



The Honourable Nils Clarke, Minister of Environment
The Honourable John Streicker, Minister of Energy, Mines, and Resources
Yukon Legislative Assembly
Box 2703, Whitehorse, Yukon
Y1A 2C6

RE: Draft Yukon Animal Protection and Control Act

Dear Ministers,

The Yukon Agricultural Association writes to identify prominent concerns and request changes or assurance related to the draft Yukon Animal Protection and Control Act (YAPCA). Considering the breadth of YAPCA, YAA notes the need for caution and further engagement. A prosperous and principled agri-food industry requires an enabled right to farm.

Business growth and public trust in local agriculture need effective government-industry coordination and consistency. Livestock-based products are the fastest growing category(s) within the increasing array of Yukon products. Effective and modernized animal protection legislation is needed to maintain that growth. Therefore, it is critical to ensure that the elements of YAPCA related to livestock and food production are supportive, credible, and appropriate to Yukon producers.

The current YAPCA is general and transfers significant burden and importance onto the development of regulations. Considering the limited industry consultation supporting the development of the YAPCA, YAA seeks binding assurances and deeper consultation in the following areas:

- Acknowledgement and distinction of agriculture and livestock from other animal categories;
- Well-defined approach to livestock and agricultural operations;
- Structural coordination between the Departments of Environment and Energy, Mines and Resources;
- Full consultation with, possibly lead by, industry on regulations that may pertain to livestock;
- Standards and guidelines that avoid prescriptive measures and emphasize performance/outcome;
- Education and enforcement protocols are established for contraventions that may occur on farms.

Thank you for your time and attention to these matters. YAA appreciates your awareness of agriculture as an expanding strategic industry poised for deep, and long-term, growth. Indeed, agriculture aligns well with economic diversification and growth priorities; dovetails with several sectors; central to food security/sovereignty considerations; and, is well aligned to activate contributions to our approach to climate change challenges.

I look forward to next steps. Please do not hesitate to reach out should clarifications be helpful.

Sincerely,

Cain Vangel
President

cc.

Hon. Curry Dixon, Leader of the Opposition
Hon. Kate White, Leader Yukon NDP
Paul McConnel, Deputy Minister, Energy, Mines and Resources
Manon Moreau, Deputy Minister, Environment