

LEGISLATIVE RETURN



SUBMITTED BY: Hon. Ranj Pillai

1. On April 20, 2017, Brad Cathers, Member for Lake Laberge
- asked the following oral question at page(s) _____ of *Hansard*
- submitted the following written question – WQ No. 12
- gave notice of the following motion for the production of papers – MPP No. _____
- RE: _____

OR

2. This legislative return relates to a matter outstanding from discussion related to:
- _____

on _____ at page(s) _____ of *Hansard*.

The response is as follows:

Attached is the letter provided in response to the same written question submitted by the Member for Lake Laberge on January 12, 2017.

May 1 / 2017
Date

R. Pillai
Signature

Yukon



Office of the Minister
Box 2703, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6

February 16, 2017

Brad Cathers
MLA for Lake Laberge
Yukon Legislative Assembly
Box 2703
Whitehorse, YT Y1A 2C6

Dear Mr. Cathers:

Re: Written Question No. 3 January 12, 2017

Thank you for your questions about the Government of Yukon's support for the continued growth of Yukon's agriculture sector. Your question involves 10 specific areas of work being pursued between industry and government to develop the sector in Yukon. As the responsible Minister, I am providing you with an update on these areas as presented in your written question:

1. With respect to the *Local Food Strategy for Yukon*, an implementation plan is enclosed with this response. The implementation plan identifies resources, participants and timelines for all initiatives between now and 2021. This cooperative work is underway.
2. Any review of the 2006 Agriculture Policy will be undertaken with input from the agriculture sector. Similarly, any new multi-year development plan flowing out of an updated agriculture policy will be pursued as a joint initiative of the Government of Yukon and the Yukon's agriculture sector.
3. Work to review the new federal-provincial-territorial agriculture framework agreement is well underway, and it is expected that an agreement to replace Growing Forward 2 will be signed at the meeting of Canada's agriculture ministers in St. John's, Newfoundland, this summer. Between this new funding agreement and implementation of the Yukon Local Food Strategy, programs will be in place to encourage and support local food production.



4. The Government of Yukon will continue to make new land available for agriculture development in keeping with Section 2 of the 2006 Agriculture Policy, which encourages the growth of a Yukon agriculture industry that is both environmentally sustainable and economically viable and contributes to community well-being.
5. The Government of Yukon supports initiatives by the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun to encourage farming opportunities on settlement land. The teaching farm initiative undertaken by Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in receives technical and planning advice from Yukon government. As other First Nations adopt policies related to developing agriculture capacity, Yukon will contribute information, advice and, where appropriate, funding as required.
6. The Growing Forward 2 support program outlines eligible community activities that may receive funding to support the development of markets for Yukon agriculture products. Government remains committed to the five-year funding agreement with the Fireweed Community Market.
7. The Government of Yukon will continue to explore and cooperate with the agriculture community to improve the ability of Yukon farmers to sell and market their products through the market development program of Growing Forward 2 and the implementation of the Local Food Strategy for Yukon. For example, work is already underway in the implementation of the Local Food Strategy to increase the government's purchase and use of local foods.
8. Over the past three months, a full review of the Growing Forward 2 program has taken place in consultation with farmers, market gardeners and industry associations represented through the Agriculture Industry Advisory Committee. This review and consultation will lead to Yukon programs delivered through the next policy framework agreement for agriculture for 2018-23.
9. The Growing Forward 2 Agriculture Development Program is offered to specifically support the development of community greenhouses and community gardens throughout Yukon. Eligible activities include coordinator and educator wages and tools and supplies required to operate community gardens and greenhouses.

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10. Both the Agriculture branch and Yukon's meat inspectors are working closely with the owners of Yukon's private sector abattoir to ensure that operating the mobile abattoir will not negatively impact their business. We will continue to monitor when and where the mobile abattoir will be used to ensure service is provided where needed most to enable livestock producers to reach retail markets.

In closing, our government has reached out to the agriculture sector and expressed our support for investing in Yukon's agriculture industry with the goal of strengthening the sector and moving Yukon towards greater food self-sufficiency.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ranj Pillai". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ranj Pillai
Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources