

**Food Security and
Sovereignty...**

It's in YOUR hands...

Wendy Holm, P.Ag.
Planning Institute of BC
June 2, 2011

 **Global perspective**

 **Canadian reality**

 **Winds of Change**

 **What change looks like**





The Effects of Climate Change on Agriculture, Land Resources, Water Resources and Biodiversity in the United States

U.S. Climate Change Science Program
Synthesis and Assessment Product 4.3
May 2008

Already effecting...
Increasing temperatures
Variable rainfall
Increasing crop failures

US military warns oil output may dip causing massive shortages by 2015

- Shortfall could reach 10m barrels a day, report says
- Cost of crude oil is predicted to top \$100 a barrel

[Terry Macalister](#)
[guardian.co.uk](#), Sunday 11 April 2010 18:47 BST

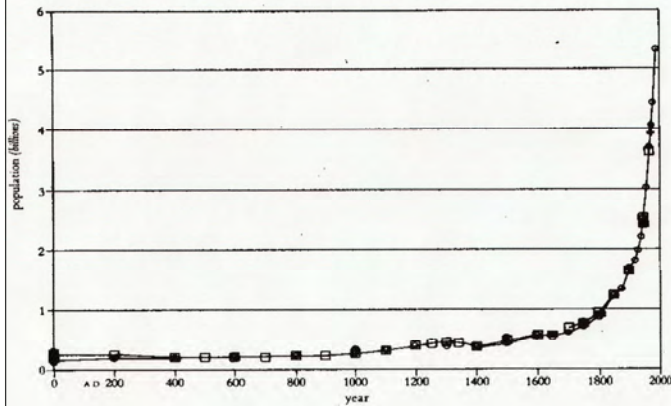


The Environmental Food Crisis
UN Environment Programme

25% loss in food production due to climate change, water scarcity, invasive pests, land degradation

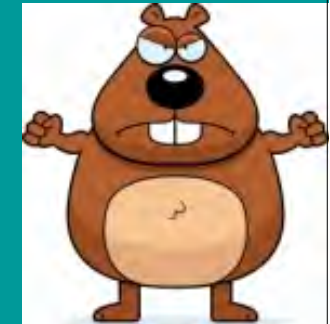


Estimated Human Population Over the Past two Millennia (Cohen 1995)



CANADIAN REALITY?

We are treating our farmers like dirt...



**Farmers + cooperation built the west...
credit unions
wheat pools
co-ops
CCF**

(Co-operative Commonwealth Federation)



The 20th Century

BC Apple Marketing Board

Canadian Wheat Board

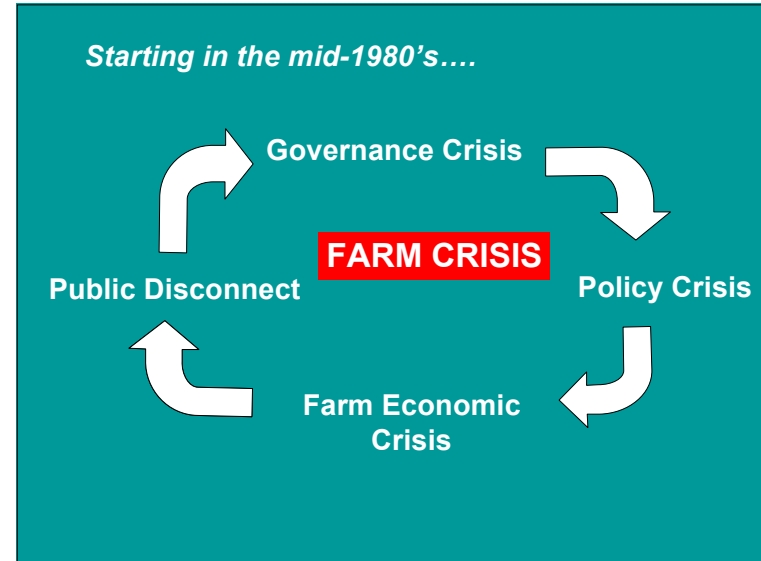
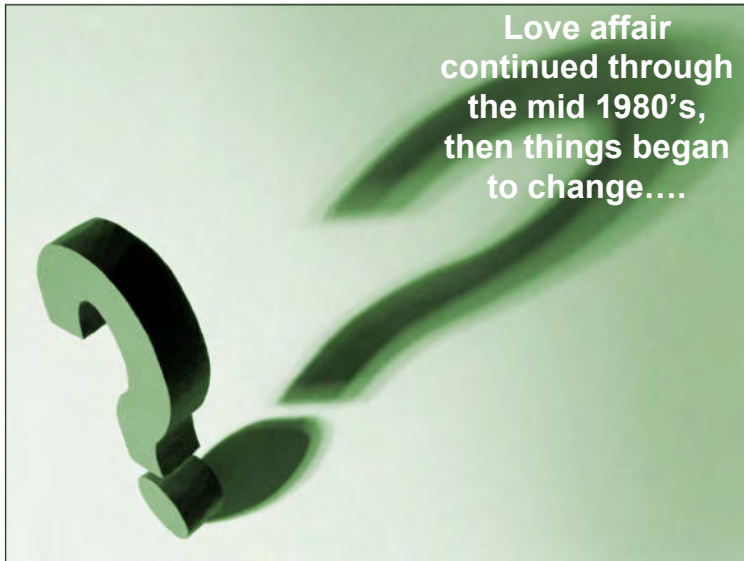
Supply Management

*milk, chicken, turkey,
eggs, hatching eggs,*

RESPECT

for

FARMING



- ✓ **POLICY CRISIS**
- ✓ **Economic Crisis**
- ✓ **Public Engagement**

- POLICY CRISIS**
- ✓ erosion of regulatory & policy sovereignty
 ➡ GATT ➡ WTO ➡ FTA ➡ NAFTA
 - ✓ market concentration pre/post farm gate
 e.g. beef, hogs, grain, dairy
 - ✓ weakening of Canada's Competition Act
 - ✓ erosion of local infrastructure
 - ✓ drop in farm policy support
 - ✓ loss of domestic market share

POLICY CRISIS

- ✓ **BEEF**
 - ✓ mid 80's - imports of boxed beef displace Canadian beef
 - ✓ packer concentration + ownership feeder cattle
 - ✓ BSE - Ottawa's failure to act
- ✓ **GRAIN**
 - ✓ CWB = premiums \$35-40/tonne due to price+transport
 - ✓ big grain companies, US farmers and "ginger group" driving attack
 - ✓ electoral interference, muzzling, board interference
 - ✓ unprecedented government attack on good farm policy
- ✓ **HOGS**
 - ✓ Right wing think tank solution
 - ✓ Disaster for farmers and communities

POLICY CRISIS

- ✓ **MILK**
 - ✓ Small cooperatives merge
 - ✓ Parmalat and Saputo take over
 - ✓ Butter-oil sugar blends replace milk in ice cream
 - ✓ Milk protein concentrates replace milk in cheese
 - ✓ Legal challenge of cheese regulations
- ✓ **SUPPLY MANAGEMENT**
 - ✓ Consistent undermining at WTO
 - ✓ Internal Agreement on Trade (technical standards)

POLICY CRISIS

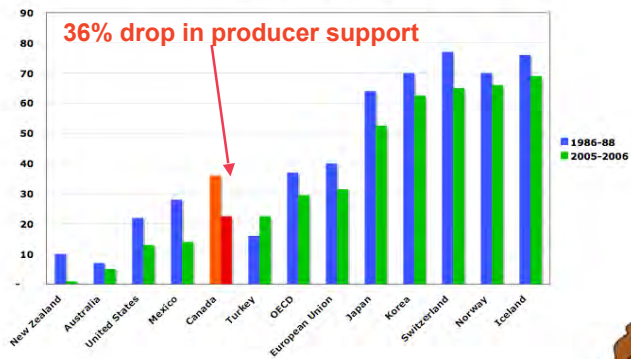
- ✓ **ESCALLATING FEED + FERTILIZER PRICES**
 - ✓ ethanol
 - ✓ soon only two major fertilizer suppliers
- ✓ **PLUMMETING FARM SUPPORT VS TRADING PARTNERS**



MEASURING UP...
**Where Canada Stands
in support for farmers**

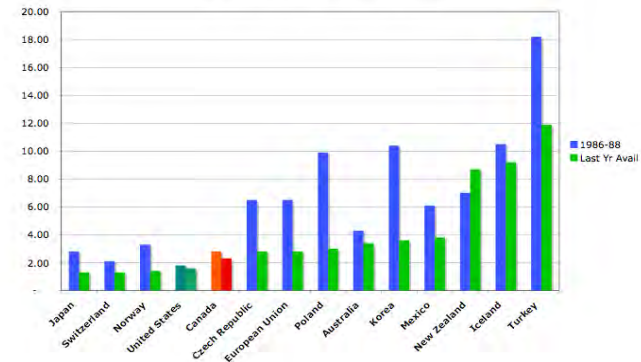
Canadian farmers are losing ground...

Percentage Producer Support Estimates, OECD Countries, 1986-88, 2005-06



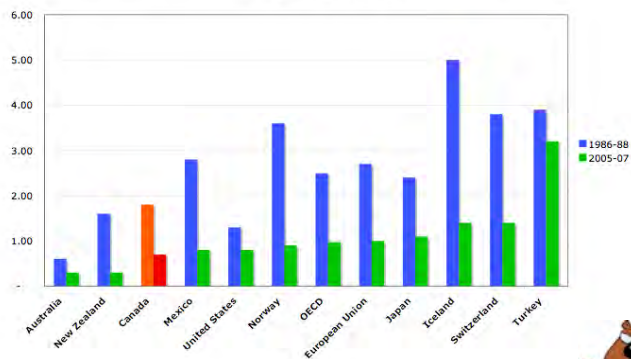
Canadian farmers contribution to GDP remains steady...

Agriculture as a percent of GDP



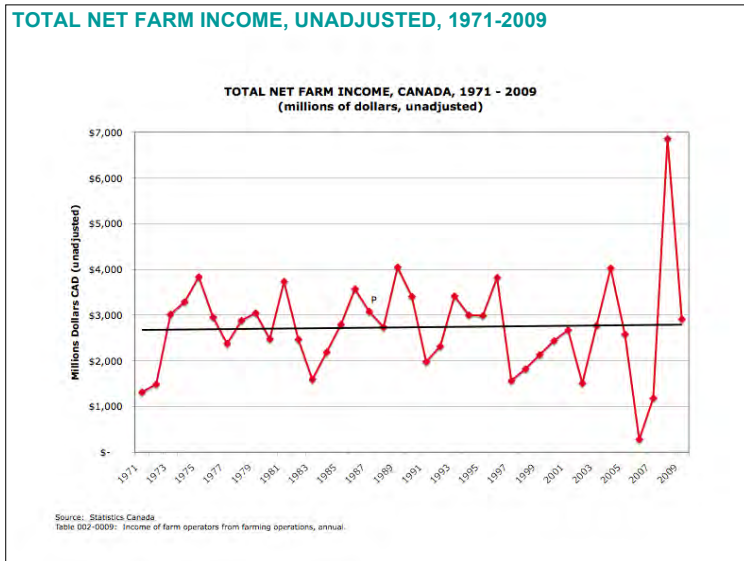
Canada's farm support as % of GDP among lowest in OECD....

Total Support Estimates as a Percentage of GDP, OECD Countries, 1986-88, 2005-07

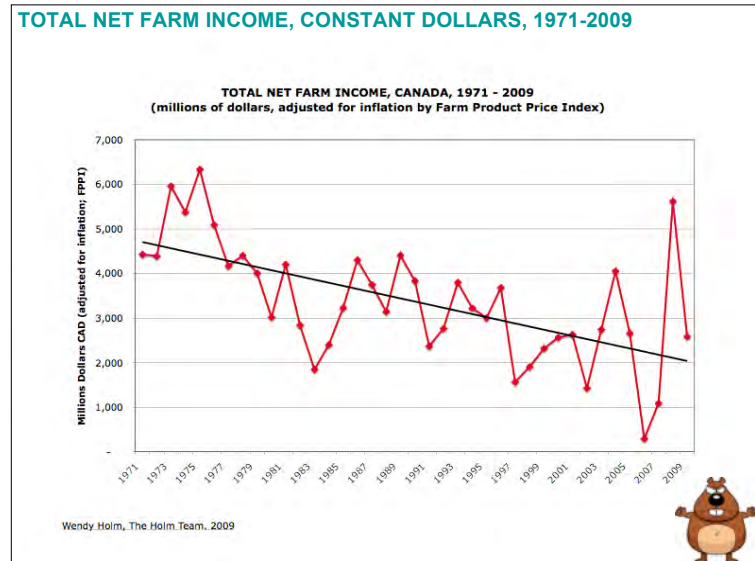


- ✓ Policy Crisis
- ➔ ✓ ECONOMIC CRISIS
- ✓ Public Engagement

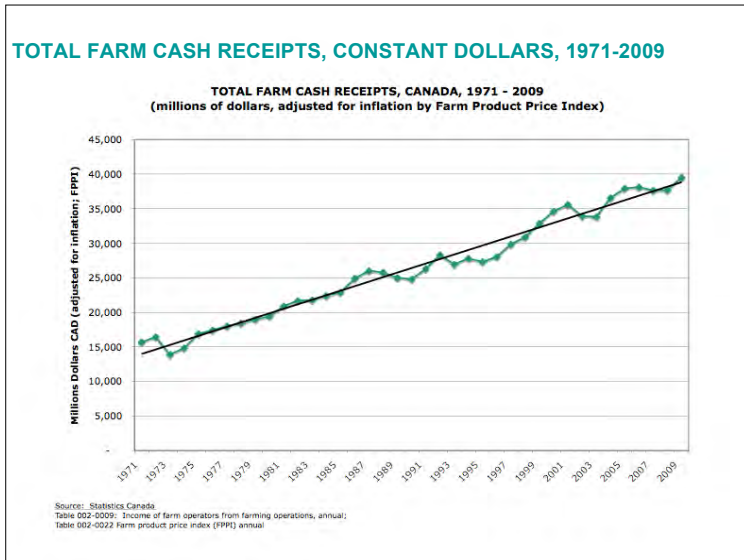
TOTAL NET FARM INCOME, UNADJUSTED, 1971-2009



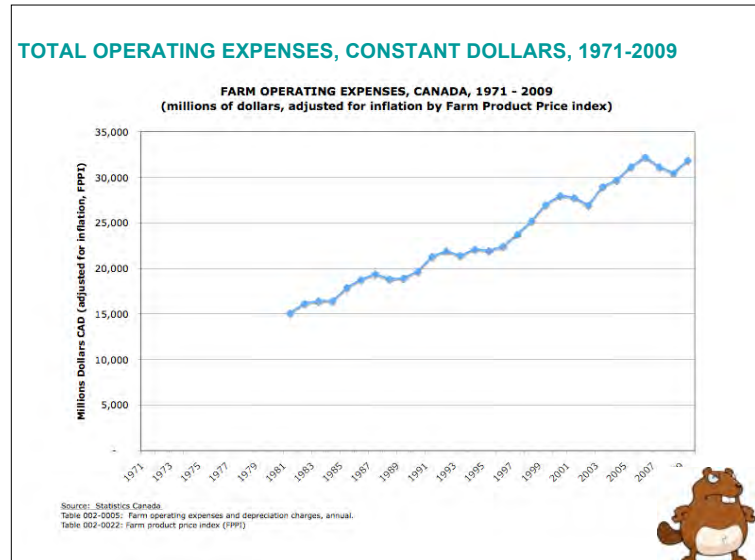
TOTAL NET FARM INCOME, CONSTANT DOLLARS, 1971-2009



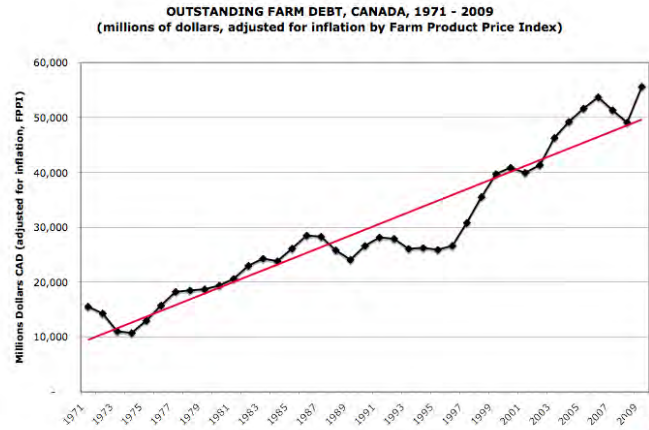
TOTAL FARM CASH RECEIPTS, CONSTANT DOLLARS, 1971-2009



TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES, CONSTANT DOLLARS, 1971-2009



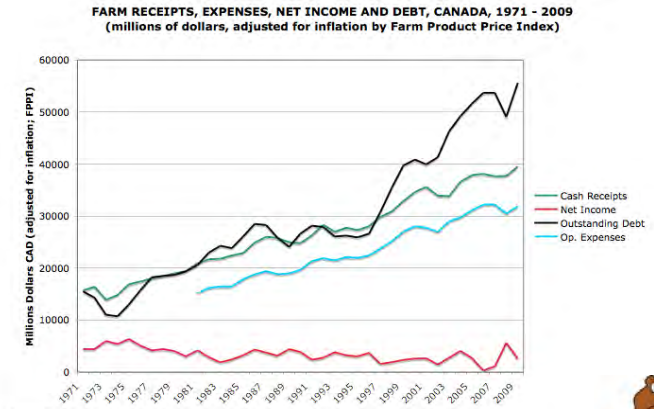
OUTSTANDING FARM DEBT, CONSTANT DOLLARS, 1971-2009



Wendy Holm, The Holm Team, 2009



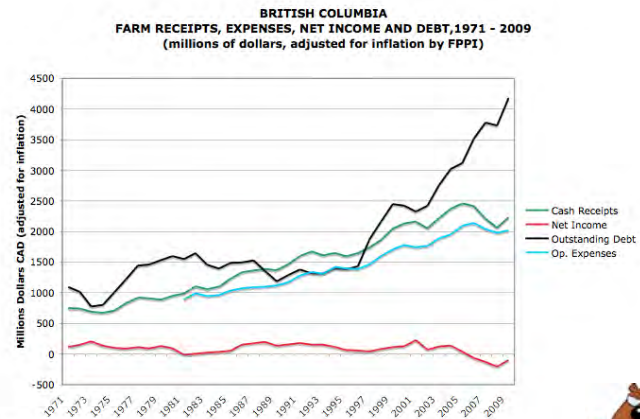
JAWS OF THE CROCODILE...



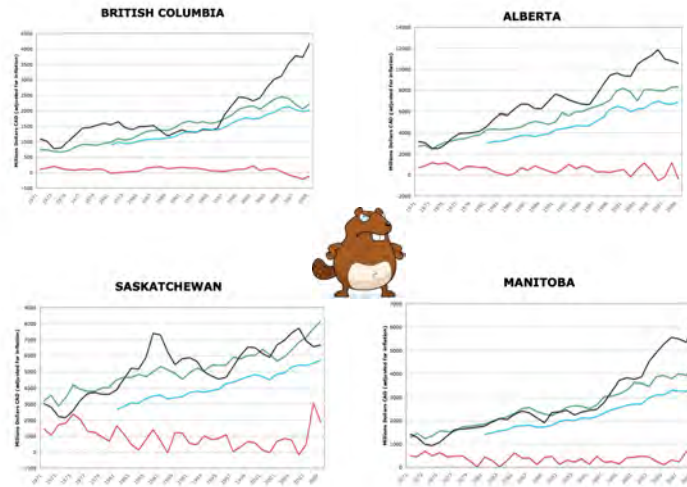
Source: Statistics Canada
Table 002-0009: Income of farm operators from farming operations, annual;
Table 002-0008: Farm debt outstanding, annual;
Table 002-0022: Farm product price index (FPP1) annual

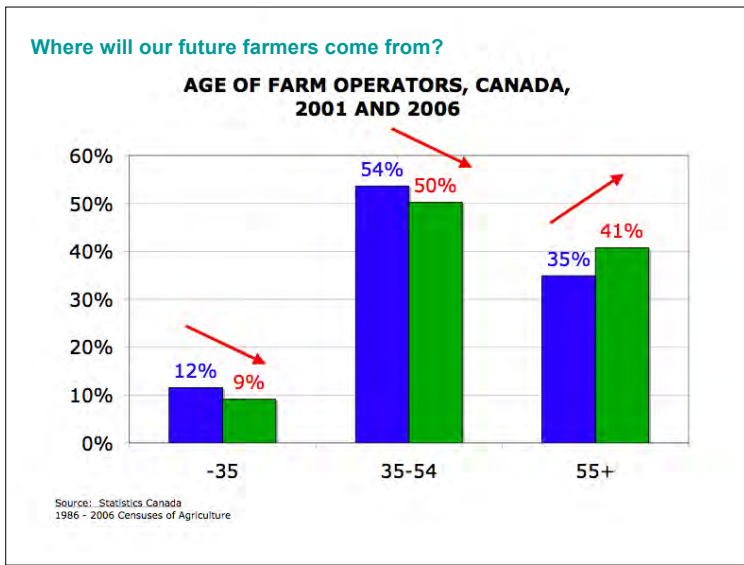
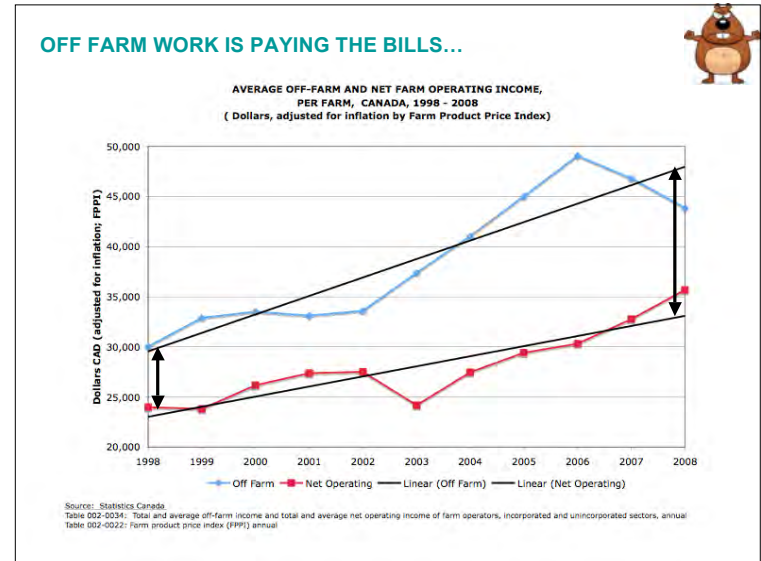
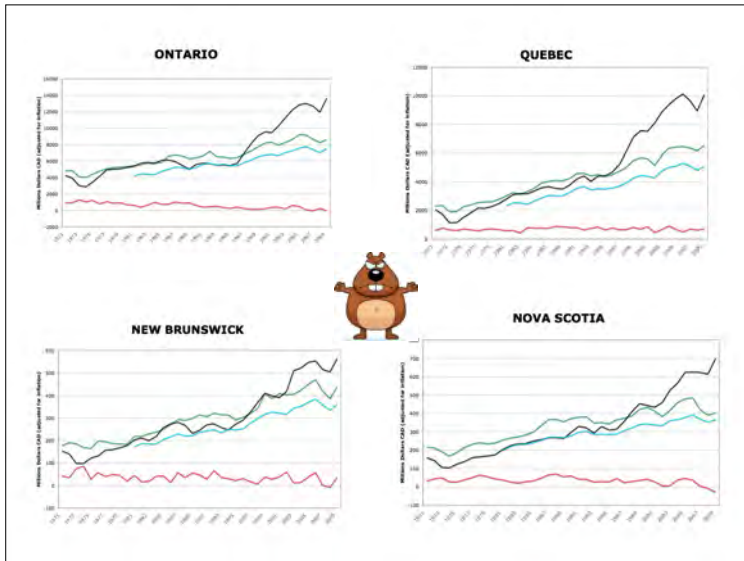


THE BRITISH COLUMBIA CROCODILE...



Source: Statistics Canada
Table 002-0009: Income of farm operators from farming operations, annual;
Table 002-0008: Farm debt outstanding, annual;
Table 002-0022: Farm product price index (FPP1) annual





PRESSURE ON FARMLAND



GLOBAL FARMLAND GRAB

World Bank Fall 2010 Report:

45 million ha large-scale holdings changed hands 2009
1998-2008 average= 4 million ha/yr
TEN FOLD INCREASE

\$100 billion global capital funds targeted for farmland
120 funds, majors include

- **Optima Fund**
- Australia's **MacQuarie Agricultural Fund**
(7 million acres now, headed for Brazil),
- **Pharos Financial Group**
(Moscow, investing in Asia and Africa),
- **Monaxxion**
(China, 99,000 acre goal), and the
- **Hancock Agricultural Investment Group.**



Who is buying?

Spain, Switzerland, China, Egypt and Iran

over million acres prime California farmland

next: US Midwest
Texas
Mississippi
Idaho
Dakotas

Gulf States, China, Japan, S Korea, W Europe

Hundreds of millions of hectares of farmland
Sub-Saharan Africa
Central & Latin America
Eastern Europe

NEW TARGET? Canada and Australia:
 good infrastructure, good government,
 good farmland and low land prices

Ha of comparable land, January 2010:
 Canadian Prairies= \$1,725 USD
 England = \$17,000
 Australia = \$3,450

Globe and Mail, Aug 19, 2009
"Cheap Canadian Farmland lures foreign buyers"

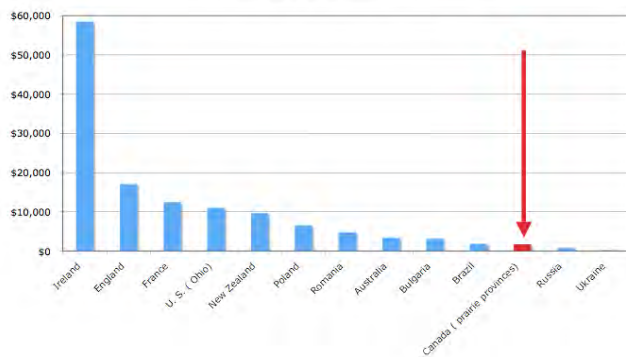
FARMLAND PRICE PER HECTARE, \$ U. S. 2009

Ireland	\$58,500
England	\$17,100
France	\$12,500
U. S. (Ohio)	\$11,000
New Zealand	\$9,643
Poland	\$6,600
Romania	\$4,855
Australia	\$3,450
Bulgaria	\$3,120
Brazil	\$1,850
Canada (prairies)	\$1,725
Russia	\$800
Ukraine	\$250



Source: Globe and Mail, Aug 19, 2009. Cheap Canadian Farmland lures foreign buyers

International Farmland Values, 2009, USD
 (Source: Globe and Mail)



CANADIAN FUNDS:

Assiniboia Capital

100,000 ac Saskatchewan farmland, holdings tripled in 2 years

Agcapita Partners

60,000 ac & \$100 million under management

Walton International

36,000 ac "development-ready farmland" surrounding Canada's cities

Bonnefield Financial/Sprott Resources

First Nations/private sector; plans 200,000 ac under management

Hancock (Manulife Financial)

183,000 acres of US farmland;
 looking north: just bought 1,100 ac cranberry farm Quebec



**SILENTLY,
Canada's
farmland is
being bought
up by foreign
investors...**

**NOT
SUSTAINABLE**

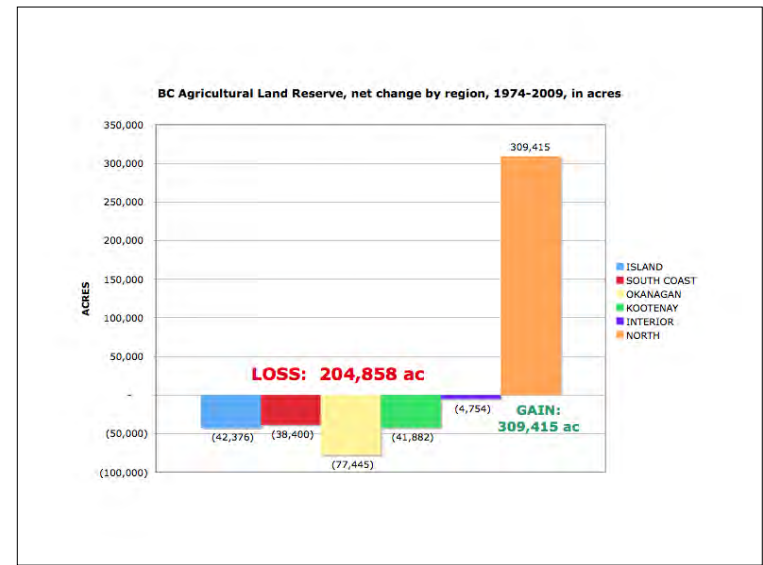
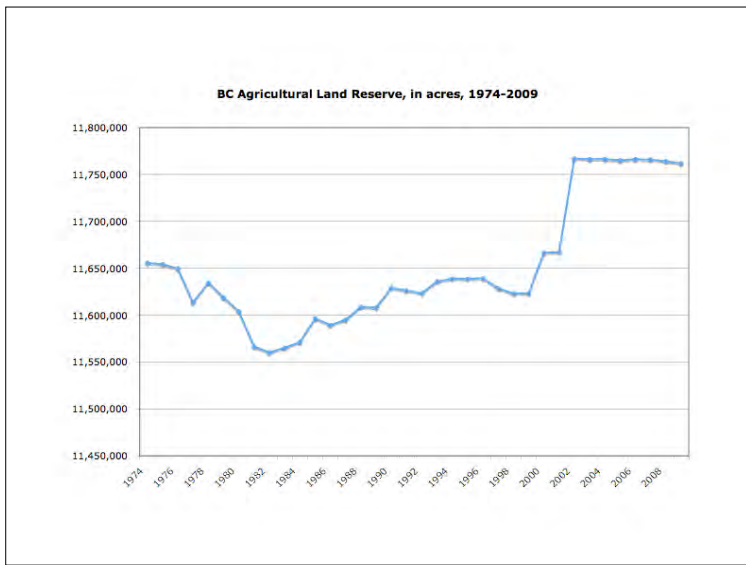
**BC
Agricultural
Land
Reserve**

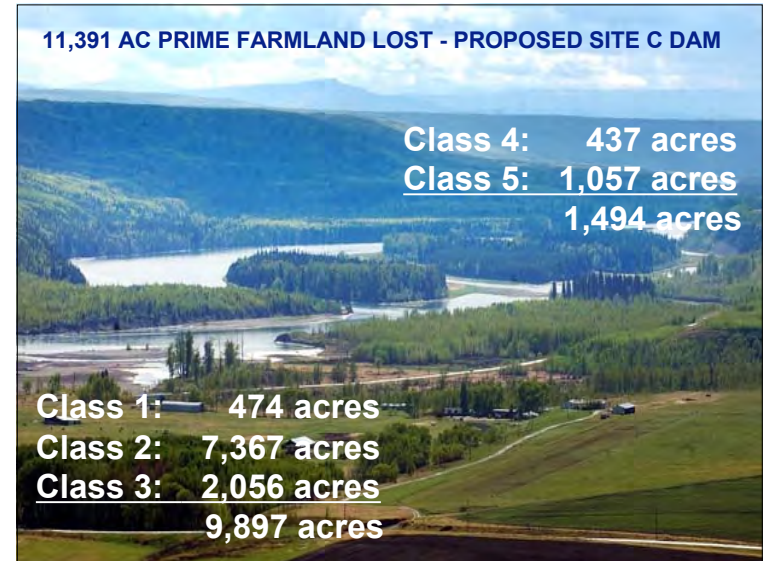
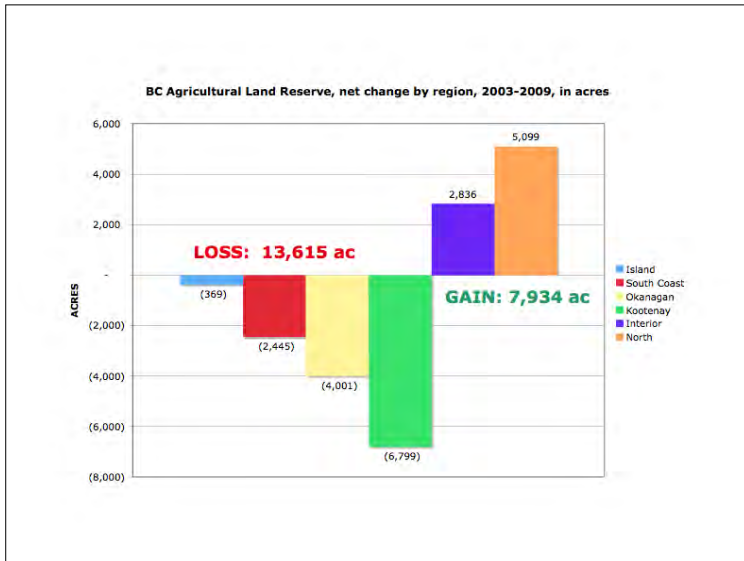
4.8 mil ha
11.8 mil ac

5.8 % = Coast + Van Island
Highest capability
land in Canada

Food Footprint:
.56 ha/person

© 2010 Google
© 2010 Europa Technologies
Image © 2010 TerraMetrics
© 2010 Tele Atlas

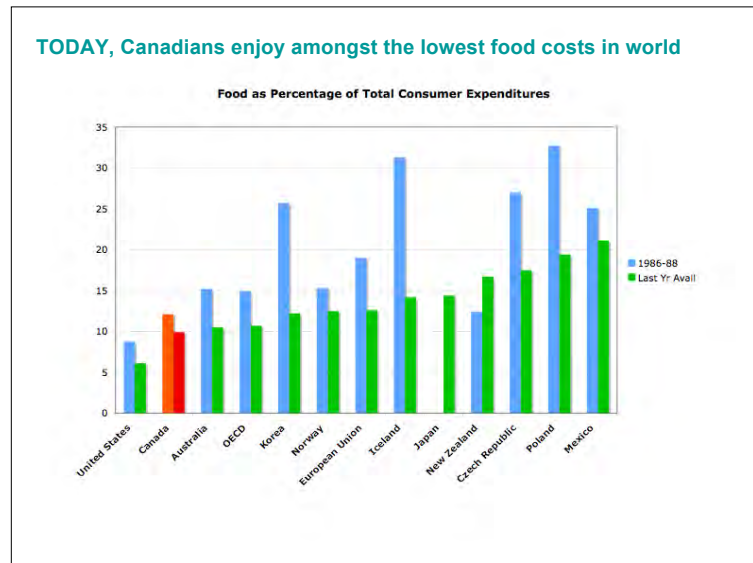






- ✓ Policy Crisis
- ✓ Economic Crisis
- ✓ PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT





“Food security is as important to this country’s future well-being – and the world’s - as energy security.

We need to produce more food. We need to do it sustainably. And we need to make sure that what we eat safeguards our health...”

UK Environment Secretary Hilary Benn
Food 2030 Strategy, Oxford Farming Conference
January 6, 2010



FOOD POLICY:
(FOOD AS A BASIC HUMAN RIGHT)

Every Canadian has the right to a secure daily supply of affordable, accessible, safe and nourishing food produced in a manner that respects the soils, the farmer, the environment and the community.



FOOD SOVEREIGNTY

...the right of peoples, communities, and countries to define their own agricultural, labor, fishing, food and land policies which are ecologically, socially, economically and culturally appropriate to their unique circumstances.

Institute for Food and Development Policy



✓ CULTURE SHIFT...

FarmVille

- 73.8 Million users per day after only 6 months (CBC)
- social media game about farming most popular among Facebook's 350 million users.
- allows city folks to become virtual country folks
 - virtual crops virtual animals virtual little red tractors
- WHO is playing?
 1. United States
 2. Turkey
 3. Philippines
 4. United Kingdom
 5. Italy
 6. Canada

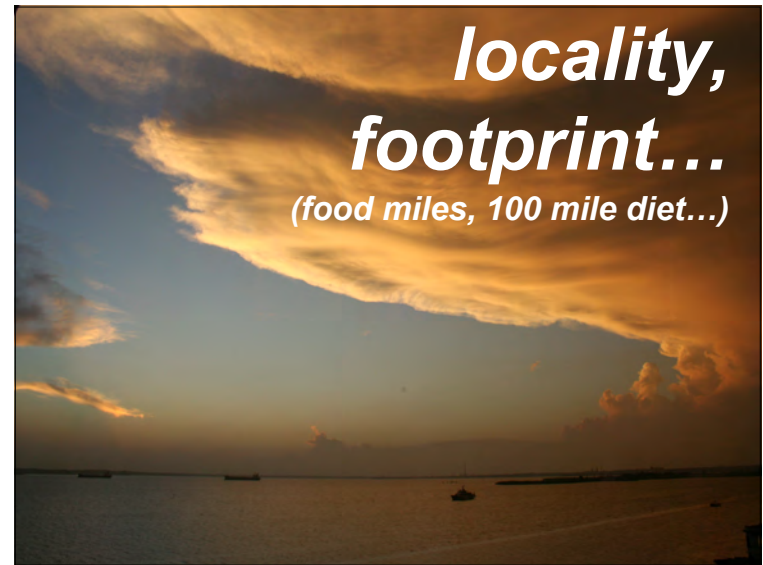
✓ CULTURE SHIFT...



✓ CULTURE SHIFT... Career choices

- 7 out of 10 students at UBC Faculty of Land and Food Systems now say they “want to farm”
- SAIT’s culinary program projected to grow from 200 students this year to 400 within next 2 years

*locality,
footprint...
(food miles, 100 mile diet...)*



National Restaurant Association
2010 Chefs' Survey
American Culinary Federation

- 1,800 professional chefs
 - over 200 culinary items
- Top 20 "Hot Trends" on menus:
- #1 Locally Grown Produce
 - #2 Locally Sourced Meats and Seafood
 - #3 Sustainability
 - #10 Sustainable Seafood
 - #12 Organic Produce





Sustainable (Bruntland):
Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Unsustainable (Pollen):
To call a practice or a system unsustainable is not just to lodge the objection based on aesthetics, say, or fairness, or some ideal of environmental rectitude. What it means is that the practice or process can't go on indefinitely because it is destroying the very conditions on which it depends.



TRIPLE Bottom Line



1. **Economics:** locality, security
2. **Environment:** sustainability
3. **Community:** accessibility, affordability, safety, locality, security

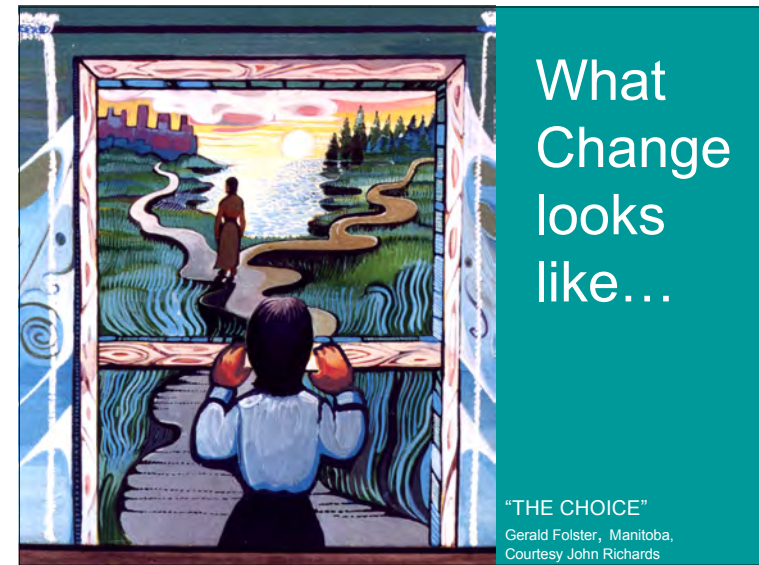
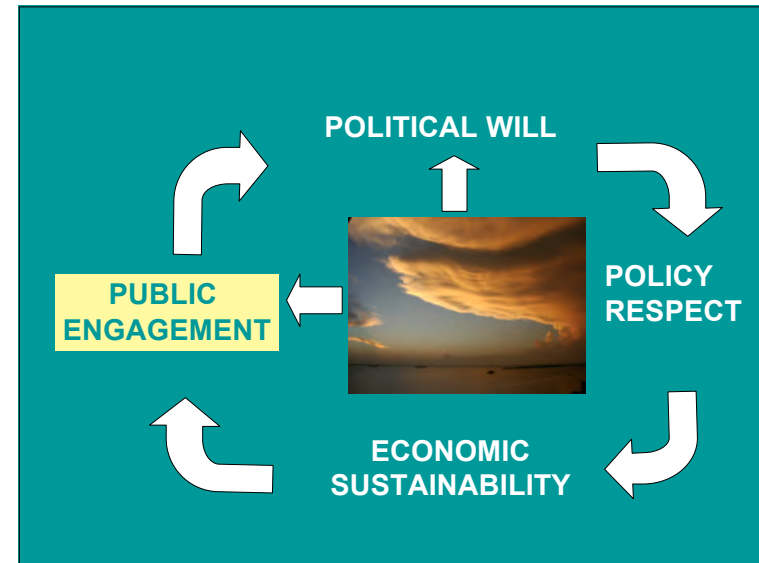
SUSTAINABLE Bottom line



4. **Sovereignty:** right to develop a made-in-Canada food policy.

A GOVERNANCE issue.

Starts at the community level.



Professional Responsibility...

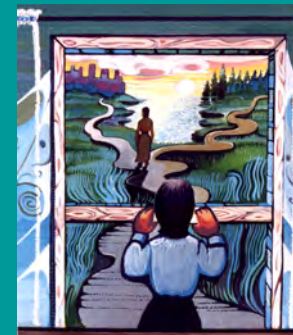
... midwives of good public policy...

time to stand and deliver...



Protect food lands...

urban, peri-urban and rural



Connect the dots between farming and food:

grow food in the cities...

URBAN + PERI-URBAN AGRICULTURE



Lessons from Cuba: Urban Agriculture



Lessons from Cuba: Urban Agriculture

Develop Business Case for Urban Farming

Technical specs for raised bed farming in cities, on-site sales

Economics?

Crops?

Seasons?

Compost?

Geothermal?



Lessons from Cuba: Urban Agriculture

Develop community case for urban farming

10 x's conversations in farmers' markets

Clearinghouse for donations (community gardens)

Training and jobs for urban youth

On-site extension education (balcony/back yard)

Zero footprint, fresh, Healthy organic



Lessons from Cuba: Urban Agriculture

Develop cooperative case for urban farming

Urban farming as incubator for young farmers

Apprentice on more extensive farms in peri-urban zone (cooperative?)

Once practical training, eligible for interest free loans to start farming.



Lessons from Cuba: Urban Agriculture

Develop policy case for urban farming

Essential component of sustainable and livable communities

Changes place to live into place for living (Coyula)

Connecting urban population with food creates respect for farmers and support for good farm policy



Lessons from Cuba: Urban Agriculture

Identify local infrastructure to support urban farming

Zoning and by-laws

Permanent indoor farmers markets

Incubator support for peri-urban zone

Protection for farmland (ALR)

Intergenerational transfer

Fair land rental cost



The key elements in Havana's success?

- strong local demand for fresh produce
- political will
- real access to public lands
- coordination of - not competition for - local resources
- concrete programs to support small producers
- encouraged producers' sense of ownership
- established a strong extension program
- guaranteed affordable inputs



Convene power of local governments...

Walk the walk...

Present case for food to UBCM...

RESPECT

As planners, community food security is in your hands...



Wendy Holm, P.Ag.

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