farming practices.*

*We will also invest in research and direct farm support for organic and regenerative practices as well as invest in climate-resilient farming, supporting drought-resistant crops, precision agriculture, water conservation systems and research."*

#### **Resiliency Initiatives:**

*"The Green Party plan to strengthen agriculture and food security is built on the idea that we must strengthen and increase local and regional food production across provinces and territories.*

*We will restructure Business Risk-Management Programs to provide disaster relief, climate resilience, and rapid-response aid for farmers facing extreme weather events, everywhere in the country.*



*We support a comprehensive review of the Temporary Foreign Worker Program (TFWP) to protect workers from exploitation while ensuring critical labour needs are met in agriculture. We will reduce reliance on the TFWP by expanding employer-driven immigration pathways, ensuring migrant agricultural workers have clear routes to permanent residency.*

*We will also support farmer-led seed banks, seed exchanges, and community land trusts to prevent corporate control over essential agricultural resources.*

*More broadly, the Green Party supports targeted investment in local industries. That means building stronger regional food systems and expanding small-scale processing. We'll also provide direct support to farmers, keeping rural economies resilient and rooted in the land."*

### **Conservative Party of Canada (Ryan Leef)**

#### **Quote from Response letter:**

*"Thank you for your letter of April 4, 2025, and for the opportunity to comment on sustainable agriculture in the Yukon, as well as for your understanding in the delay of my response during this busy campaign.*

*The Conservative Party of Canada, and I, fully support a sustainable and successful agriculture industry right here in the territory and across the country. Agriculture, agri-food and farming are a cornerstone of Canada. Competitiveness, local food production and ultimately local food security have never been more essential after the last decade of rising costs and uncertainty.*

*With more Yukon residents visiting the Whitehorse Food Bank and relying on emergency food hampers to get through the week, the agricultural community could play a vital role in food security, poverty reduction and economic growth.*

*As a lifelong Yukoner, I am aware of many of the challenges facing Yukon industries such as our short season, heightened cost of materials and transportation, distance to market and supply chain issues, reduced access to skilled labour, all of which and more significantly affect agriculture in the territory.*

*I believe the best way to foster competitiveness starts with reducing taxes; to not only allow Canadians to keep more of their own money, but to also ensure that they can reinvest that money in their businesses in a tax and asset management regime that benefits them and their families.*

*Building resiliency is critical to the success of agriculture in the territory. I would advocate for specific northern initiatives including veterinary services, addressing labor shortages through improved programs, and ensuring Business Risk Management Programs are accessible and effective for Yukon's producers.*



*The points you've raised regarding a Pan-Canadian Data Strategy with focus on rural connectivity, permanent Accelerated Capital Cost Allowance, and amendments to the Lifetime Capital Gains Exemption are all worthy of serious consideration, which if elected, I would certainly be interested in further discussing with you and your members. I particularly support dedicated research for northern agriculture to develop climate-resilient crop varieties and sustainable practices suited to our unique environment.*

*Transportation infrastructure is another critical area where I believe we must invest to ensure Yukon agricultural products can reach markets efficiently. The expansion of the National Trade Corridors Fund would be beneficial in addressing our aging infrastructure needs.*

*Previous Conservative Governments, including my time as Yukon's Member of Parliament from 2011- 2015, invested in northern food security initiatives including cold climate innovations, northern farming, northern greenhouse expansion and other technologies that can expand on and support the innovation of Yukon farmers and agricultural business.*

*If elected, I commit to being a strong voice for Yukon's agricultural community in Ottawa. I would welcome the opportunity to meet with your association to discuss these priorities in greater detail and learn more about the day-to-day challenges faced by our farmers and producers.*

*Thank you for your advocacy on behalf of Yukon's agricultural sector. I look forward to the possibility of working together to build a more competitive and resilient future for northern agriculture."*

#### **New Democratic Party (Katherine McCallum)**

##### **Quote from response letter:**

*"Thank you for reaching out about support for agricultural producers in the Yukon.*

*This is an important issue in this campaign, particularly in light of the possible effects of new tariffs with the United States on the price of food and agricultural inputs.*

*If elected, I commit to being a strong advocate for local producers, as the more food we can produce at home in the Yukon, the better we all are. Local growers and tertiary producers contribute to our economy, and ensure we have access to food even when the highway is impassable. Food grown in Canada, and particularly in the Yukon is at the heart of our communities.*

*As regards your questions, an NDP Government would support long-term competitiveness and resilience for Yukon agriculture by:*



- *Creating a Pan-Canadian Food Strategy that will make Canada a leader in sustainable food production, and I would fight to ensure this includes strategies for the North;*
- *Investing in the resilience of our farms to ensure they're ready to respond to climate change;*
- *Investing in public agriculture research to support innovation and provide direct economic benefit for farms;*
- *Provide government supports for succession planning of farms to pass on to the next generation;*
- *Support for Bill C-234 which would exempt farmers from the carbon tax, who have no alternative to propane or natural gas in their operations.*

*The priorities outlined in your letter, while not specifically committed in the party platform, are all important requests and I support the calls you have made. Particularly, the importance of training and recruiting new veterinarians – as we have a real shortage in the territory, and the maintenance of the Temporary Foreign Worker Program and the importance of providing pathways to permanent residency for program participants.”*

#### **Liberal Party of Canada (Brendan Hanley)**

##### **Quote from response letter:**

*“Thank you for writing, and for this opportunity. Our government shares your commitment to fostering a resilient, competitive, and sustainable agricultural future in the North - and we are proud to support your priorities. As always, I am thankful for the opportunity to correspond with you and your members.*

*I completely recognize the unique challenges Northern producers face, from higher costs and climate constraints to labour shortages and limited infrastructure. I will continue to advocate for our Yukon farmers, but I am also pleased with the Liberal Party's targeted measures.*

*By extending our immediate expensing for agricultural and processing equipment, and clean energy systems, we are allowing producers to invest in essential tools without delay. We also support a permanent Accelerated Capital Cost Allowance, which would allow producers to fully write off capital investments in the first year, easing the financial burden of upgrading equipment and infrastructure.*

*To reduce transportation costs and increase value-added opportunities in the Yukon, we will invest \$200 million through the Domestic Food Processing Fund to build local processing capacity in rural and remote communities. By supporting this part of the food value chain, we can help producers retain more value locally while creating good jobs and strengthening food sovereignty.*



*Improved infrastructure is key to accessing markets, lowering costs, and supporting long-term growth. That's why we will expand the National Trade Corridors Fund and direct the Canada Infrastructure Bank to prioritize agricultural investments—particularly in food supply chain infrastructure that supports local production and reduces reliance on long-distance shipping.*

*Yukon-grown products deserve visibility and recognition. To make it easier for Canadians to choose local, we will strengthen origin-of-product labelling requirements and improve transparency in the marketplace so that Canadian-made goods are simple to identify and proudly supported.*

*We also understand that resilience in Northern agriculture depends on having access to the right programs and people. Our government will make permanent the doubling of revenue protection under the AgriStability Program, which supports farmers in cases of significant revenue drops caused by external shocks.*

*Finally, we will continue to invest in food security infrastructure, including greenhouses, hydroponics, and other forms of controlled-environment agriculture. This will allow more food to be grown locally, year-round, and help reduce the cost of food for Yukon families. We will also amend the mandates of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency and the Pest Management Regulatory Agency so that food affordability and security are considered alongside health and safety in all regulatory decisions.*

*Our government believes in the strength and potential of Yukon's farmers. With these initiatives, we are committed to ensuring that Yukon agriculture not only survives, but thrives as a cornerstone of Northern economic development, food security, and sustainability."*

### **Closing Statement from the Yukon Agricultural Association**

The Yukon Agricultural Association thanks all candidates who responded and engaged with the agricultural concerns of our region.

Our mission remains focused on fostering and promoting sustainable Yukon agriculture for the benefit of both private and commercial producers and consumers. We will continue to work with all levels of government to ensure that the voices of our farmers and producers are heard.

Thank you for your continued support and engagement.

**Yukon Agricultural Association**  
Executive Director,

Hanna Fish