



## **The Yellowknife Farmers Market is hiring!**

**Contract Title:** Mentorship Program Pilot Project – Mentee Position

**Location:** Yellowknife, NT

**Duration:** May - September, 2023 (flexible schedule based on operational requirements)

**Contract:** approximately \$18,000 (based on approx. 37.5 hours/week x 20 weeks @ \$22.00/hour, includes GST and WSCC coverage)

**Background:** The YKFM is looking for a Mentee as part of a Mentorship Program Pilot Project to be offered in collaboration with Bush Order Provisions, a local market garden. The mentee will get to know both the commercial and not-for-profit aspects of the Yellowknife agriculture scene. The Mentee will facilitate the YKFM's Harvesters Table by coordinating the table on Tuesday evenings throughout the market season. The rest of the week, under the supervision of a Mentor, the Mentee will learn and support the operations of a market garden on site at Bush Order Provisions. Both levels of involvement create the perfect learning opportunity for a Mentee looking for a career in the industry with either a commercial operation or a not-for-profit organization.

**About the Mentorship Program Pilot Project:** In an effort to increase the amount of produce, berries and wild harvest offered at the weekly market, in 2017, the Yellowknife Farmers Market developed the Harvesters Table: a venue for backyard growers to sell their excess crops. The Harvesters Table lowers the cost of entry and reduces the administrative and logistical challenges of being a market vendor by providing backyard gardeners with insurance, supplies, a venue, advertising and manpower. In 2023, the YKFM has decided to further increase the volume of local produce at the weekly market by supporting the work of Bush Order Provisions and helping build capacity in the local agriculture industry. The Mentorship Program Pilot Project is an innovative way to create a learning opportunity for another generation of food growers in Yellowknife.

Food supply issues and climate change seriously impact food production world wide. It is imperative that we support food security in the North through increasing local food production. These aspirations are limited by the current low volume of food production which is largely due to the absence of knowledgeable individuals willing to take a leap into the food producing arena. The Mentorship Program was created to fill this knowledge gap. We hope that the Mentorship Program will be able to attract individuals interested in not only learning with an experienced Mentor but to eventually either start their own commercial production or work for an already existing commercial food grower. The Mentee

may also be interested in growing food for the food security of their community. Either way, local food production stands to be significantly increased through the Mentorship Program. The Mentorship Program Pilot Project wants to help grow another generation of food producers in YK.

### **Scope of Work for the Mentee**

The Mentee would work with both organizations throughout the season in a flexible schedule based on their operational requirements. On Tuesdays, the Mentee would be the Harvesters Table Coordinator and learn to work within a small volunteer-run organization. The rest of the week, the Mentee would support the operations of the organic farm at Bush Order Provisions.

#### **For the Harvesters Table :**

- Administer communication with growers
- Create and post on social media (prior to Tuesday)
- Seeking new backyard gardeners to join the program
- Register gardeners in spreadsheet
- Packaging, labeling, weighing and sale of produce at weekly market
- Set up and display, take down
- Meeting Environmental Health requirements
- Record money owed to gardeners and YKFM through spreadsheet
- Provide weekly list for electronic transfer payments to gardeners
- Write a short handbook on how to run the Harvesters Table
- Write an annual report for the Harvesters Table

#### **For Bush Order Provisions :**

- Access to the Market Gardeners Online Masterclass for duration of program
- Build and establish plots, beds, rows
- Learn about soil health and organic amendments
- Seed starting, seeding, transplanting
- Cover cropping and crop rotation benefits
- Bed flipping for continuous crop succession
- Regular irrigation scheduling and irrigation design/build & maintenance
- Plant care/maintenance during growing period
- Pruning and weeding skills, including proper tool use
- Efficient harvesting and proper field cleaning techniques

**Skills:** The YKFM is looking for an outgoing, organized and self-motivated independent worker with an interest in gardening and local food security. Our ideal Mentee is someone who enjoys interacting with people, has strong organizational skills, and a keen interest in learning about growing food in Yellowknife.



**Selection:** The contractor will be selected on the basis of their ability to implement the scope of work and add value to the success of the Mentorship Program with Yellowknife Farmers Market and Bush order Provisions.

**Application Deadline:** Sunday April 30, 2023 (11:59pm) for a possible May 15 start date

**Application Process:**

- Please send proposal to [ykfarmersmarket@gmail.com](mailto:ykfarmersmarket@gmail.com)
- Ensure contact name, e-mail and phone are included
- Those selected for an interview will be contacted