

FOR RELEASE
May 11, 2016

Government of Yukon releases local food strategy

WHITEHORSE—Following two years of research and consultation with public, industry and First Nations stakeholders, the Government of Yukon has released the Local Food Strategy for Yukon: Encouraging the Production and Consumption of Yukon-Grown Food 2016–2021.

"We have followed through on our commitment to develop a local food strategy to encourage the production and consumption of fresh, healthy local food." Energy, Mines and Resources Minister Scott Kent said. "I am proud to release the Local Food Strategy for Yukon today. The real work will be done in seasons to come by Yukon's farmers, ranchers, gardeners and community groups to enhance Yukon's agricultural economy and food security."

Initiatives outlined in the strategy include: providing low-cost leasing options for agriculture land; enhancing food safety systems; improving food access; building infrastructure to support community and backyard food production; supporting community food processing; researching cold climate food production; implementing food waste reduction programs; increasing government's purchase and use of local food; and supporting the development of certified organic compost.

"The Local Food Strategy for Yukon is sowing the seeds for long-term development of the agriculture sector, enhanced food security and increased access to local food for Yukoners," Kent added.

Al Stannard, president of the Yukon Agricultural Association, responded to the news: "YAA is excited to see that the government has a genuine interest in local food production. It is important to realize that the issue of increased access to local food is not just a monetary issue but an important issue of independent food security for the Yukon. While the Yukon's agricultural community is small in scale, the YAA believes we are capable of producing food that would be available year round at competitive rates. YAA is pleased to see included in the food strategy initiatives relating to public education and awareness campaigns, branding and marketing for Yukon products, as well as strategies that will help farmers access government contracts and sales opportunities with local retailers."

The Government of Yukon's Agriculture branch has developed an implementation plan to track progress on the strategy between now and 2021.

Learn more: Local Food Strategy for Yukon or call 867-667-5838.

-30-

Contact:

Dan Macdonald
Cabinet Communications
867-393-6470
dan.macdonald@gov.yk.ca

Rod Jacob
Communications, Energy, Mines and Resources
867-667-3005
rod.jacob@gov.yk.ca

News Release #16-188



Stay up to date with the latest Yukon government news by subscribing to our RSS feed here:
<http://www.gov.yk.ca/news/rss.html>. Or follow us on Twitter @yukongov.