



October 27, 2022

Cain Vangel, President
Yukon Agricultural Association
#203-302 Steele Street
Whitehorse, YT, Y1A 2C5

Dear President Vangel:

RE: Draft Yukon Animal Protection and Control Act

Thank you for writing and emphasizing the need to ensure that the proposed Animal Protection and Control Act (APCA) supports the health and growth of our agricultural sector, which is a key element of the Yukon's food security and growing economy.

The Yukon's current animal protection and control legislation is outdated.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 laws 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 businesses (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 of 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 national codes of practice. The agriculture industry in the Yukon 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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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.

We assure you 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 Yukon Agricultural Association and the agriculture sector jointly by the departments of Environment and Energy, Mines and Resources. We agree with you that effective and modern animal protection and control legislation is necessary to support growth in agriculture. We understand that Kirk Price, Director of the Agriculture Branch, has been in recent contact with the Yukon Agricultural Association Executive Director regarding consultation plans and will continue to inform you of plans and opportunities for consultation on the regulations to enable the new Animal Protection and Control Act.

If you have further questions or would like to discuss the Animal Protection and Control Act, please contact Kirk Price, Director of the Agriculture Branch by email at kirk.price@yukon.ca, or Dr. Mary VanderKop, Chief Veterinary Officer by email at animalhealth@yukon.ca.

Sincerely,



Nils Clarke
Minister of Environment



John Streicker
Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources

cc: Carl Burgess, Executive Director, Yukon Agricultural Association
Currie Dixon, Leader of the Yukon Party
Kate White, MLA
Brad Cathers, MLA
Manon Moreau, Deputy Minister of Environment
Paul McConnell, Deputy Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources