



November 1, 2022

Brian Lendrum, Chair
Growers of Organic Food Yukon
Via email: lendrumross@northwestel.net

Dear Chair Lendrum,

RE: Animal Protection and Control Act

Thank you for your October 27, 2022, email expressing your concerns with the new proposed Animal Protection and Control Act (APCA). The Government of Yukon knows that animals are important to Yukoners. We support responsible stewardship of animals, both livestock and pets, that are under Yukoners' care. We appreciate the willingness of organic farmers to abide by the high standards for livestock care and welfare as an important contribution to the growth of agriculture in the Yukon.

The Yukon's current animal protection and control legislation is outdated. The new proposed APCA enables modern animal welfare standards to be adopted and fills the current significant gaps and challenges around the enforceability of animal control and welfare in the Yukon. It will provide for a suite of tools to manage uncontrolled and feral animals, including high-risk livestock, it will improve animal welfare and control standards, it will regulate animal-related business (pet stores, animal rescues and boarding facilities), and clarify enforcement roles and responsibilities regarding the management of animals under our care.

We want to recognize the contribution the agriculture sector made during consultation in fall 2019 that informed the proposed Act, particularly the subcommittee on livestock control and welfare that was formed by the Agriculture Industry Advisory Committee. This subcommittee made valuable recommendations that were used to inform development of the legislation. In addition to the subcommittee, the Agriculture Industry Advisory Committee also provided input on the proposed Act at its regular meetings with Government of Yukon through to late 2020. These conversations with industry leaders have supported the proposed scope of the legislation to be outcome-based or prescriptive when required, such as for the containment of Eurasian boar. We have also heard support for the nation codes of practice. The agriculture industry in the Yukon, as you have similarly stated, has been confident that their operations meet or exceed these codes, and they take pride in how farming is done in the Yukon.

The new Act includes a list of livestock species to be defined in regulations, the adoption of the National Farm Animal Care Codes of Practice, an expansion of animal welfare enforcement powers for Energy,

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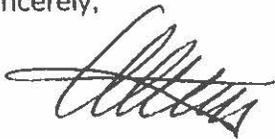
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Mines and Resources, and further clarity on how the departments of Environment and Energy, Mines and Resources coordinate on enforcement. It will also enable the development of regulations around fencing for high-risk animals such as Eurasian boar and provide for education and enforcement to manage a range of situations that may arise to ensure proper outcomes for livestock health and welfare and control are met.

The proposed *Animal Protection and Control Act* will not come into effect until regulations are developed and approved, and the agriculture sector and other key stakeholders will be part of this work. Regulation development will involve more consultation with the GoOFY and the agriculture sector jointly by the departments of Environment and Energy, Mines and Resources. We remain committed to ensuring growth of agriculture and to engaging your membership as regulations are developed.

Thank you again for your interest and we appreciate that you have reached out. Staff from the Agriculture Branch (agriculture@yukon.ca) or from the office of the Chief Veterinary Officer in the Animal Health Unit (animalhealth@yukon.ca) will be in contact with you to answer your questions.

Sincerely,



Nils Clarke

Minister of Environment

cc: Hon. John Streicker, Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources
Paul McConnell, Deputy Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources
Manon Moreau, Deputy Minister of Environment
Brad Cathers, MLA
Kate White, MLA