

# **Transitioning Canadian Universities to Plant-Based Menus**

**1st Steering  
Committee Meeting**

**December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020**



# Steering Committee Meeting

- **Purpose:** Facilitate and provide momentum to transition Canadian universities to plant-based menus
- **How:** Share strategies and experience, create synergy
- **Why:** Stop the accelerating destruction to the environment, our health and animals

# Guest Speakers

## **Gerard Wedderburn-Bisshop**

Retired Principal Scientist with Queensland Government Natural Resources.

Topic: ***“Appetite for Destruction”***  
*Negative impacts of animal agriculture on the environment*

## **David Speight**

Executive Chef & Culinary Director, University of British Columbia Food Services

Topic: ***“Menus of Change: How UBC is Advancing Plant Based Diets”***  
*Strategies in having successfully achieved 47% plant-based menus.*

# Audience

Organizations	Accepted	Tentative
Plant-Based Food Orgs	8	
Scientist (GB)	1	
University Chefs & Sustainability*	23	4
University 3 <sup>rd</sup> Party FS	3	1
Total	35	5

\*includes Stanford University & University of California at Santa Barbara

# Why Focus on Universities?

**2 million university students in Canada**

**The potential is huge!**

- ✓ Zillennials set to drive sustainable food.
- ✓ More than half have some type of meat restriction.

*source: BofA Global Research Nov 2020*

**Responsibility of institutions of higher education**

- ✓ adhere to the science
- ✓ lead by example
- ✓ support from senior management essential

**Sustainability**

- ✓ key accreditation
- ✓ yet animal agriculture is a very unsustainable practice

# Steering Committee

## Proposed Representation:

- ✓ leading plant-based university chefs
- ✓ university food services / sustainability
- ✓ contract food service providers
- ✓ plant-based food support organizations
- ✓ student plant-based associations
- ✓ guest speakers

**Frequency: every 2 to 3 months**

**KPI: > 60% plant based meals by Dec 2022**  
standardized metrics for tracking progress

# Animal Based Diets

**At every meal globally, we**  
**drive 70 species extinct**  
**kill 2 billion animals (land and sea)**  
**destroy 20,000 acres of forests**  
**degrade 7 million acres of land**  
**hypoxify 1 million acres of ocean dead zones**  
**kill 40,000 people through diseases of excess**

**Turning this around is a global priority!**

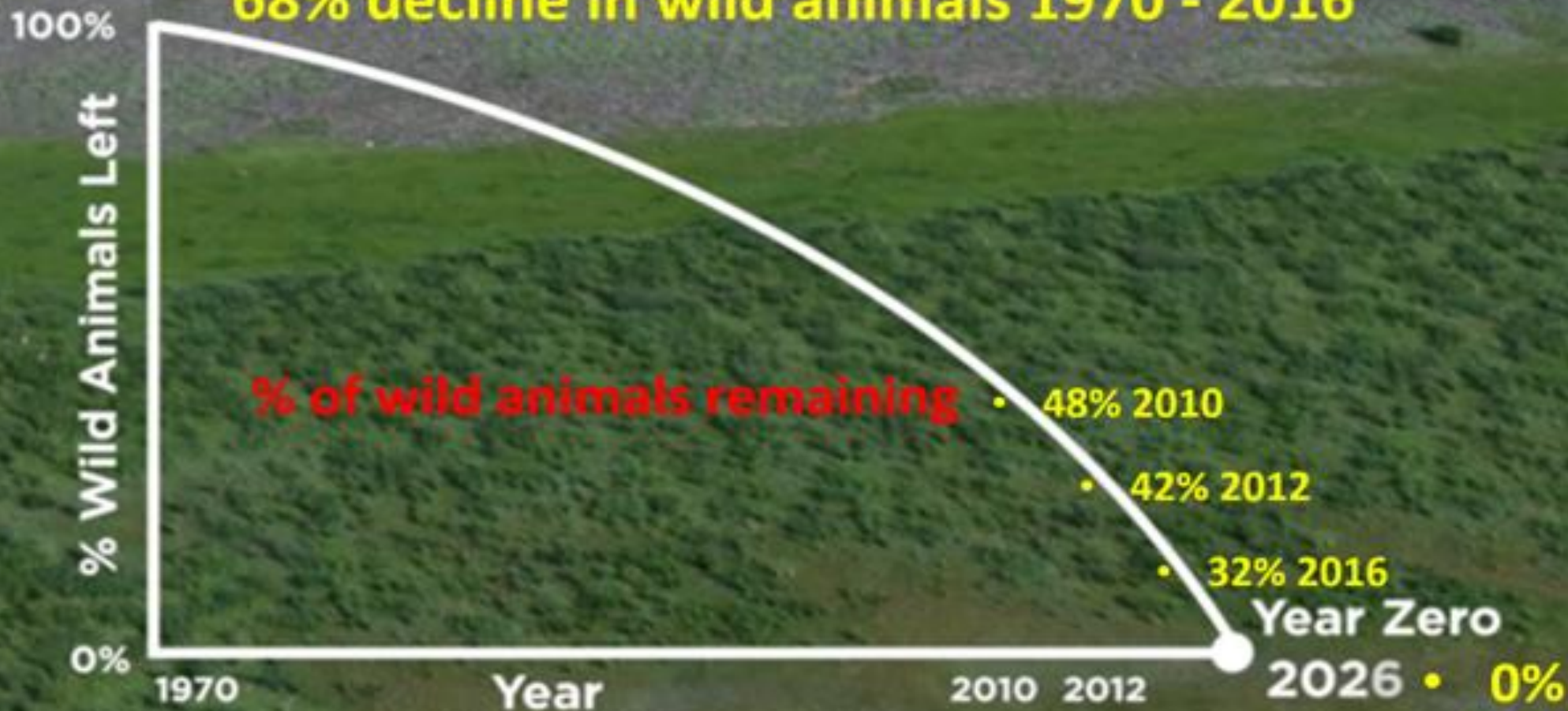
Source: <https://www.climatehealers.org/facts>





Source: WWF Report 2020

68% decline in wild animals 1970 - 2016





# Let's Act Now to Reverse these Trends

- **Current world biomass:**  
**60%** livestock, **36%** humans, **4%** wildlife
- **Livestock grazing or feed:**  
**77%** of habitable land
- **A million species facing extinction:**  
**100%** of wild vertebrates will die off by **2026**

Source Our World in Data Sept 2019

# Closing Comments

# *The World is Changing!*

University of British Columbia  
2019 – 47% of all entrees in residence dining were  
plant-based

HARVARD LOOKS TO VEGAN FOOD TO SLASH  
GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS BY 2030 |  
*The Harvard Gazette*

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE:  
REMOVING MEAT 'CUT CARBON EMISSIONS' | BBC

**MENUS  CHANGE**  
The Business of Healthy, Sustainable, Delicious Food Choices

**THE MENUS OF CHANGE INITIATIVE**  
Menus of Change®: The Business of  
Healthy, Sustainable, Delicious Food  
Choices

*Oxford students vote to ban*  
*beef and lamb*  
*from university | Oxford Mail*

## **Stanford University R&DE Dining**

- Menus 80% vegetarian and >50% vegan
- Awarded an A+ rating for vegan dining by Peta
- Vegan & Plant Forward Sous Chef
- [Eat Well @ Stanford | Stanford R&DE](#)

***“One reason we don’t always appreciate the gravity of the problem is that we can’t really see it happening.”***

Discover Magazine December 3, 2020

# Act Now!

- **Be the changemakers**
- **Adhere to the science**
- **Lead by example**
- **Senior mgt support**



**Target:** *> 60% plant based meals by Dec 2022*  
*metrics & scorecard needed*

# **Coming Up !**

## **Information Session by *DefaultVeg***

### **January 2021**

**Ilana Braverman**

***“DefaultVeg is simple - make plant based food the default and give people the choice to opt in for meals with animal products.”***

# **Next Steering Committee Meeting**

**February – March 2021**



# **Acknowledgements**

**Gerard Wedderburn-Bisshop**

**David Speight**

**Andrea De Vito**

**All our participants**

**Thank you!**