

Subject: **RE: Yukon Agricultural Association**

To: **Hanna Fish and the Yukon Agricultural Association**

Thank you for the time you have taken to meet with us and the opportunity to publicly share our commitments to the Yukon Agricultural Association. The Yukon NDP is strongly supportive of the work that you have done for farmers and for Yukoners.

Local Food Procurement Gap: we know that in the past that government commitments to procurement have been minimal. As a government, we will have annual targets for department-specific purchases of locally grown food.

The Yukon NDP commits to the 5% local food procurement goal by 2025, increasing to 15% by the end of 2027. As you know, we have announced a universal food program for all children in all Yukon schools. We will work with the YAA to improve nutrition for children and support Yukon farmers together. With this beginning, we anticipate that our partnership will only grow.

The Yukon NDP recognizes that currently there are institutional barriers, including the practice of setting specific budget allocations per department. We are also aware that the online food procurement system has challenges. We will address the institutional barriers and the online system challenges to improve government procurement practices to make the online platform used consistently and effectively across departments, to create stable food markets and to allow Yukon farmers to scale up production.

Right to Repair Legislation: the Yukon NDP will work with the YAA and other stakeholders on Right to Repair legislation. As this has the potential to affect many other groups in the Yukon, we will commit to engagement with all stakeholders to develop the best practices for Right to Repair legislation, to achieve the best outcomes for all Yukoners.

We are aware that the YAA has already done significant work on this, and that there are significant legal and technical barriers for farmers who simply wish to repair their equipment. While work on the Right to Repair legislation proceeds, we will work with the YAA, manufacturers, and equipment dealers to find short term solutions for farmers with challenges to equipment repair.

2020 Agricultural Policy: we agree that policy needs to be coordinated across departments to achieve the targets set out in the 2020 Agricultural Policy. We will commit to the one government approach to achieve the targets set out in the Yukon Agriculture Policy, working with the YAA to achieve a cross-departmental understanding of these targets and how to achieve them. This includes working together with the YAA on identifying and updating policies, processes, and regulations, and setting public accountability and timeline measures. The Yukon NDP will establish a concrete plan to update outdated agricultural regulations and policies, by working with the YAA and farmers around the territory. This will begin with engagement and consultation to establish a baseline for which policies and regulations need to be prioritized, followed by direct work with the YAA and farmers on how these updates should proceed.

Right to Farm: the Yukon NDP will work with the YAA and other stakeholders to establish legislation that addresses protections for farming and agricultural land, so that agricultural land remains solely for agricultural purposes and that the right to farm is protected. This means that such legislation will be designed to ensure that accepted agricultural practices are protected and prioritized on agricultural land. Finally, as part of this legislation, there will be a fair and transparent dispute mechanism for agricultural land use conflicts.

Thank you for the time that you have taken to bring these issues forward, and we look forward to engaging with you in the future.

Kate White and the Yukon NDP

