MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN:

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN IN RIGHT OF THE PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA,
represented by the Minister of Agriculture
(called "B.C.")

AND:

GOVERNMENT OF YUKON,
represented by the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources
(called "Yukon")

(Collectively called the “Parties”)
PURPOSE:

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) creates and defines the relationship between B.C. and Yukon, for the purpose of increasing collaboration between the Parties on agricultural matters.

WHEREAS:

I. Northern communities are seeking ways to increase food security, promote agricultural production, develop sustainably, and grow market opportunities.

II. Governments are looking for ways to collaborate with Indigenous peoples on opportunities in the agricultural sector.

B.C. and Yukon agree to:

1. Find ways to expand local northern markets and to increase the availability of local food and beverages.

Actions:

- Share expertise and lessons learned from current strategies to help further expand markets. Examples include “Every Chef Needs a Farmer, Every Farmer Needs a Chef”, “Buy BC” brand, the B.C. Food Hub Network, “Local Food Strategy for Yukon”, and the Yukon’s Food Innovation Centre.

- Establish a joint Northern Farmer/Rancher Forum for exchanging information and building capacity and business opportunities in the agricultural industry. Include local and indigenous communities.

- Develop partnerships with northern academic institutions and industry research initiatives to help the agriculture and food sector grow, adapt and commercialize products.

2. Find ways to collaborate with Indigenous peoples to increase access to viable and sustainable food production and agricultural opportunities, trade and business opportunities.

Actions:

- Work with Yukon and northern B.C. Indigenous peoples to facilitate and support nation-to-nation dialogue and knowledge sharing with the goal of building capacity and developing agriculture, food processing, or traditional food-based activities and initiatives.
3. Reduce barriers to agricultural trade between neighbouring jurisdictions.

Actions:

- Explore opportunities to reduce barriers to inter-provincial trade in areas of shared concern. This could include exploring collaboration on boundary and overlap opportunities and concerns related to agriculture and food sectors.

- Explore the potential for a shared equivalency agreement with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency to remove or reduce current barriers to trade between Yukon, B.C. and other neighboring jurisdictions.

- Explore the potential for a trilateral meeting between Alaska, Yukon and B.C. to discuss exports and the barriers that currently restrict or impair trade.

- Explore the potential to share and collaborate on projects with neighbouring jurisdictions such as Northwest Territories.

4. Increase access by local producers and processors to slaughter facilities and inspections.

Actions:

- Explore sharing resources in northern communities such as inspection services or mobile abattoirs.

- Explore potential for a shared equivalency agreement with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency to increase access to inspections.

- B.C. to share inspector training material with Yukon.
5. Increase capacity and expertise related to northern agricultural practices.

Actions:

- Collaborate on research projects focused on northern agricultural issues and practices.
- Share knowledge and experience along with participation in workshops, meetings and projects related to agriculture and wildlife conflicts.
- Develop a network of agrologists in northern agriculture to share expertise.
- Share expertise or collaborate around farm management and farming in a wilderness or remote setting.
- Share knowledge and training resources to support youth development and young farmers.

ADMINISTRATION:

For the purposes of this MOU:

B.C. designates James Mack (Assistant Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Science and Policy Division), James.Mack@gov.bc.ca as its official contact with Yukon.

Yukon designates Manon Moreau (Assistant Deputy Minister of Sustainable Resources), Manon.Moreau@gov.yk.ca as its official contact with B.C.

These representatives will be the spokespersons for all matters relating to this MOU and for the coordination of activities involving the Parties.

TERMS OF MOU:

- The duration of this MOU is for two years commencing on January 21, 2020 and ending on January 21, 2022 inclusive. Following this term, the MOU may be reviewed by the Parties before re-signing.
- This MOU is intended to indicate the Parties’ intention to work together. It is not intended to be a legally binding agreement.
Either of the Parties may terminate this MOU at any time upon giving 30 days written notice.

Their duly authorized representatives have executed this MOU on behalf of each of the Parties, on the dates noted below.

FOR HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN IN RIGHT OF THE PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Honourable Lana Popham
Minister of Agriculture

Date: Jan 21/2020

THE GOVERNMENT OF YUKON

Honourable Ranj Pillai
Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date: Jan 21/2020