



Yukon Agricultural Association 2025 Federal Election Platform Priorities

1. Supporting Competitiveness

- i. **Aligning with the Canadian Federation of Agriculture (CFA) Platform Priorities:**
 - a) **Pan-Canadian Data Strategy:** We support the creation of a national framework for investing in programming, digital skills, and data-driven productivity growth. This strategy must include Northern Canada and with additional focus on enhancing rural connectivity to ensure that agtech opportunities are accessible even in remote regions.
 - b) **Permanent Accelerated Capital Cost Allowance:** We urge the federal government to introduce a permanent policy allowing producers to depreciate 100% of capital expenditures on farm equipment in the first fiscal year. This will incentivize the modernization of equipment, easing the financial burden on Northern farmers.
 - c) **Farm Succession and the Lifetime Capital Gains Exemption (LCGE):** To ensure the smooth transfer of farm assets, we advocate for an increase in the LCGE to reflect the rise in farm asset values. This will support farm succession planning and ensure the next generation of Yukon farmers are not burdened by excessive capital gains taxes.
 - d) **National Soil Strategy:** A robust National Soil Strategy is essential to protect and conserve Canada's agricultural soils without compromising productivity. Given Yukon's limited arable land, it is critical that policies emphasize the protection of our agricultural soils to enhance food security and resilience.
 - e) **National Trade Corridors Fund (NTCF):** We support expanding the NTCF to upgrade aging infrastructure, particularly in the North. Reliable transportation corridors are vital to maintaining the flow of goods, services, and agricultural products across Yukon.
- ii. **Science, Research, and Innovation:** We urge the federal government to prioritize research and innovation specific to Northern agriculture, including the development of climate-resilient crop varieties, sustainable farming practices suited to colder environments, and advanced livestock management techniques. This targeted support will help Yukon farmers overcome climate-related barriers, enhance productivity, and contribute to Canada's broader agricultural resilience.



2. Building Resiliency

i. **Aligning with the Canadian Federation of Agriculture (CFA) Platform Priorities:**

a) **Veterinary Healthcare:** Addressing Canada’s acute shortage of veterinary healthcare—especially for food animals and regulatory medicine—is crucial for maintaining high standards of animal welfare. Expanding veterinary programs and supporting the recruitment of foreign-trained veterinarians are key steps in addressing the shortage. This shortage is especially pronounced in Northern Canada, where access to veterinary services is limited, further impacting producers.

b) **Temporary Foreign Worker Program (TFWP):** We advocate for the maintenance and expansion of agriculture streams within the TFWP to meet seasonal labor needs, as well as pathways for skilled temporary foreign workers to transition to permanent residency. The Agri-Food Pilot should be made permanent and include all agricultural sectors to help meet year-round labor needs in Yukon.

c) **Business Risk Management Programs:** We call for immediate piloting of a new disaster relief program and amendments to AgriStability to enhance responsiveness, equity, and coverage. It is essential that these programs be expanded and tailored to include sectors that are currently ineligible, as well as those technically eligible but limited or inaccessible under the current framework—such as agricultural producers in Northern Canada. These adjustments will ensure that all producers, regardless of location or sector, have the support they need to manage risks and navigate the challenges they face.

iii. **Sector Capacity and Growth:** We urge the federal government to prioritize support for initiatives that address the unique challenges of Northern agriculture. As Yukon works to develop agricultural sectors that are already established in other parts of Canada, we face significant challenges in advocating for the same level of support and resources that are available in more established regions. Targeted investments in the North will help level the playing field, fostering long-term growth in both the agricultural sector and the broader Yukon economy.