



June 29, 2018

Honourable Ranj Pillai, Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources
Government of Yukon
Box 2703
Whitehorse, Yukon
Canada, Y1A 2C6

Minister Pillai,

Re: Yukon Agriculture Policy

The Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board (the Board) recently had an informative and positive discussion with the Director of Agriculture, Matt Ball, at our June Board Meeting in Little Salmon Village. This letter is intended to follow up that conversation, as a submission regarding the revision of the 2006 Yukon Agriculture Policy. The Board understands that the Government of Yukon is updating the Agriculture Policy with the goal of increasing Yukon's self-sufficiency in food production and supporting a thriving and prosperous agricultural sector.

Throughout our discussions, the Board has identified key areas of interest with regards to the intersection of wildlife and agriculture. Specifically, the Board would like to see the following points addressed within the new Yukon Agriculture Policy:

- The use of pesticides and herbicides – The Board would like to see the continuation of best practices environmental standards and guidelines regarding the use of pesticides or herbicides that may be harmful to fish and wildlife and their habitat.
- The relationship between domestic and wild animal health – As has been communicated to the Department of EMR previously, the Board has significant and ongoing concerns with the potential for passing M.Ovi (pneumonia) from domestic sheep and goats to wildlife such as Dall's sheep, caribou, and moose. Documentation of locations and numbers of domestic sheep and goats is critical to understanding the potential risk to Yukon's iconic wild sheep and other wildlife species, and containment has been identified through scientific research as the primary method of preventing the transmission of disease. The Board believes the new Agriculture Policy is an opportunity to strongly address this issue, by ensuring the containment and documentation of domestic livestock which pose a risk of disease transmission. Containment of domestic

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species that are invasive to Yukon, such as wild boar, is also something that should be addressed within the Agriculture Policy.

- Agriculture conflict with wildlife – The Board works with the Department of Environment and the Department of EMR on managing conflict between farms and wildlife, including elk and bears, and would like to see this coordinated work continue with the new Agriculture Policy.

Overall, the Board appreciates the hard work of the Department of Energy, Mines, and Resources developing this new policy, and we look forward to continuing to work with the Department as the process continues.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact our Executive Director Graham Van Tighem at executivedirector@yfwmb.ca or 867-667-5835.

Sincerely,



John Burdek

Chair, Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board

Cc: Matt Ball, Director of Agriculture, Department of Energy, Mines and Resources, Government of Yukon