

Hanna Fish
Executive Director
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October 16, 2025

Dear Ms. Fish,

Thank you for your October 9, 2025 election questionnaire and for your advocacy work on behalf of the agriculture industry in the Yukon. The leadership of the Yukon Agricultural Association is critical in advancing, diversifying and building our Yukon agriculture and agri-food industry, feeding Yukoners, and contributing to the local economy. Your insights and thoughtful feedback are always welcome.

Please see below responses to your specific questions.

Food procurement

1. Yes. The Government of Yukon purchases locally produced foods for its facilities, but more can certainly be done. The Government of Yukon spends approximately \$3 million per year on food. Increasing government purchase of local food aligns with Cultivating Our Future: 2020 Yukon Agriculture Policy and Our Clean Future.

Our government developed a new platform that allows Government of Yukon grocery purchasers to easily purchase local food products (and other products) called the Online Marketplace. The system allows producers to list their products in an online catalogue and to interact directly with purchasers. This new platform has addressed some of the challenges experienced in the 2021-2024 Standing Offer Agreement to address supply challenges, make purchasing easier, and explore procurement options.

Successes to date include:

- Pilot launched in July 2024 with full functionality in early 2025;
- Targeted training and roll out of Online Marketplace across major Yukon government food purchasing programs in the departments of Education, Justice, and Health and Social Services;
- Monthly reporting and feedback on purchases to date;
- Meet and Greet held to connect producers with purchasers;
- Continued reach out to new prospective vendors to increase the number of locally produced products in the system.

2. Yes.

3. Our Liberal government has provided direction to departments to increase the purchase of local foods.

4. A re-elected Liberal government will support a resilient local food economy, sourcing 5% of government food purchases from Yukon-grown products by the end of 2025, improving procurement systems, and removing barriers under the Yukon Agriculture Policy. We will strive to increase the food purchase target each year.

Right to Repair

5. Yes. Our platform contains the following commitment:

‘Amend the Yukon’s *Consumers Protection Act* to enable the right to repair, allowing individuals and businesses to fix products without unnecessary barriers.’

6. The legislation will cover the agricultural industry.

Yukon Agricultural Policy

7/8. In July, 2020 our Liberal government completed work on an updated policy that will guide the development of Yukon agriculture for the next decade.

Cultivating Our Future: 2020 Yukon Agriculture Policy was the result of three years of work with Yukon’s agricultural producers, public and First Nations.

The vision for the 2020 Yukon Agriculture Policy is to create the right conditions to increase Yukon’s self-sufficiency in food production, produce high-quality products that feed Yukon’s vibrant communities, contribute to the local economy and to leave positive cultural and environmental legacies for future generations.

The policy supports the ongoing development of Yukon’s agriculture industry in areas including:

- Accessing arable land for farming;
- Encouraging best management practices on farms;
- Improving land use for agricultural purposes;
- Prioritizing agriculture-related infrastructure development;
- Reducing operating costs and offering agriculture extension services to support farmers and communities; and
- Increasing farm opportunities, including agriculture business development and marketing.

Under the policy, we continue to implement the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership with the Government of Canada to provide \$9.25 million in funding from 2023-2028 to support our key objectives.

The Yukon's agriculture industry is a success story. Production has been increasing the last several years. Next steps include reviewing the policy at its midway point and setting timelines and accountability measures can be included in that review.

9. In keeping with its commitment to modernizing regulations and legislation to meet the needs of Yukoners, our government finalized the Animal Protection and Control regulations under the 2022 *Animal Protection and Control Act*.

The Animal Protection and Control Act is a comprehensive, modern and enforceable legal framework for managing all aspects of animal protection and control in the Yukon and establishes higher standards of care than what previously existed. The *Act* reflects Yukoners' values to support community safety and protect animal welfare.

The *Act* and regulations came into effect in April of 2024, and the *Pounds Act*, *Dog Act*, and *Animal Protection Act* and their regulations were repealed. Any new regulations and policies would be done in coordination with your organization.

10. The agricultural sector will always be involved in the development of future policies and regulations that impact your industry.

Right to Farm

11/12/13. The protection of agricultural land and agriculture practices is critical for the development of Yukon's agricultural sector. Currently, Yukon does not have legislation specific to "Right to Farm".

However, there are legislative provisions in the *Area Development Act* and *Agriculture Area Regulation* to ensure agricultural land that is zoned for Agriculture is protected from other land uses. Additionally, other legislative tools provide general protection against frivolous or vexatious complaints. The protection of agricultural land is a recognized goal that we have enshrined as the second goal in *Cultivating Our Future: 2020 Yukon Agriculture Policy*. Our Liberal government is currently reviewing the policy at its midway point and there is an opportunity to consider how the legislation you note would benefit the Yukon context.

A re-elected Liberal government will engage with your organization and others to start work on “Right to Farm” legislation.

We look forward to continuing this dialogue and working together to build a stronger, more prosperous Yukon for all residents.

Sincerely,



Mike Pemberton
Leader, Yukon Liberal Party