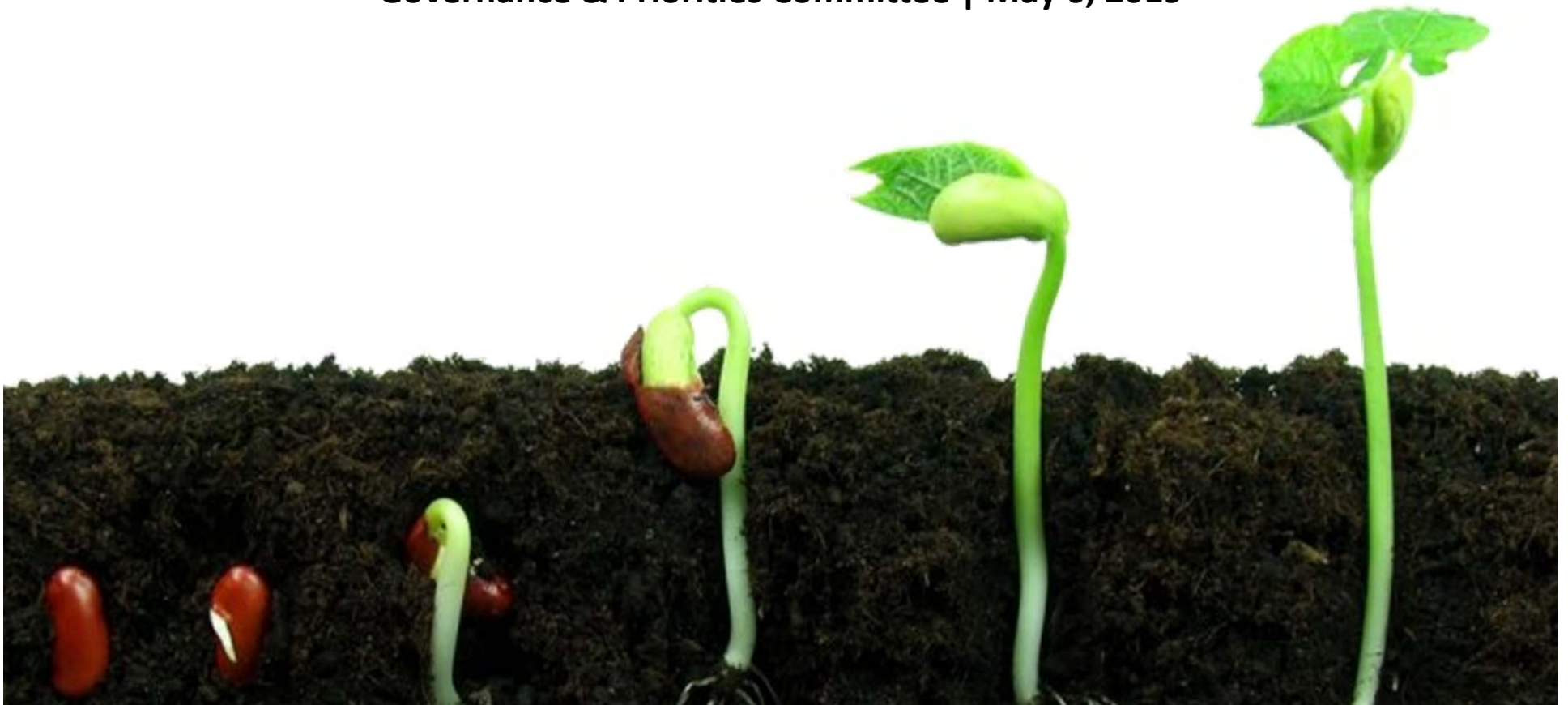


GROW Yellowknife Food and Agriculture Strategy

Governance & Priorities Committee | May 6, 2019



GROW- Yellowknife Food and Ag Strategy

- Is a long range strategy that sets a policy foundation for community and commercial food and agriculture activities.
- Focuses on the role of the City
- Is connected to many other plans and strategies currently or imminently in development.



Photo by Angela Gzowski

Research & Engagement Process to Date

1. Community creates the Yellowknife Food Charter 2015
2. City of Yellowknife endorses the Food Charter 2015
3. Yellowknife Food and Agriculture Strategy process is initiated Sept 2018
4. One-on-one interviews with key stakeholders are conducted Oct-Dec 2018
5. Stakeholder workshops on key issues and opportunities Oct 2018
6. Staff workshop on overall approaches for the strategy Oct 2018
7. Placespeak is used to identify food assets in Yellowknife Nov-Dec 2018
8. Opportunities Analysis is finalized and posted online Feb 2019
9. GROW Version 1.0 is produced Feb 18, 2019
10. Staff workshop on Version 1.0 Feb 26, 2019
11. GROW Version 2.0 is produced March 15, 2019
12. Community Forum is held April 8, 2019
13. GROW Version 3.0 April 12, 2019
14. Presentation to Governance & Priorities Committee May 6, 2019
15. Present to Council (tentative) May 13, 2019

Structure of the Strategy

- 1 Vision (founded in Yellowknife Food Charter)
- 5 Goals (focused in functional City areas)
- 15 Objectives (drawing on key directions from R&E)
- 38 Action recommendations (policy/bylaw intent)
- Implementation considerations (suggestions for implementing)
- Preliminary Implementation plan (three-phases, 10 years)
- Sample Design guidelines A- D (policy/bylaw detail)

Project Vision

A just and sustainable food system in Yellowknife is rooted in a healthy community, where everyone has access to adequate and affordable nutritious food; more food is grown and harvested locally; and food production policies and infrastructure are in place to support an economically viable, diverse, and ecologically sustainable local food system.



GROW Goals



Goal 1: Support the sustainable growth of urban agriculture and related activities.

- **Objective 1.1** Define and integrate urban agriculture into Yellowknife land use policies and bylaws.
- **Objective 1.2** Support sustainable growth of small livestock and bees in Yellowknife.
- **Objective 1.3:** Increase opportunities for enterprise greenhouses and enclosed growing systems.



Photo courtesy of Janine de la Salle

Goal 2: Enhance access to urban agriculture basics

Objective 2.1 Optimize water access.

Objective 2.2 Support access to soil and compost for food and agriculture.

Objective 2.3 Identify potential sites for future community/shared food and agriculture activities.



Photo courtesy of Lorne Sorenson

Goal 3: Create community learning opportunities around food and agriculture

Objective 3.1: Create community gathering and learning opportunities.

Objective 3.2: Enable community led food and agriculture activities.

Objective 3.3: Integrate information on food and agriculture related events and activities to existing communications steams.



Photo courtesy of Janine de la Salle

Goal 4: Support the growth of the Yellowknife food and agriculture economy.

Objective 4.1: Encourage enterprise development, food processing, and distribution capacity.

Objective 4.2: Integrate food, agriculture, fishing, and foraging into marketing and branding.

Objective 4.3: Support farmers markets in public spaces.



Fresh Fish For Sale, Photo by Angela Gzowski

Goal 5: Build capacity and coordination

Objective 5.1: Encourage multi-stakeholder coordination on implementing GROW, linking to other initiatives, and monitoring progress over time.

Objective 5.2: Pursue grant funding in key areas for implementing GROW.

Objective 5.3: Advocate for sustainable, resilient, and restorative food and agriculture systems.



Photo courtesy of Janine de la Salle

Sample Urban Agriculture Design Guidelines & Standards

- A) Small Livestock Shelter Design Guidelines
- B) Bee Keeping Design Guidelines
- C) Enterprise Greenhouse and Enclosed Growing Systems Guideline
- D) Neighbourhood Food & Urban Agriculture Guidelines

Community Feedback on the Draft

1. Overall support.
2. Acknowledge arsenic.
3. Water subsidy is crucial for farm viability.
4. Limit pesticides in Yellowknife.
5. View Yellowknife as a centre for food and agriculture activities
6. Health regulations are a hurdle.
7. There is a critical role for GNWT in supporting the strategy
8. Lack of connection to Indigenous community.
9. There are mixed perspectives on how to regulate urban livestock.
10. Make it simple.
11. Policy is slow, what can we do today?

Priorities identified by Community

Section	# of Dots
Action 1.3.1: Expand areas where commercial greenhouses and enclosed growing systems are permitted.	10
Action 1.1.2: Update Zoning Bylaw #4404 (or future bylaw) to permit urban agriculture.	7
Action 1.1.3: Update the Yellowknife Community Plan to include food and urban agriculture.	7
Action 4.1.1: Support and participate in exploring the viability of a Yellowknife commercial food incubator and community food hub.	7
Action 4.1.2: Allow farm gate sales from private properties.	6
Action 1.1.4 Incentivize food and agriculture businesses.	5
Action 1.1.5 Consider inclusion of food and agriculture considerations in new development.	5
Action 1.2.1: Permit small livestock in Yellowknife.	5

Response to Community Feedback

- 46 people attended, 20 provided detailed written feedback.
- 23 Changes to the Draft were made (Please refer to engagement summary)
- New explanatory content
- New and revised objectives, actions, and implementation considerations including:
 - FAQs- what can we do now?
 - Considerations for food and agriculture in community grants
 - Advocate for water subsidy for commercial operations
 - Address arsenic testing through Giant Mines Health Effect Monitoring program
 - Use by products from fishing industry for soil amendments
 - Many others.

Impact Implementation

- Create a food and agriculture coordinator position.
- Integrate GROW into City plans and strategies:
 - Community Plan
 - Bylaws (multiple)
 - Wayfinding strategy
 - Downtown revitalization strategy
 - Economic development
 - Others.
- Working collaboratively with other sectors to achieve common goals.
- Pursuing funding to resource implementation.

Thank you

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