

Canadian Climate Forum Symposium 2015

Food Security in a Changing Climate



Canadian Climate Forum
Annual Symposium
Westin Hotel,
Ottawa, Ontario November 12th – 13th, 2015

A Summary of Proceedings By

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The annual symposium of the Canadian Climate Forum was held at the Westin Hotel in Ottawa, Ontario on November 12th and 13th, 2015. It was attended by more than 150 registered participants who heard speakers from around the world talk about food, water and climate security. This summary represents an encapsulation of the proceedings that was presented at the closing minutes of the symposium and is in no way meant to represent the full depth and measure of what may well represent a turning point in this country's response to the urgent need to address the issue of global climate disruption.

R.W. Sandford



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Day One
Thursday, November 12th, 2015

Opening Remarks

The Chair of the Board of the Canadian Climate Forum, Dr. Tom Pedersen, opened the conference, welcoming everyone to the Canadian Climate Forum's Annual Symposium, which this year focused on Food Security in a Changing World. Tom



then named and thanked sponsors and supporters and in particular diplomats and political leaders who agreed to participate in the symposium. Tom then set the stage for the symposium by putting food security into a climate change context. Tom then noted that what the Canadian Climate Forum sees as its mission to help society connect the dots between water, food, energy and climate security.

Session One

Ron Bonnett

The first formal session of the symposium focused on agriculture and adaptation to an uncertain future. The first speaker was the President of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, Ron Bonnett. Ron began by outlining the Mission of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture. Ron then noted that variations in climate patterns are becoming serious concerns for agriculture, particularly in Canada. Farmers are having to make choices regarding how they manage their crops. Warmer temperatures also have the potential to harm agriculture especially with respect to pest die-offs. This impacts pesticide choices and puts Genetically Modified Organisms into an important new light. Impacts aside however, warming could make Canada a beneficiary with respect to increased crop productivity. Changes in agricultural practices, Ron said, are addressing climate concerns. In conclusion, Ron noted that producers have to be engaged in the food security discussion. A national food security strategy would address agricultural production in Canada with respect to both domestic and international consumption as well as food security. There will be no magic bullets, he said, but there are opportunities if we can work productively together.

Don Lemmen

The next presentation was by Dr. Don Lemmen, who is Research Manager with the Climate Impacts and Adaptation Division of the Natural Resources Canada. Don talked about food security and the adaptive imperative. Don noted that climate change is already affecting food security and that in the future indirect impacts are likely to be more important than direct effects. Canada's role in food security, he posited, is important now and will be ever more important in the future.



Don then summarized the main body of scientific assessments on climate change. Don then pointed out that only by achieving an extreme low emissions target can we have even a 50-50 chance of permitting adaptation to succeed. Under extreme high emissions projections, he said, it will be difficult for even the most aggressive adaptation regime to reduce risk. Increases of 4°C, he said, create very high risk for agriculture. Don then talked about incremental versus transformational adaptation. Incremental adaptation, he noted, involves improvements to what is essentially the status quo while transformational adaptation would require rethinking of agricultural practices.

Hans Hurni

The next speaker was Dr. Hans Hurni who was the Founding President of the Centre for Development and Environment at the University of Bern. Dr. Hurni talked about global



Earth system change and its relationship to land, agriculture and food security. Dr. Hurni noted that there is a safe and just place in terms of sustainability to which all of humanity must aim. In this quest, he said, knowledge is not enough. We need also the will and the permission to solve global change problems. Hans then outlined the pillars of food security. He noted that you can only improve agricultural land to the level of its fundamental capacity with respect to the

nature of soils and climate but much also can be added to this inherent capacity through social and economic development.

Session Two

David Sauchyn

Session Two focused on water, past and present. The first speaker in this session was Dr. David Sauchyn who holds the Research Chair in Water Resources and Climate at the University of Regina who spoke on the topic of the availability of agricultural water in a warming climate. David began by comparing conversations in Chile and Canada regarding water and food security which he demonstrated common uncertainties we all need to address. David then showed images of the



Canadian prairies pointing out that this is a landscape of adaptation – successful adaptation – at least to date. He then went on to show evidence that indicates an increase in the number of growing and heat days, greater water availability in winter and less in summer when it is needed most. He then pointed to research outcomes that suggested a 228% increase in crop yield could be possible in some parts of the Canadian prairies based on these trends. But, he noted, that annual averages were not the whole story. The range between dry and wetter conditions is growing which means when dry periods occur they are likely to be of greater extremes. Dr. Sauchyn then showed the mean average water flows on the Canadian prairies over the past 1100 years which made it clear that droughts of a century or longer have occurred and will occur again but in a warmer world. Dr. Sauchyn then went on to outline his five year-long conversation with farmers and with government agricultural experts from five countries. Farmers and ranchers, Sauchyn noted, recognized the role of adaptive planning; awareness and education; and the need to review and refresh plans. They recognized the need to be proactive but also pointed out that a technical gap exists that can only be filled if research into agriculture was restored so that the scientific needs of agriculture could be met. Sauchyn recommended a single coordinating agency that could meet all the research related needs of agriculture. Dr. Sauchyn urged the Government of Canada to create or re-create such an agency in the image and spirit of the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Agency which disappeared under the Harper government.

Bob Sandford

The second speaker in Session Two was Bob Sandford, who is the EPCOR Chair for Water Security with the United Nations University Institute for Water, Environment & Health. Bob began his presentation by defining water and climate security and establishing the links between them. He then outlined the psychological resistances in our society to open discussion of climate change and its potential effects. Bob then noted the gradual shift in Canadian consciousness with respect to climate impacts

resulting from growing public exposure to climate-related disruptions. Bob then offered a brief summary of the United Nations 2030 *Transforming Our World* global sustainable development agenda and related this agenda to liveable cities and the need for restorative agriculture. He then outlined the impacts of industrial agriculture on land-use and water quality. He then talked about the role of soil health in managing drought and flood and in the large-scale sequestration of carbon. Bob concluded his presentation with a call for another green revolution – another agricultural revolution – but this time focused on the integration of water, food and climate security. Canada, he said, should be a leader in that revolution.

Lars-Otto Reiersen

The final speaker in Session Two was Dr. Lars-Otto Reiersen who is the Executive Secretary of the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme. In only 20 minutes, Dr. Reiersen summarized an amazing array of climate issues affecting the Arctic. He began by outlining the structure and function of the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme. Lars noted that a warming of 2°C globally will translate into at least 4°C in the Arctic. He then showed the



extent of change in the area of sea ice formation in the Arctic. The biological impacts of warming, he noted, include potential extinction of some endemic Arctic species as sea ice loss continues. What happens in the Arctic, Lars noted, affects the rest of the world. From this observation, this reviewer surmised that the Arctic is not like Las Vegas as one public radio announcer noted in that what happens in the Arctic doesn't stay in the Arctic.

Lars then noted that changes in heat transfer brought about by inflows of warmer water are also beginning to have significant impacts on Arctic fisheries. Fish stocks are changing which led Lars to pose the question of whether or not there will be a commercial fishery in the Central Arctic Ocean. Finding the answer to that question, Lars noted, was why countries like Korea and China are now expressing serious interest in the Arctic. The emergence of that fishery, however, is not guaranteed. Lars explained the serious threat posed by rapid ocean acidification particularly in the colder waters of the Arctic. This, he said, could have huge impacts on the Arctic Ocean food web. He then talked about pollution in particular growing mercury contamination generated by coal fired power plants in the south. Also of concern are persistent organic pollutants including pesticides. These contaminants in tandem bio-accumulate in the country foods that form the diets of many northerners creating a serious health issue. The combined effects of all these impacts: a rapidly changing Arctic with consequences for the rest of the world. The Arctic, Lars concluded – borrowing on the famous James Bond martini preference – is being shaken as well as stirred.

Session Three

Anne Hammill

Session Three concerned itself with the question of whether or not we can get to resilient sustainability. The first speaker was Anne Hammill who is the Director of Resilience for the International Institute for Sustainable Development. Anne talked about climate resilient food systems. She began by defining the terms food system and resilience noting the difference between sustainability and resilience. Resilience as opposed to sustainability, she noted, demands that we become comfortable with change, with a focus on flexibility, diversity, redundancy, transparency, inclusiveness and equity. Resilience, she said, also relies on learning and innovation. Resilience in food systems, Anne noted, looks beyond production questions to consider other aspects of food security. Anne then illustrated her points with the example of Uganda and the contribution of coffee production to the country's Gross Domestic Product. Anne ended her presentation with observations on the role of adaptive policies in making it possible to cope with change and uncertainty.

Richard Hebda

The second speaker in Session Three was Dr. Richard Hebda who is an Adjunct Professor at the University of Victoria. Dr. Hebda talked about potatoes and Poland in the context of agricultural sustainability. Hebda began his presentation by noting the need for integrated frameworks and in this context offered ten principles of food sustainability and for what he called "honest food." Honest food, he said, ensures a reliable food supply for all; mitigates and adapts for climate change; sustains and improves ecological function; sustains a diversity of life; sustains and contributes to local human communities; respects and rewards growers; improves and sustains people's health; builds stable economies; meets measurable and objective standards; and incorporates public education and awareness. Going forward Richard proposed an Honest Food Secretariat and Institute which would be responsible for the creation of a living catalogue of honest food knowledge – a wiki for food knowledge as Hebda put it.



The Hill Times Live Policy Briefing on Climate Change

Following Session Three, the Ottawa Hill Times newspaper held a Live Policy Briefing on Climate Change. Andrew Beattie moderated the Briefing which began with remarks by the Canadian Climate Forum's Executive Director Deirdre Laframboise who thanked the sponsors and welcomed an expanded public audience. After opening remarks by

key sponsors moderator Catherine Clark introduced the panel which included Elizabeth May, Leader of the Green Party of Canada; Glen Murray, Ontario Minister of Environment and Climate Change; Dr. Tom Pedersen, Chair, of the Canadian Climate Forum; and Sergio Marchi, a former federal cabinet Minister and now President of the Canadian Electricity Association. Catherine kicked the panel discussion off by noting changes in the policy environment that have followed in the wake of the recent federal election. Elizabeth May then situated the results of the federal election within the context of COP 21, which is about to be held in Paris. COP 21, she noted is not going to be an easy negotiation in that it much regain ground lost since Copenhagen. We presently have a weak text, she observed and an absence of leadership. COP 21, May pointed out, aims at keeping warming under 2°C globally. With the current commitment, however, we will be over 3°C. What we really need, she said, was the new Canadian Government to reduce the acceptable limit to 1.5°C.



The Hill Times Panel.

(Left to right: Glen Murray, Tom Pedersen, Catherine Clark, Elizabeth May and Sergio Marchi)

Dr. Tom Pedersen then shared his scientific perspective on the limits we ought to aim for in Paris. Tom cited the increase in extreme weather events as a reason for acting very quickly. Going for a goal of 1.5°C will compress this time frame even further. Tom then outlined how British Columbia's carbon tax came into existence and demonstrated that even at \$30 a tonne it had only translated into an increase in the cost of gasoline at the pump of only 7cents a litre. This Pedersen noted, drove fuel consumption down without damaging the economy which while at the same time grew in BC at a rate higher than the national average.

Panelists then proposed that we need to change of direction of energy flow in this country from East to West in order to buttress the development of renewable energy supply. Out of this conversation it was put forward that an effective clear national policy on energy is critical to dealing with the climate change threat.

Minister Glen Murray then observed that our last federal government put the world on a path to 4° of warming which in his view was absolutely irresponsible in terms of the management of risk. The question now, he said, is whether provinces that acted in the absence of federal government support will direct their activism in a coordinated way now that the federal government is now back at the table.

Elizabeth May noted that we have had a coordinated collaboration on such matters in the past and that what is needed is a common carbon price. Tom Pedersen noted that we have to engage with the constituency that doesn't believe a carbon tax is either necessary or useful. We have to convince the public, he said, that acting on the climate change threat will be the next industrial revolution and that revolution will be financed by a carbon tax. Sergio Marchi observed that adapting to climate change has to be seen as a viable process not a violent revolution. Elizabeth May offered that we have the opportunity to move ahead very quickly. Marchi noted that the federal government has to be seen as a partner and not an observer in moving forward. May also noted that Indigenous traditional knowledge must be amalgamated into the process as a means of reconciliation and climate justice. Minister Murray agreed, noting that intergenerational equity and Indigenous traditions are important to heal our culture so that sustainability can be possible. Minister Murray went on to argue that we need some early wins now to build trust and confidence based on respecting and emulating fundamental First Nations values.

Returning to the subject of federal-provincial cooperation, Tom Pedersen noted that penalties are not the way to go if provinces don't step up to the plate to meet new federal expectation. Minister Murray responded that we didn't penalize the federal government for its failure to step up to the plate on climate change so the reverse may not be helpful. "We have the Canada we once had back now, Murray observed, and that is the Canada we need to fight climate change."

*We have the Canada we once had back now and that is the
Canada we need to fight climate change.*

Hon. Glen Murray
Minister of Environment & Climate Change
Government of Ontario

Dinner Keynote

Ambassador Nicolas Chapuis

The magnificent conference banquet was sponsored in part by the French Embassy in Canada. The keynote speaker at this dinner was his Excellency Nicolas Chapuis, France's Ambassador to Canada who shared his passion for the possibilities and prospects for the upcoming climate conference in Paris.



French Ambassador Nicolas Chapuis

Ambassador Chapuis began by noting global impacts of climate change are a hard reality. Contrary to what we all have come to believe, he said, progress has not reduced the threat. Climate impacts, he said, will be the issue that challenges development everywhere in the world in ways that are unfamiliar to us. Food security is only one of the issues we will be dealing with for a long time. Paris, Ambassador Chapuis observed, is an opportunity to put out the fire that is burning our house down.

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Nicolas Chapuis
The French Ambassador to Canada

Fighting food insecurity, Ambassador Chapis noted, requires a manifold response, including managing water, sustaining rural communities and more sober approaches to agricultural practices. The concepts of agro-ecology have to transform agriculture. This must be done by 2030. We must be much more cautious and much more humble with respect to genetically modified crops. We must serve our larger needs, he said, before we serve private sector interests.

If we don't deal with the climate issue now, the Ambassador concluded, later generations will not have the means to deal with the climate threat. That is why the unofficial theme of COP 21 in Paris is "Later, it will be too late."



Day Two
Friday, November 13th, 2015

Hon. Glen Murray

The second day of the symposium began with a keynote presentation by the Hon. Glen Murray, Minister of Environment & Climate Change for the Government of Ontario. Minister Murray put forward that the biggest impacts of climate change will be on water and food. We are not prepared, he said, for these changes. He then pointed to changes in the Arctic and the feedback threats that warming occurring there posed at more southerly latitudes. What we are seeing, he said, is the vandalizing of our seasons. We cannot, he said, even begin to imagine what 7° of warming in the Arctic might do further south. He then made the direct link between drought made worse by climate change in Syria and the current refugee crisis in Europe. In a much warmer world, he asked, how much more conflict should we expect? Minister Murray then discussed the recent and current drought situation in California and its impact on food security and food prices.

These circumstances, he said, suggest the need for a national food security policy in Canada.



Green Party Leader Elizabeth May listens to Minister Glen Murray

Bernard Cantin

The next keynote in the morning session was offered by Dr. Bernard Cantin who is Program Leader of the Collaborative Adaptation Research Initiative in Africa and Asia with the International Development Research Centre (IDRC). Dr. Cantin spoke on the subject of IDRC programming in climate change and food security. Dr. Cantin first summarized the role of the IDRC in fulfilling Canada's foreign policy objectives. Bernard then noted that climate change is a fundamental threat to development globally. Dr. Bernard concluded by talking about climate-smart agriculture, which is to say agriculture which seeks to increase productivity while at the same time reducing greenhouse emissions and increasing resilience.

*Climate-Smart Agriculture:
Agriculture which seeks to increase productivity while at the
same time reducing greenhouse emissions and increasing
resilience.*

Panel & Group Discussion: Canadian Agriculture – Looking Forward

Don McCabe

The next session was a panel and group discussion on the future of Canadian agriculture. The first speaker on this panel was Don McCabe who is the President of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture. McCabe talked about looking forward in Canadian agriculture. “We need a dialogue,” McCabe noted bluntly, “but we need to listen to farmers.” It all starts with soil, he said. We should all stop talking about all the opportunity that exists in expanding agriculture northward, he said, because you aren’t going to grow anything on the Canadian Shield. Don then offered a definition of a farmer as a manager of carbon and nitrogen cycles with input from the water cycle. Moving forward, he said, the soil equation becomes critical. In agriculture, he said, there is no such thing as waste, just opportunity. Don concluded by noting that Canadian need to catch up with what agriculture is doing in Canada.

Karen Wittenberg

The next speaker was Dr. Karen Wittenberg who is the Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture and Food Sciences at the University of Manitoba. Dr. Wittenberg’s presentation focused on tools for a resilient and sustainable future in agriculture. She began by talking about the difference between incremental change and big shifts in agriculture. Karen then offered guiding metrics for adaptation in agriculture. These metrics, she said, must be comprehensive, unifying, simple, transparent, locally applicable and timeless. Three tools for successful adaptation in agriculture include government policy, innovation and education. Dr. Wittenberg then described what she called “The Red Queen Effect” an allusion to Lewis Carroll’s *Through the Looking Glass* where Alice is confronted with the fact that in Wonderland you have to run at least twice as fast to keep in the same place. Wittenberg’s point was clear. The Red Queen Effect very much describes the climate challenge. Dr. Wittenberg concluded her presentation with a question. How can Canada’s agriculture and agri-food sector become the most trusted in the world? We as Canadians, she said, have to help make that so.



*“Here, you see, it takes all
the running you can do, to
keep in the same place”*

Susan Wood-Bohm

The last speaker on the panel was Dr. Susan Wood-Bohm who is the Executive Director of the Biological Greenhouse Gas Management Program at the Alberta Innovates Bio Solutions/Climate Change and Emissions Management Corporation. Susan began by describing the climate change strategy developed by Alberta starting in 200. She then focused on Alberta's efforts in emissions-reducing innovation in agriculture.

From this panel it occurred to this observer just how big and sometimes antagonistic the urban-rural split in Canada really is and how much work needs to be done to bridge it. And bridge it we must if we are to address the climate issue. This suggests real urgency in terms of building on the dialogue that has been started at this symposium.

Panel & Group Discussion: Aquatic Protein – Past, Present & Future

Brian Riddell

The next panel and group discussion concerned itself with food supplies that come from our waters. The first speaker was Dr. Brian Riddell who is the President and CEO of the Pacific Salmon Foundation. Brian began by outlining the history of the Pacific salmon fisheries. He noted that while many populations are shrinking some salmon populations in the North Pacific are actually increasing. In 1990, he noted, the climate of the North Pacific began to change. The loss of glaciers which lower river water temperatures is the single biggest potential climate change effect. Warming of the water column will change aquatic ecology. Another issue is the loss of forest due to pine bark beetle infestation which results in increased sedimentation in salmon streams. Changes in the timing of peak flows during the annual freshet brought about by earlier springs is another climate effect. Sea level rise will also change habitat in the lower Fraser estuary. All of these things are already happening. In conclusion Dr. Riddell noted, that Pacific salmon will evolve. What we don't know is at what pace and at what level of loss. To allow them to adapt, he said, we have to stop fishing them which means less food production. Pacific salmon, he noted, provide an excellent monitoring opportunity for Canada as we tackle climate change. Science is critical, he said, and that science should focus on the Fraser River.

Ed Desson

The next speaker was Ed Desson who is the Fisheries Manager for the Nisga'a Lisims Government. Ed spoke on the impacts of climate changes on the traditional fishing practices of Indigenous peoples in Canada. Ed began by outlining his work on salmon with the Nisga'a Nation on a program that is now entering its 25th year. Ed then discussed the warm water conditions that have begun to appear off the coast of British Columbia. Ed then illustrated the extent of glacial recession in the region. Southern species, he noted, are now beginning to appear as far north as Alaska. Other changes that have been observed include altered migration timing; smaller fish in poor condition;



decreased stock sizes and higher toxins in shellfish. The Nass River where Ed works, he noted, was in better shape than many B.C. rivers. Changes were occurring, he said, right across the country. These changes include warming waters; more eutrophication; changing fish communities; warmer water species advancing northwards; an increase in the number of problematic invasive species; and more winter fish kills.. Environmental conditions, he said in conclusion, are changing

quickly and local knowledge is key to tracking those changes. First Nations, he said, will adapt – they always have. We all can.

First Nations will adapt – they always have.

Ed Desson

Fisheries Manager for the Nisga'a Lisims Government

R. Ian Perry

The final speaking in this session was Dr. R. Ian Perry who is a Research Scientist at the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Pacific Biological Station. Dr. Perry offered a Canadian perspective on ocean and food security in a changing climate. Dr. Perry tracked risk to the Federal Fisheries and Oceans mandate due to climate changing on Canada's three coasts. In the Pacific, he said, Pacific herring are a vital part of the food web. Pacific herring, he noted, are likely to move north and be at risk due to the effects of climate warming. This effect, Perry noted, could be offset by increases in populations of the Pacific sardine. In the Atlantic we can expect impacts on cod due to warming oceans but these effects will be different among different populations. In the Arctic impacts are likely to be substantial but variable. The responses of fishing-dependent communities vary from short-term adaptation to long-term diversification to abandoning fishing completely and leaving to live in southern cities. Ian concluded by arguing that we need climate change governance options. We need to develop flexible management and livelihood options. We need better governance, he said, not just more government.



Lunch

Chef Kenton Leier

At lunch the Westin's hotels executive chef Kenton Leier welcomed everyone and offered his thoughts on food security. The hotel, Leier noted, feeds 400,000 guests a year and food waste is an issue. Chef Kenton then described each element of the lunch we were being served, explaining where each item came from and why it was chosen. He then outlined his company's impressive sustainability program.

Tim Benton

The lunch keynote was offered by Dr. Tim Benton who is the Food Security Champion for the United Kingdom. In this role it is Tim's responsibility to connect food security to issues such as climate change, health, environment, international relations and trade and to do so within a systems context. Tim began his presentation by demonstrating the huge number of ways in which food matters. He then clearly defined food security as people at all times having access to safe and nutritious food but added that a link had to be made to diets and poor health. Tim then outlined the complex nature of supply chains. Tim then explored the complex domain of processed food which may contain substances from all over the world. He then noted the increasing homogeneity in global food supplies and the risk implications of this for food security. Global connectivity through trade, he said, increases risk in both movements of goods and price volatility. The world is changing, Tim noted, and we don't know much about what a warmer world is going to be like especially as it relates to the reliability of food supply. Extreme weather is already a factor in that it generates production shocks. Even with increased CO₂ fertilization we may not be able to expect increased yields. Business as usual, therefore, is not an option. More of the same is not enough.

Panel & Group Discussion: Food Security, the North and the Challenge of Seeds

Laurie Chan

The final panel and group discussion concerned itself with a variety of themes including food security in the Canadian north and the protection of seed stocks. The first speaker was Dr. Laurie Chan who holds a research chair in toxicology at the University of Ottawa. Dr. Chan spoke about the impacts of climate change on food security in the Canadian Arctic. Dr. Chan began his presentation by showing population distribution in the Canadian Arctic. The diet of most people in the Arctic, he noted, is a combination of country food and southern market products. The long range transportation of contaminants from the south to the



Arctic, he said, is now a serious food safety issue. Laurie then shared the results of the 2007 – 2008 Inuit Health Survey which showed that 63% of Inuit had experienced food insecurity compared to only 15% of Canadians as a whole. Decreasing food security, he noted, is the cause of a wide variety of other health problems. In conclusion Dr. Chan observed that a food security and safety policy is clearly needed in the Arctic.

Geraldine Van Bibber

The next speaker was Geraldine Van Bibber who is the Chancellor of Yukon College. Geraldine talked about traditional food security in the north. Geraldine began her presentation by offering a First Nations history lesson that focused on self-sufficiency with respect to food security. She then outlined potential solutions for food security north of 60, including those being developed at Yukon College. Chancellor Van Bibber then left participants in the symposium with a simple but profound thought on the matter of adapting to climate impacts: we can all do something – and we all should.

Jane Rabinowicz



The final speaker in this panel and group discussion was Jane Rabinowicz who is the National Director of the Bauta Family Initiative on Canadian Seed Security with USC Canada. Jane spoke on the contribution of agroecology and biodiversity to food security in a changing climate. Jane began her presentation by offering her observations on seed banking and its relationship to adaptation at the local level. She then

outlined the work and successes of USC Canada in the domain of seed security and seed system resilience. In conclusion Jane called for more productive dialogue of the kind that she had experience during the past two days at this symposium. She wants us all, she said, on the same bus.

Looking Ahead

Dr. Richard Hebda

Richard Hebda offered the final presentation of the symposium. In this presentation he looked ahead from the vantage that had been gained over the past two days. Richard urged us to stay connected. We need an organization or institution to keep this going, he said. We need to restore monitoring and support the collection of real data related to food security. We need guidelines and first order evaluations of food security in Canada. The federal Ministry of Health among many other ministries, he said, should support this.

In Conclusion

In conclusion this rapporteur observed that it had been an astonishing two days. I noted that we – all of us – will leave this symposium with a renewed spirit of sensibility, purpose and possibility. The test, I said (and this without knowing of the violence that was unfolding there as I spoke) will be to see if that spirit survives what is about to take place in Paris. At Tom Pedersen noted, we need to slow change so we can have time to adapt. Referring to the UN Conference of the Parties, Elizabeth May joked that there were good COPS and bad COPS. Right now, I said, the world needs Canada to make Paris the best COP ever. But just as importantly, we have to keep the kind of productive dialogue that took place at this symposium going in Canada.



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