



CANADIAN SOCIETY OF SOIL SCIENCE

SOCIÉTÉ CANADIENNE DE LA SCIENCE DU SOL

CSSS Annual General Meeting

Minutes

12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. (EST) Monday, March 23, 2026

Virtual Meeting

Meeting Link: Microsoft Teams meeting

Join: <https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/29534812617010?p=nuZNUAIYGsJOvEQvfK>

Meeting ID: 295 348 126 170 10

Passcode: XK64Ts2n

Began: 12:07 PM

1. Call to Order (Richard Heck)
2. Approval of Agenda (Richard Heck)
 - a) Motioned by Roland Kroebel and seconded by Blake Weiseth. Carried.
3. Land Acknowledgement (Richard Heck)
4. Approval of Minutes from the 2025 CSSS AGM (Lee-Ann Bauman, 5 min)
 - a) Refer to the Minutes of the 2025 CSSS AGM
 - b) **Motion em-2026-11:** Motion to approve the Minutes of the 2025 CSSS AGM, as presented/amended.
 - i. Motioned by Judith Nyiraneza and seconded by Adrian Unc. Carried.
 - ii. Nathan Basilko indicated that Motion 2025-30 should state that CSSS and WCSS agree to sponsor the GSB booth. Currently, it just states CSSS.
 - iii. **Update to Motion 2025-30:** Motion that CSSS and 24WCSS agree to cosponsor an exhibitor booth with 24WCSS and CSP. \$1000 will go towards CSSS sponsorship. \$1,000 will be fronted by CSSS and will be reimbursed by 24WCSS in future. Motioned by Nate Basilko and seconded by Keith Reid, with all in favour.
5. Approval of the Minutes from the 2025 Special Meeting held on December 19, 2025 (Lee-Ann Bauman, 5 min)
 - a) Refer to the Minutes of the December 19, 2025, Special Meeting
 - b) **Motion em-2026-12:** Motion to approve the Minutes of the December 19, 2025, Special Meeting, as presented/amended. Motioned by Blake Weiseth and seconded by Keith Reid. Carried.
6. 2025 Year-End Financial Report and 2026 Budget (Preston Sorenson, 10 min)
 - a) 2026 Year-end Financial Report

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- i. Thanks were extended to Mr. Jeremy Kiss and Dr. Chantel Chizen for conducting the Financial Review.
- ii. Motion to receive the CSSS 2025 Year-end Financial Report, as presented.
 1. **Motion em-2026-13:** Motion to approve 2026 CSSS Budget, as presented/amended. Motioned by Rich Farrell and seconded by David Chanasyk. Carried.
- b) Appointment of Financial Reviewers
 - i. **Motion em-2026-14:** Motion to approve Blake Weiseth and Jeremy Kiss as the Financial Reviewers for 2026. Moved by Preston Sorenson and seconded by David Chanaysk. Jeremy Kiss was absent. Carried.
- c) 2026 Budget
 - i. Motion to approve 2026 CSSS Budget, as presented/amended. Rich Farrell and, seconded by David Chanasyk, with all in favour. Moved by Angela Bedard-Haugh and seconded by Daniel Saurette. Carried.
 - ii. **Motion em-2026-15:** Motion that future spending requests be submitted by February 28, 2026, for January 1 to December 2026. Moved by Preston Sorenson and seconded by Keith Reid. *Withdrawn.*
 1. David Chanaysk was concerned that the motion was too restrictive.
 2. Preston Sorenson highlighted the need for fairness and spending control.
 3. David Chanaysk supported the need for fairness and suggested having a flexible submission schedule.
 4. Sandra Yanni also found it too restrictive and supports flexibility and multiple deadlines
 5. Anne Naeth suggested withdrawing and revisiting the motion.
 - iii. *Reconvened on this at 1:59 pm:*
 1. **Motion em-2026-20:** Motion that the Budget and Finance Committee develop a proposal regarding non-budgeted membership expenses. Moved by Preston Sorenson and seconded by David Chansyk. Carried.
7. President's Report (Richard Heck, 5 minutes)
 - a) Refer to the President's Report.
 - b) Resolution of Appreciation
 - i. On behalf of the CSSS Council, a Resolution of Appreciation is proposed:



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1. For Drs. Adam Gillespie (CSSS) and Joshua Nasielski (CSA), as co-Chairs of the LOC, as well as other LOC members, for their ongoing efforts to plan and organize the 2026 Joint CSSS/CSA Annual Conference.
 2. For Drs. Richard Farrell, outgoing Past-President, and Henry Chau, outgoing Western Councillor, for their service on the CSSS Council.
 3. For Dr. Preston Sorenson, CSSS Treasurer, and Lee-Ann Bauman, CSSS Secretary.
 4. For Nancy Zubriski (Business Office Manager), Susan Fisk (Social Media Manager), and Shirley Ho (Webmaster) for their service.
- ii. Motion to approve 2026 Resolution of Appreciation.
 1. Moved by Richard Heck and seconded by Angela Bedard-Haughn. Carried.
8. Reports of Councillors (25 minutes):
- a) Secretary (Lee-Ann Bauman, 5 min)
 - i. Refer to the Secretary's Report.
 - b) CJSS Editor (Anne Naeth, 5 min)
 - i. Refer to the CJSS Editor's Report.
 - c) Western Councillor (Henry Chau, 5 min)
 - i. Refer to the Western Councillor Report.
 - d) Eastern Councillor (Adrian Unc, 5 min)
 - i. Refer to the Eastern Councillor Report.
 - e) Graduate Student Representative (Dillon Muldoon, 5 min)
 - i. Refer to the Graduate Student Representative's Report.
- Omnibus motion to receive the Reports of Councillors, as presented. Moved by Dan Pennock and seconded by Angela Bedard-Haughn. Carried.*
9. Reports of Committees (40 minutes):
- a) Awards Committee (Judith Nyiraneza, 5 min)
 - i. Refer to the Awards Committee Report.
 - b) Education Committee (Maja Krzic, 5 min)
 - i. Refer to the Education Committee Report.
 - c) Pedology Committee (Daniel Saurette, 5 min)

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- i. Refer to the Pedology Committee Report.
- ii. 2-day preconference soil judging event (June 20 and 21, 2026)
- iii. CSSS soil classification and pedology tour post-conference (June 25, 2026).
- d) Soil Health Committee (Derek MacKenzie, 5 min)
 - i. Refer to the Soil Health Committee Report.
 - ii. Henry Chau or Derek MacKenzie can provide links for the engagement session for the National Soil Health Strategy in Canada, organized by AAFC and SCCC on March 30, 2026.
- e) Communications Committee (Henry Chau, 5 min)
 - i. Refer to the Communications Committee Report.
- f) 24WCSS Committee (Richard Heck, 5 min)
 - i. Refer to the 24WCSS Committee Report.
- g) Rules Committee (Richard Heck, 10 min)
 - i. Refer to the Rules Committee Report.

Omnibus motion to receive the Reports of Committees, as presented. Moved by Keith Reid and seconded by David Chanysk. Carried.

- h) Governance Documents – Asynchronous Electronic Ballot (Richard Heck)
 - i. **Motion em-2026-16:** “Motion that CSSS members approve, through voting by asynchronous electronic ballot, opening by Friday, March 27, 2026 and closing Friday, April 10, 2026, the adoption of the revised document ‘A By-Law Relating Generally to the Conduct of the Affairs of the Canadian Society of Soil Science Inc. (dated 02 March 2026)’, as presented/amended, which will supersede the document ‘A by-law relating generally to the conduct of the affairs of Canadian Society of Soil Science Inc. (dated 17 June 2014)’ effective immediately.” Moved by Dan Pennock, and seconded by Daniel Saurette, with all in favour.
 - ii. **Motion em-2026-17:** “Motion that CSSS members approve, through voting by asynchronous electronic ballot, opening by Friday, March 27, 2026 and closing Friday, April 10, 2026, the adoption of the document ‘General Administrative Rules, Procedures, and Guidelines (dated 02 March 2026)’ with its associated Appendices, as presented/amended, which will supersede the document ‘Rules and Guidelines Regarding Conduct of the Affairs of the Canadian Society of Soil Science (CSSS) Updated March 2021’ effective immediately.” Moved by Dan Pennock, and seconded by Angela Bedard-Haughn, with all in favour.
 - iii. **Action Item: Two voting reminders will be sent on April 2 and April 8, 2026.**

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10. Business arising from Minutes of 2025 AGM (10 minutes)
 - a) Soil Sampling and Methods of Analysis (Rich Farrell)
 - i. Ten volunteers have come forward; additional interest required.
 - ii. CRC Press remains open to copyright transfer.
 - iii. Barbara Cade-Menun noted that she is encountering the same issue with the Phosphorus Working Group in the USA.
 - iv. Please contact Rich Farrell if you have any ideas or suggestions for the Methods book.
 - v. Rich Farrell will reassess progress in six months.
 - b) Certified Professional Soil Scientist Program (Richard Heck)
 - i. Continued collaboration with Dawn Gibas.
 - ii. Strategic planning underway.
 - iii. Updates to be provided via newsletter.
 - c) Top-up funding for Students Attending the 23rd WCSS in Nanjing (Richard Heck)
 - i. No soil judging team of four assembled. No top-up funding required.
 - d) AI Product Promotion on Website (Henry Chau)
 - i. SoilGPT is posted on the CSSS website.
11. CSSS Annual Conferences (10 minutes)
 - a) Update on 2026 Conference in Guelph (Richard Heck, Daniel Saurette and Laura Van Eerd, 5 min)
 - i. Call for abstracts open.
 - ii. Early-bird registration until early May.
 - iii. Three tours and multiple workshops planned.
 - iv. Student social scheduled for Monday evening.
 - b) Update on 2027 Conference in Quebec City (Rich Farrell, 5 min)
 - i. Planning is underway for the conference, which will be at McGill University.
 - c) Proposals for 2028 Conference (10 min)
 - i. No proposals received.
12. New Business (10 minutes)
 - a) CSSS Sponsorship of Organic Phosphorus Workshop in Charlottetown (Barbara Cade-Menun)

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- i. The Organic Phosphorus Workshop was first held in Switzerland in 2003.
 - ii. The next workshop will be held in Prince Edward Island.
 - iii. This will be the first time the workshop is held in North America.
 - iv. Approximately 100 international experts are expected to attend.
 - v. Previous workshops have resulted in published conference books.
 - vi. Silver-level sponsorship is \$3,000 and includes promotion of the CSSS journal and WCSS.
 - vii. **Motion em-2026-18:** Motion to sponsor the OP Workshop at the Silver Level of \$3,000. Moved by Barbara Cade-Menun and seconded by Judith Nyiraneza. Carried.
 1. David Chanasyk raised a concern that the Society appeared to take a firm position earlier in the meeting on not approving new funding for 2026.
 2. Preston Sorenson clarified that this request had been under prior consideration and was therefore distinct from new, unanticipated funding requests.
 3. Daniel Saurette noted that he understood the proposed changes to spending processes would take effect in February 2027, not for the 2026 fiscal year.
 - b) Petition Request for the Closure of AAFC Centres (Richard Heck)
 - i. Communication from Alison Munson regarding downsizing AAFC.
 - ii. Asked in council to sponsor the petition.
 - iii. **Motion em-2026-19:** Motion to circulate the *Petition Request for the Closure of AAFC Centres* to the CSSS membership for individual members to sign at their discretion, without endorsement by CSSS. Moved by Keith Reid, and seconded by Dan Pennock. All AAFC staff have abstained. Carried.
13. Business Arising from the Floor
- a) None.
14. Adjournment
- a) Motion to adjourn moved by Barbara Cade-Menun and seconded by Roland Krobek. Carried.
 - b) Time: 2:01 PM.



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List of Attendees:

No.	Name
1	Adrian Unc
2	Amanda Diochon
3	Angela Bedard-Haughn
4	Anne Naeth
5	Asim Biswas
6	Barbara Cade-Menun
7	Blake Weiseth
8	Bryce Geisel
9	Dan Pennock
10	Daniel Saurette
11	David Chanasyk
12	Derek Lynch
13	Derek MacKenzie
14	Dillon Muldoon
15	Erica Prins
16	Henry Chau
17	Ikechukwu Agomoh
18	Jeff Schoenau
19	Jonna Jacob
20	Judith Nyiraneza
21	Keith Reid
22	Keri Bowering
23	Laura Van Eerd
24	Lee-Ann Bauman
25	Manasah Mkhabela
26	Mathew Swallow
27	Mervin St. Luce
28	Preston Sorenson
29	Raphael Deragon
30	Richard Farrell
31	Richard Heck
32	Roland Kroebel
33	Sandra Yanni

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No.	Name
34	Sanjay Gupta
35	Tandra Fraser
36	Tegbaru Gobezie
37	Zelalem Taye

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CANADIAN SOCIETY OF SOIL SCIENCE

SOCIÉTÉ CANADIENNE DE LA SCIENCE DU SOL

SPECIAL MEETING OF MEMBERS

Friday December 19, 2025

12:00pm to 1:30pm (EST)

MINUTES

1. Welcome

Quorum confirmed by Attendees

2. Approval of Agenda

Moved by Richard Farrell; Seconded by Asim Biswas; CARRIED.

3. Voting on substantive resolutions made during this meeting (5 minutes)

"Motion that CSSS Members approve, in accordance with the requirements of CSSS By-law 12 (17 June 2014), that voting on any substantive resolutions made at this meeting be done synchronously, by electronic means, opening at 12:01 am (CST) on Monday, December 22, 2025, and remaining open until December 30, 2025, or longer if necessary to obtain a Quorum of votes (10% , as per CSSS By-law 21) from Members in good standing, before voting is closed."

Moved by Adam Gillespie; Seconded by Asim Biswas; CARRIED.

4. CSSS Governance Review (60 minutes)

- a. Context provided by Richard Heck
- b. Overview of Revisions provided by Richard Heck
- c. Further Member Input and Approval invited by Richard Heck

- David Lobb suggested that should reflect further on the idea of increasing the Quorum (from current 10%), considering the difficulty in achieving high participation at meetings and asynchronous votes.

5. CSSS AGM (25 minutes)

- a. Context provided by Richard Heck
- b. Decoupling the 2026 CSSS AGM from the 2026 Annual CSSS Conference

"Motion that CSSS Members approved the decoupling of the 2026 Annual General Meeting from the 2026 CSSS Annual Conference, and then holding the 2026 AGM in virtual mode during the month of March, on a date and time to be determined by the CSSS Council."

Moved by Barbara Cade-Menun; Seconded by Adrian Unc. Voting to be asynchronous, as per item 3 above.

c. Link the 2026 transition of Council Members to the 2026 CSSS AGM
"Motion that CSSS Members approval the extension of the term of the current (2025) CSSS Council members until the close of the 2026 CSSS AGM."

Moved by Preston Sorenson; Seconded by Anne Naeth. Voting to be asynchronous, as per item 3 above.

- Barbara Cade-Menun expressed disagreement with terms starting after the AGM. Suggested elections to be held in December, terms starting in January for two years.

6. Adjournment

ATTENDEES (Registered by Teams):

Adam Gillespie	Moazame Mesgar
Adrian Unc	Nancy Zubriski
Anibal Castillo	Nastaran Chalabianlou Vayjoyeh
Anne Naeth	Olatunbosun Ayetan
Anshu Beri	Preston Sorenson
Asim Biswas	Richard Farrell
Barbara Cade-Menun	Richard Heck (Chairing)
Bobbi Helgason	Roland Kroebel
Brandon Heung	Sanjay
Brian Wiebe	Sean Smukler
Bryce Geisel	Semeton Amosu
Caroline Halde	Solmaz Fathololoumi
Cobus Stals	Stéphanie Lavergne
Daniel Saurette	Tegbaru Gobezie
David Chanasyk	Tirdad Naeimi
David Lobb	Yuhong Zhou
Derek Lynch	
Dillon Muldoon	
Ehsan Zarrinabadi	
Henry Chau	
Hiteshkumar Vasava	
Ikechukwu Agomoh	
Joanne Thiessen Martens	
Judith Nyiraneza	
Keith Reid	
Meihua Yang	
Mervin St.Luce	
Mitchell Timmerman	

Canadian Society of Soil Science 2025 Financial Report

Planned expenses for 2026 are indicated in the table below.

Expenses	
Bank charges	\$12.00
Legal and professional fees	\$2,000.00
Office expenses	\$13,000.00
Social Media	\$12,000.00
Student Award	\$30,000.00
Subcontractors	\$1,000.00
Travel	\$1,500.00
Total for Expenses	\$59,512

Based on previous membership incomes, \$25,000 is forecast for membership income in 2026 along with repayment for the 2026 conference of \$30,000. For total projected income of \$55,000 for 2026. Assuming 3 percent of the total assets can safely be spend, that means an additional \$19,346.69 can be spent for a total budget of \$74,346.69. Currently, \$14,834.69 of potential spending remains.

Motion: Requests for funding from the CSSS must be submitted by February 28 of the calendar year where the expenses will occur.

CSSS financial statements have been reviewed by Mr. Jeremy Kiss and Dr. Chantel Chizen.

Statement of Financial Position
Canadian Society of Soil Science
As of December 31, 2025

Distribution account	Total
Assets	
Current Assets	
Cash and Cash Equivalent	
Cash on hand	511.90
Chequing	94,819.86
Common Share Account	1,000.00
Credit Union Term F29 # 5	28,719.10
Savings	20,622.96
Surplus Shares	907.75
Total for Cash and Cash Equivalent	\$146,581.57
Accounts Receivable (A/R)	
Accounts Receivable (A/R)	0.00
Total for Accounts Receivable (A/R)	\$0.00
Prepaid expenses	-412.49
Total for Current Assets	\$146,169.08
Non-current Assets	
710-01373	77,013.67
710-01538	76,860.55
711-08052	94,255.68
ICS 533-53061	184,971.82
ICS 533-53062	134,312.19
ICS 533-53064	77,475.71
Total for Non-current Assets	\$644,889.62
Total for Assets	\$791,058.70
Liabilities and Equity	
Liabilities	
Total for Liabilities	
Equity	
Opening Balance Equity	148,990.36

Retained Earnings	714,458.45
Net Income	-72,390.11
Total for Equity	\$791,058.70
Total for Liabilities and Equity	\$791,058.70

Statement of Activity
Canadian Society of Soil Science
January 1-December 31, 2025

Distribution account	Total
Income	
Conference Repayment	30,292.69
Membership	19,030.81
Pawluk Donation	10,115.00
Royalty	4,240.10
Services	33,696.25
Total for Income	\$97,374.85
Gross Profit	\$97,374.85
Expenses	
Bank charges	66.01
Donation	4,350.00
Insurance	4,176.75
Legal and professional fees	1,974.00
Office expenses	12,161.61
Social Media	12,063.16
Student Award	20,356.50
Subcontractors	375.00
Travel	1,496.22
WCSS Legal	15,430.39
Total for Expenses	\$72,449.64
Other Income	
Interest earned	50,024.50
Total for Other Income	\$50,024.50
Profit	\$74,949.71



March 14, 2026

Ms. Lee-Ann Bauman, P.Ag.
Secretary, CSSS Council

Re: President's Report for 2025 CSSS Annual General Meeting

Dear Ms. Bauman,
Please accept this document as my President's Report for the 2026 CSSS Annual General Meeting...

Members of the Canadian Society of Soil Science,

It has been an honour to serve as President of the CSSS, and work with other talented and dedicated colleagues on Council. I am pleased to present a generally positive report and outlook for the CSSS.

Since detailed reports are being submitted by each the various committees and Council members, my report will serve to highlight some specific items. Many of these have already been reported through our Newsletters and website.

During the Fall'25 CSSS elections, Dr. Ikechukwu Ogomoh (AAFC Fredericton) was elected as our incoming Eastern Councillor, Dr. Mervin St. Luce (AAFC Swift Current) as our incoming Western Councillor, and Dr. Adrian Unc (Memorial University)-our outgoing Eastern Councillor-has been elected as our incoming President-Elect. These three colleagues, together with incoming President Judith Nyiraneza, Graduate Student Councillor Dillon Muldoon, CJSS Editor in Chief Anne Naeth, Treasurer Preston Sorenson and Secretary Lee-Ann Bauman, in addition to myself as Past-President, will constitute the 2026 CSSS Council. I would like to thank outgoing Past-President Richard Farrell and Western Councillor Henry Chau for their contributions. With the transition of CSSS Council members, we will begin using dedicated institutional emails (e.g. csss.presidentcouncil@gmail.com) for CSSS business communications-watch for details.

This past December, Dr. Judith Nyiraneza represented the CSSS during the 2025 Inter-Congress Meeting of the IUSS Council (held virtually). Among the various decisions taken by Council was the approval of the conversion of the *Proximal Soil Sensing Working Group* to a new Joint Commission 1.8/2.6 (between Division 1 Soils in Space & Time and Division 2 – Soil Properties & Processes) called *Soil Sensing*. Dr. Asim Biswas, who was Chair of the WG, has now transitioned to serve the same role in the Joint Commission for the 2026 to 2030 cycle.

A special CSSS business meeting was held virtually on December 19th, 2025, with strong turnout, despite being so close to the holiday break. This meeting focused on issues related to the ongoing refinements of our governance framework by our Rules Committee. Two key motions were subsequently approved through asynchronous electronic voting: 1) "Motion that CSSS Members approved the decoupling of the 2026 Annual General Meeting from the 2026 CSSS Annual Conference and then holding the 2026 AGM in virtual mode during the month of March, on a date and time to be determined by the CSSS Council." (62 for, 7 against, 0 abstained); and 2) "Motion that CSSS Members approval the extension of the term of the current (2025) CSSS Council members until the close of the 2026 CSSS AGM." (62 for, 4 against, 3 abstained). The proposed revisions to our governance structure and documents will be put to vote for adoption as part of the 2026 AGM.

As part of our ongoing planning and early preparations for the 24th World Congress of Soil Science, several significant activities are underway. The CSSS has engaged its membership to select individuals to serve as the 1st



and 2nd Vice Chairs of the four IUSS Divisions. Our list of nominees has been formally submitted to the IUSS Secretariat for consideration by the IUSS Electoral Committee – publication of this list will occur pending IUSS approval. The CSSS is also in the process of selecting and contracting a Professional Conference Organizer for the 24th WCSS – it is anticipated this process will be completed by early April. At the same time, we are actively working on our promotional booth at the 23rd WCSS in Nanjing and looking to engage our members who will be attending. Moving forward, we invite any members interested in helping to prepare for the 2030 WCSS in Toronto to reach out to the 24WCSS Committee.

In relation to the ongoing IUSS general elections, the CSSS has also complete a consultation of members to submit our Society’s preferences – these results are to be announced by the IUSS in May.

Dr. Asim Biswas, CSSS Fellow and former CSSS President, has been select as the 2026 IUSS Jeju Award recipient. This award is granted every four years to “a young and mid-career soil scientist who has innovative and outstanding accomplishments in education, research, or extension in soil sciences and has made a substantial contribution to IUSS missions.” Congratulations Asim!

At this time, we are also looking forward to our 2026 Annual Conference “Soils & Crops in Focus”, to be held jointly between the CSSS and the Canadian Society of Agronomy this coming June in Guelph, under the leadership of Dr. Adam Gillespie and his team.

I would also like to remind members to continue to follow progress on Bill S-230 “An Act respecting the development of a national strategy for soil health protection, conservation and enhancement”, sponsored by the Hon. Senator Robert Black, CSSS Honorary Life Member. The Bill has just recent completed Senate Committee stage (<https://www.parl.ca/legisinfo/en/bill/45-1/s-230>).

Finally, I look forward to continuing to work with other CSSS Council Colleagues, as well as our Business Office Manager, Nancy Zubriski, in the capacity of Past-President.

Sincerely,

Richard J Heck, P.Ag.
2025 CSSS President

2025 Secretary's Report:

a) Since the last AGM (on July 22, 2025, in Winnipeg, Manitoba), the council has met four times by video conferencing. The council voted on 24 motions by email and video conference.

b) Elections Report: The vacant positions for 2026 were President-Elect, Western Councillor, and Eastern Councillor. Adrian Unc was elected President-Elect. Mervin St. Luce was elected Western Councillor. Ike Agomoh was elected as Eastern Councillor.

For 2027, positions open on the council will be President-Elect, Secretary, and Graduate Student Representative. Please consider running for a council position, and please vote.

c) Outgoing council members, Rich Farrell (former Past-President) and Henry Chau (Western Councillor) are thanked for their contributions to the CSSS council. Adrian Unc fulfilled his term as Eastern Councillor and is now the President-Elect. Incoming council members are welcomed to the council. The CSSS is very grateful to those who let their names stand for election to the Society executive.

As of March 23, 2026, the CSSS Council is:

Past-President	Richard Heck
President	Judith Nyiraneza
President-elect	Adrian Unc
Secretary	Lee-Ann Bauman
Treasurer	Preston Sorenson
Graduate Student Representative	Dillon Muldoon
Eastern Councillor	Ike Agomoh
Western Councillor	Mervin St. Luce
CJSS Editor-in-Chief	Anne Naeth

CANADIAN JOURNAL OF SOIL SCIENCE EDITOR IN CHIEF REPORT
CANADIAN SOCIETY OF SOIL SCIENCE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
23 March 2026

1. Editorial Board, Canadian Science Publishing, Reviewers

Thank you to the Canadian Science Publishing editorial team who works with us to manage and develop the Canadian Journal of Soil Science. Elaine Stott is Publisher and Chief Executive Officer, Josephine Sciortino is Interim Senior Director Editorial, Rachel Pietersma is Interim Editorial Director, Morgan Tunzelmann is Journal Development Specialist, Rebecca Furlong is Director Peer Review, Alistair Coulthard is Peer Review Manager, Laurie Scott is Peer Review Coordinator, Melanie Slavitch is Director Integrity and Engagement, Jessica Reid is Editor Engagement Coordinator, Judy Hum-Delaney is Director Content Operations and Delivery, Neha Gupta is Manager Production, Scott Bryant is Production Editor.

We gratefully acknowledge all of our peer reviewers and thank them for their valuable contributions to publication of our journal.

Congratulations again to our outstanding reviewers for 2024. They are Dr Keith Reid, Guelph, Ontario; Dr Mohammed Y Fattah, University of Technology, Iraq; and Dr Hongjie Zhang, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Swift Current, Saskatchewan. The 2025 outstanding reviewers have not yet been posted. We are grateful for their consistent and expeditious delivery of comprehensive, discerning reviews to our journal submission authors.

We acknowledge our 2026 Canadian Journal of Soil Science Editorial Board who make our journal possible, and contribute significantly to its operations, development and reputation.

Co Editor In Chief: Dr M Anne Naeth, University of Alberta.

Co Editor In Chief: Dr Judith Nyiraneza, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.

Consulting Associate Editor: Dr Richard Farrell.

Associate Editors

Dr Ikechukwu Agomoh, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Fredericton.

Dr Stephen Crittenden, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Brandon.

Dr Nicola Day, Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand.

Dr Jacynthe Dessureault-Rompré, Laval University.

Dr Lakshman Galagedara, Memorial University of Newfoundland.

Dr Adam Gillespie, University of Guelph.

Dr Claudia Goyer, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Fredericton.

Dr Stephanie Grand, University of Lausanne, Switzerland.

Dr Brandon Heung, Dalhousie University.

Dr Vicky Lévesque, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Kentville.

Dr Sheng Li, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Fredericton.

Dr Afua Mante, University of Manitoba.

Dr Jude Odhiambo, University of Venda, South Africa.

Dr David Pelster, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Quebec.

Dr Joseph Yavitt, Cornell University, USA.

Dr Xining Zhao, Northwest Agriculture and Forestry University, China.

Thank you to our outgoing Associate Editors. We and our journal have greatly benefited from all of your work and dedication.

Dr Maja Krzic, University of British Columbia (2 terms).

Dr Mervin St Luce, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Swift Current (2 terms).
Dr Ben Thomas, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Agassiz (3 terms).
Dr Karen Thompson, Trent University (2 terms).

We have eight Associate Editors with terms ending in December 2026, and four with terms ending in December 2027. Let us know if you are interested in joining the Editorial Board as an Associate Editor, or if you know of someone we should consider inviting, including international Associate Editors. We welcome your participation and suggestions.

Reviewers for all areas of our journal's research continue to be difficult to procure. Other journals all face the same issue. If you are interested in being listed as a reviewer for our journal, or if you know someone we should consider for reviews, let us know. As members of the Canadian Society of Soil Science, if we each committed to review at least one paper a year for our journal, we could speed up the review process and enhance the quality of our journal.

2. Journal Metrics

The journal's two year impact factor is now 1.6, up 0.1 from last year. The five year impact factor is currently 1.7, up 0.1 from last year.

Our current turnaround time to decision decreased from 52.6 in 2024 to 50 days in 2025. We like this trend as turn around time is a major factor for journal submissions. We will continue with a large number of Associate Editors to facilitate this goal. Difficulty in procuring reviewers is the main reason for our high turn around time.

Our 2025 submissions and acceptances are steady for the last two years. We had 122 submissions in 2025, with 40 manuscripts accepted.

From 2024 to the present, 61 % of published authors were from Canadian institutions, followed by 16 % from China, and 8 % from the US. One of our longer term goals is to maintain this core Canadian authorship, while branching out to invite quality submissions from international researchers. In 2025 we had 124 submissions from Canada, 33 from China, 15 from United States, 6 from Iran, 5 from Brazil and 3 each from Morocco, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

The greatest number of publications for 2023 to 2025 by institution are: Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada 56, University of Saskatchewan 24, University of Guelph 19, University of Alberta 15, Universite Laval 12, McGill University 11, University of Manitoba 11, and Dalhousie University 9.

Total citations from our journal remain healthy at 3372 in 2025, up slightly from 3324 in 2023 with a high of 4249 in 2021.

3. Collections, Reviews

Collections and reviews are of critical importance for a journal as they contribute significantly to increased citations and impact factors. CJSS strongly supports collections by offering reduced charges of \$30 per page and \$250 for open access.

Our collection titled Soils and Disasters: Towards Resilience is led by Guest Editor Dr David Chanasyk, University of Alberta. It focuses on soil impacts from major disturbances or disasters of natural and anthropogenic origins, such as fire, floods, drought, volcanoes, deforestation, war, climate change, mining, natural resource use and urban sprawl. We seek submissions relating soils and disturbances, such as the role of soils in moderating risks, soil remediation, soil building (Anthroposols), impacts on food security and nature based climate solutions.

Our collection titled Soil Life and Function: Advances in Soil Microbiology and Biogeochemistry is being developed jointly with the Canadian Journal of Microbiology. Guest Editors are Dr Kari Dunfield, Dr Karen Thompson and Dr Monika Gorzelak. This special collection highlights current advances in soil microbial ecology, biogeochemistry and their functional implications for natural and managed systems.

Our collection titled On-Farm Experimentation: Sustaining Soil Health and Productivity has Guest Editors Dr Mervin St Luce, Dr Tandra Fraser and Dr Melissa Arcand. This collection focuses on research conducted in commercial farmer fields or at the watershed scale, and includes topics on beneficial management practices to enhance physical, chemical and biological soil properties, to reduce soil erosion and nutrient loading, and to decrease greenhouse gas emissions. We are interested in on farm data under different management practices or describing collaborations between farmers, researchers and/or other partners.

We are currently considering a collection on Soil Health. Please let us know if you have interest and ideas to discuss for special collections and/or reviews, as we are now scheduling for the upcoming year.

4. Scope, Articles

With our updated scope we are promoting more international and interdisciplinary content. We are interested in timely topics such as those linking soil with climate change, food security and sustainable development goals.

Our updated submission topic areas include: Ecology, biological processes and plant interactions; Composition and chemical processes; Physical processes and interfaces; Genesis, landscape processes and relationships; Contamination and environmental stewardship; Management for agricultural, forestry and urban uses; Agrometeorology.

Perspectives remains our relatively new journal section. Perspectives articles may focus on a research project or method, a general issue of importance to soil science, historical contexts or future directions. We are interested in hearing from researchers and practitioners across the field of soil science; in different career paths and stages, from early to retired, from academia to industry and government. Through Perspectives, we aim to provide a forum to foster conversations about soil science, its methods, practices and impact, to build the wider soil science community. Please send us your ideas for a Perspective article.

We continue to invite perspectives, standard research articles, reviews, short communications and discussions.

5. Approaches

In January 2025 CJSS moved to a continuous publication model. We now publish a single annual issue. Rather than being published in the eFirst section then transferred to an issue, articles move directly from Just-IN (advance proof) to the annual issue as soon as they are available. Pagination begins at page 1 for each article and articles are no longer sequentially numbered. Articles may be cited as usual, with the issue number removed from the reference.

Our journal now has a Bluesky account, and continues to be active on X (@canjsoilsci). Announcements will be shared by main Canadian Science Publishing accounts (@cdnsiencepub) and LinkedIn. If you are active on these platforms, please follow and share!

The Co Editors In Chief and journal staff are currently conducting and interpreting a horizon scan of the journal to identify new topics for the journal to publish in.

We continue our efforts to attract more young scientists to our journal. With our CSSS student council member, Dillon Muldoon, Morgan Tunzelmann from Canadian Science Publishing and Anne Naeth from our journal we are conducting the CJSS-CSSS Publishing Workshop for graduate students again in March 2026.

We have appointed a task force to work on a formal Publication Assistance Fund, and expect to share this with you in the upcoming months.

6. Photos

Although Canadian Science Publishing is no longer printing issues, we are always looking for good quality photos. These photos can be used as covers and in our social media promotion for collections, for our website and for other marketing assets.

We are continuing to run a student competition for photo submissions. The CSSS provides cash prizes for our winners and they get featured in the journal and the CSSS newsletter. One journal cover a year is chosen, so winners get a full 12 months of exposure, and \$250. Two additional prizes of \$125 each will be awarded for student photos used for collections and other promotional uses. I look forward to seeing your submissions.

The winner of the student photo contest for the 2026 Canadian Journal of Soil Science cover is Mr Abhijeet Pathy, a PhD candidate at the University of Alberta.

7. Actions For Improving Canadian Journal Of Soil Science

We continue to work with Canadian Science Publishing to develop and promote our journal, ensuring it continues to attract and publish world class research and remains a high caliber publication. We invite all Canadian Society of Soil Science members to serve as Associate Editors, reviewers and contributors. It is our journal and its success is in all of our hands.

We welcome you to contribute to the following ongoing action plans we have for our journal, and invite you to share any other suggestions.

- To encourage and seek regular manuscripts, short communications, review papers, collections on important and timely topics and perspectives from recognized researchers in their fields, and from anyone with a good soil science article to publish.
- To incentivize CSSS members to consider CJSS an important journal for publishing their work.
- To promote the journal and its community to graduate students; provide author workshops by CSP, eliminate page charges for some graduate student publications.
- To include international associate editors, to raise our international profile.
- To recognize annual outstanding reviewers and select a quarterly Editor's Choice article.
- To eliminate page charges for CSSS professor emeritus, fellows and retired submitters, and encourage them to write review articles and guest edit collections.
- To promote the journal at every opportunity including scientific meetings, webinars, society webpages and other platforms.
- To solicit information from our society members on what they would like to see in the journal to make it more appealing to them.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr M Anne Naeth
Editor In Chief, Canadian Journal of Soil Science
15 March 2026

2026 Western Councillor Report

The primary activity of the Western Councillor during the period from 2025/2026 was to update the CSSS website and coordinate matters-related communications through the communications committee and social media manager.

- Requests from several members for items needing to be posted (e.g., graduate student & postdoctoral opportunities, as well as several faculty positions) were received and processed.
- Online submission of professional and student opportunities is now live.
- Photographs of the award winners were loaded to replace those from the previous year. New award winners were also posted.
 - Recipient of the 2025 CSSS Fellow Award (Dr. Asim Biswas)
 - Recipient of the 2025 CSSS Early Career Professional Award (Dr. Daniel Saurette)
 - Recipient of the 2025 Karl C. Ivarson Scholarship (Levi Jonathan Lundell)
 - Recipient of the 2025 CSSS Pedology Travel Award (Dr. Solmaz Fathololoumi)
 - Recipient of the 2025 CSSS International Travel Award (Cindy Denoncourt & Jean Dominic Côté)
 - Recipient of the 2025 SSSA Don and Betty Kirkham Soil Physics Award (Dr. Bing Cheng Si)
 - Recipient of the 2025 SSSA Fellow Award (Asim Biswas)
 - Recipient of the 2025 ASA Fellow Award (Asim Biswas)
 - Recipient of the 2025 ASA Environmental Quality Research Award (Dr. Scott Chang)
 - Recipient of the 2025 Jackson Soil Chemistry and Mineralogy Award (Dr. Derek Peak Wen)
 - Recipient of the 2025 CSA Early Career Award (Dr. Gurcharn Singh Bar)
- Minutes from the 2025 AGM and meeting were uploaded to the site.
- March, June, November 2025 and March 2026 newsletters have been published on website.
- Call for the 2026 CSSS Award nominations was posted on the website.
 - New award criteria, dates, and templates were added to the website.
- The website was updated to reflect the election of the new President-Elect (Adrian Unc), Ikechukwu Agomoh (Eastern Councillor), and Western Councillor (Mervin St. Luce) The website was also updated to note transition Richard Heck from President to Past-president and President-elect to President for Judith Nyiraneza's Note: there was no change to the

Secretary (Lee-Ann Bauman), Graduate Treasurer (Preston Sorenson), CJSS Editor-in-Chief (Anne Naeth), and Graduate Student Representative (Dillon Brian Muldoon).

- Posted thanks to our outgoing council members, Dr. Henry Chau as Western Councilor, Dr. Adrian Unc and Richard Farrell as Past President.
- Posted “**Publishing Your Research: Panel and Discussion (March 18, 2026):** Hosted by the Canadian Society of Soil Science and the Canadian Journal of Soil Science!”
- Posted “**** **Introducing SoilGPT - A New AI Tool for Canadian Soil Science:** [Click here](#) for details!”
- Posted “Canadian Journal of Soil Science Photo Contest Winner 2026: 2026 cover is Abhijeet Pathy, a PhD student at the University of Alberta.”
- Personal/work email addresses are being replaced with csss.ca email addresses on the website. Addresses are listed below:

Ikechukwu Agomoh, Eastern Councillor, csss.easterncouncil@csss.ca

Mervin St. Luce, Western Councillor, csss.westerncouncil@csss.ca

Judith Nyiraneza, President, csss.presidentcouncil@csss.ca

Adrian Unc, President-Elect, csss.presidentelectcouncil@csss.ca

Richard Heck, Past-President, csss.pastpresidentcouncil@csss.ca

Lee-Ann Bauman, Secretary, csss.secretarycouncil@csss.ca

Preston Sorenson, Treasurer, csss.treasurercouncil@csss.ca

Anne Naeth, CJSS Editor, csss.cjsseditorcouncil@csss.ca

Dillon Muldoon, Student Representative, csss.gradrepouncil@csss.ca

Nancy Zubinski, Business Manager, csss.officemanagercouncil@csss.ca

Susan Fisk, Social Media Coordinator, csss.socialmediacouncil@csss.ca

- Information regarding several conferences was uploaded to the CSSS website:
 - *CANVAS 2025, Salt Lake City, Utah, United States of America | NOVEMBER 9-12, 2025*
 - *69th Manitoba Soil Science Society AGM and Conference, Winnipeg, Feb 5-6, 2026!*
 - *2026 Alberta Soil Science Workshop, Olds College, February 17-19, 2026!*
 - *Sustainability of Canadian Agriculture 2026 Virtual Conference March 3-5*
 - *Soils and Crops 2026, March 17-18, 2026, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan*

- *THE 4TH GLOBAL SOIL BIODIVERSITY CONFERENCE: APRIL 12-25, 2026, VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA*
- *23rd World Congress of Soil Science, June 7-12, 2026, Nanjing, China*
- *SOILS & CROPS IN FOCUS: Critical resources from coast to coast to coast, CSSS-CSA, June 20-25, 2026*

Social media update and Grounded in Soils blog report (pending)

Henry Chau, (2025 Western Councillor)

Social media and Grounded In Soils blog report submitted 03-22-26

Twitter (X) followers

We continue to grow Twitter (X) followers, up to 2,820 current followers (up from 2,780 July 2025 and 2,583 March 2024)

Facebook followers

Facebook followers also grew, to 2,569 up from 2,408 in July 2025 and 1,942 in March 2024. (Facebook Insights is not available anymore).

LinkedIn followers

LinkedIn followers are up to 989, from 866 in July 2025 and 591 reported in March 2024. We use LinkedIn for meeting promotion, LinkedIn has an average of 5% engagement, which is excellent.

Bluesky followers

We made our first Bluesky post for World Soil Day, 2024, and have grown to 156 followers, up from 114 in 2025.

Grounded In Soils Blog

The Grounded In Soils blog continues to update and publish material from the original 2021-2024 blog posts based on the “Digging Into...” book.

Another type of blog post is when a new CJSS comes out, if a paper seems like it could have public appeal, I write to the author and we work together on a blog. In addition to the blog post being promoted on social media, we include the DOI of the original CJSS paper. Any CSSS member or CJSS author is welcome to submit. We have had three of these blog posts published since March 2024 and one will publish next month:

- **Three native wetland species show promise in reclaiming mining tailings**, Dani Degenhardt, Natural Resources Canada, Canadian Forest Service, Northern Forestry Centre, Edmonton, AB, <https://groundedinsoils.wordpress.com/2024/05/18/three-native-wetland-species-show-promise-in-reclaiming-mining-tailings/>
- **Do cover crops affect soil thermal properties?** Samuel Haruna, Middle Tennessee State University, <https://groundedinsoils.wordpress.com/2025/01/18/do-cover-crops-affect-soil-thermal-properties/>
- **Conservation agriculture’s impact on soil organic carbon and total nitrogen**, Mervin St. Luce, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (Government of Canada) and the

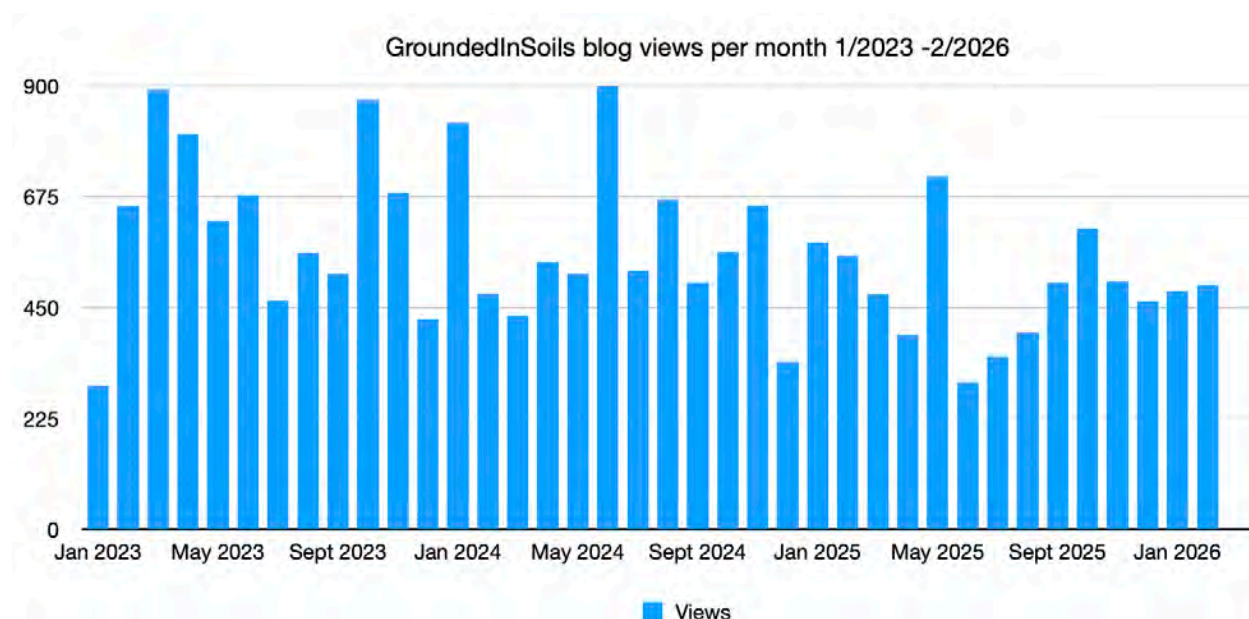
University of Saskatchewan, <https://groundedinsoils.wordpress.com/2025/02/15/conservation-agricultures-impact-on-soil-organic-carbon-and-total-nitrogen/>

- **Greenhouse gas emissions studied for biofuel crops in Southern Ontario** will publish April 4, 2026, Augustine Osei (University of Waterloo and University of Guelph)

The Life as a Soil Scientist blog post category continues to be a good professional/promotional resource for those members who participate. I hope more members, and especially graduate student members, participate in this category of GroundedInSoils. Since the last report, three members have participated and two more are scheduled in 2026, including the 2025 Pawluk scholarship winner, Prabin Ghimire. Kudos to Maren Oelbermann, because when I asked her for updated photos and information to repromote her Life as a Soil Scientist post, she referred me to two other members who did participate!

- <https://groundedinsoils.wordpress.com/2025/09/20/life-as-a-soil-science-professional-keith-reid/>
- <https://groundedinsoils.wordpress.com/2025/12/13/maren-oelbermann-life-as-a-soil-scientist-2/>
- <https://groundedinsoils.wordpress.com/2026/01/24/life-of-a-soil-scientist-augustine-osei/>

Overall views continue to be cyclical (first chart), which is to be expected with any social media that is does not have paid promotion. “Organic” readers continue to be the top category. This is people doing Google searches, such as “how does soil form” and Google suggests our blogs for information - the person clicks on the link and reads the CSSS blog post. This is great, and expected, as the longer posts are up, and the more they are read, the more Google prioritizes them in searches users make. See the second chart below.



GroundedInSoils blog referrers March 2025-Feb 2026



2026 Eastern Councillors' Report

- The primary independent task undertaken was the drafting and editing of the CSSS newsletter. Three editions were published in 2025, with one edition published in 2026.
- In collaboration with the Western Councillor, updated the Terms of Reference for the CSSS Communications Committee.
- Provided advice on procedures related to the recruitment and hiring of a Communications Manager.
- Advised on governance considerations related to reassessing the scope of responsibilities for the Eastern and Western Councillors.

2026 Canadian Society of Soil Science Student Representative Report

Submitted by Dillon Brian Muldoon

In addition to attending regularly scheduled Committee meetings, my main focus as the Graduate Student Representative has been to create more opportunities for Graduate Student Members to connect with the society. I have distributed a survey to gather suggestions from Graduate Student Members on webinar topics and other ways to stay engaged throughout the year. I also collaborated with Canadian Science Publishing to organize a webinar titled "Publishing Your Research: Panel and Discussion." Additionally, I am assisting with planning the Graduate Student Mixer during the CSSS annual conference, in partnership with the local organizing committee and the Canadian Society of Agronomy. Details are outlined below. Moreover, I aim to continue providing avenues for graduate students to network through career development and community-building events such as workshops, seminars, and publishing opportunities.

CSSS Graduate Student Survey

- Results:
 - **A desire for additional opportunities to connect throughout the year, including: Professional Development, Presentation Opportunities, Panel Discussion - academic and non-academic, Mental Health workshops, Job Applications, Hands-on Workshops, and Publishing.**
 - **An increase in the Graduate Student Membership from \$10 to \$20**
 - **Additional awards at the CSSS conference for Student Presentations**
 - **Increased engagement at CSSS conference student socials**

Publishing Your Research: Panel and Discussion

- Location:
Online
- Date and Time:
Wednesday, March 18th, 2026, 1:00 to 2:30 pm ET
- Panel:
Dr. M. Anne Neath – co-Editor-in-Chief, Canadian Journal of Soil Science
Morgan Tunzelmann – Journal Development Specialist, Canadian Journal of Soil Science
Dillon Muldoon – Graduate Student Representative, Canadian Society of Soil Science
- Registration:
https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/1017708419473/WN_s5avliaXT2mpL59CvvnGSw

Soils and Crops In Focus Graduate Student Mixer

- Location:
TBD, Guelph, Ontario
- Date:
Monday June 22nd

Sincerely,



Dillon Brian Muldoon, M.Sc., A.Ag.
Graduate Student Representative, Canadian Society of Soil Science

Awards Committee Report since the last AGM in July 2025

Chair: Judith Nyiraneza; Members: Noura Ziadi and Joann Whalen

All recommendations by the Awards Committee were approved by the CSSS Council

CSSS FELLOW AWARD: This honour is awarded to society members with a distinguished record of accomplishment in soil science and service to the society. Dr. **Asim Biswas** was the successful candidate.

CSSS EARLY CAREER AWARD: This award category recognizes professionals who have made an outstanding contribution to soil Science within five years after completing their most recent degree. Dr. **Daniel Saurette** was the successful candidate.

CSSS HONORARY MEMBERSHIP: This award category recognizes non-members who have rendered valuable or special service to soil science. We have not received any nomination in 2025.

CSSS TRAVEL AWARD TO ATTEND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE: This award allows student CSSS members to broaden the scope of their work and expand their relationships with soil Science researchers outside Canada. We had three applications in total: two successful candidates, one presented during the last AGM. The second candidate was **Jean Dominic Côté, PhD student at Université Laval** who was awarded \$2,321 to attend the European Soil Science Society annual meeting in Spain, September 8-12, 2025. The third candidate was planning to attend a meeting from November 9-12, 2025, in Salt Lake, Utah but could not submit the abstract on time and recused themselves.

BENTLEY AWARD FOR ORAL PRESENTATION

This award was initiated in 1983 to encourage and recognize excellence in oral presentations by students at the CSSS Annual Meetings. It honors Dr. Fred Bentley who was CSSS President in 1956-57 and nominated CSSS Fellow in 1973. The award winner receives \$500, the first runner-up \$300, and the second runner-up \$200. Fifty-eight students competed for oral presentations and recipients in **2025** were:

1st: Amy Wells (MSc), University of British Columbia
2nd: Samantha Earl-Goulet (PhD), University of Guelph
3rd: Kristen MacMillan (PhD), University of Manitoba

PRESIDENT'S AWARD FOR POSTER PRESENTATION

This award was established in 1992 to foster excellence in student poster presentations as a means of disseminating research results. Award winner receives \$500, the first runner-up \$300, and the second runner-up \$200. Thirty-nine students competed for poster presentations and recipients of these awards in **2025** were:

1st: Takudzwa Nawu (PhD), University of Manitoba
2nd: Rucchini Sovis (MSc), University of Winnipeg

3rd: Jedida Chirchir (PhD), University of Alberta
STEVE PAWLUCK SCHOLARSHIP:

This scholarship of 2,000 is administered by CSSS to support graduate students enrolled at a recognized Canadian University in programs focused on soil science. There were three applicants and the successful candidate was:

Prabin Ghimire, PhD student at Université Laval.

MODIFICATIONS TO TWO AWARDS CATEGORIES:

CSSS Pedology Travel Award: A total of \$6,000 is available, with individuals awards now fixed at \$ 2,000.

CSSS-CJSS Student Travel Awards for International Soil Science Meetings: A total of \$ 9,000 is available, with individual awards fixed at \$3,000.

The rationale for these modifications is to support a larger number of members, particularly students attending international conferences. To facilitate this, one-third of the total available funds will be allocated at each application period: March 15, June 15, and September 15. Reimbursements will be issued based on submitted receipts for registration, travel, meals and accommodation.

Soil Education Committee Report

2026 CSSS AGM (online)

Co-chairs: Dr. Maja Krzic; Dr. Amanda Diochon; Dr. Tom Yates and Dr. Chantel Chizen

The goal of the Soil Education Committee of the Canadian Society of Soil Science is to enhance science education in Canada at both the post-secondary and K-12 levels. Committee membership is open to all members of the Canadian Society of Soil Science. As part of achieving our goal the committee convenes a soil education session at most CSSS annual meetings.

At the 2025 CSSS Conference held in Winnipeg, MB the Soil Education Committee convened a very well attended session (entitled – Innovative Approaches in Soil Science Education) with 1 poster and 6 oral presentations.

The Soil Education Committee held its AGM meeting on July 21, 2025 as part of the 2025 CSSS 2025 Conference. The Education AGM was well attended. A progress report on couple on-going initiatives has been presented, including a follow-up survey of soil science offerings across the Canadian postsecondary institutions. The objective of this project is to compare the status of Canadian soil science course offerings in 2015 and 2025. A working group of 13 members started the work in October 2024 and is currently summarizing findings in a manuscript that will be submitted to the CJSS by fall of 2026. Another initiative that is starting to take off will focus on an evaluation of the use of the open-access textbook – Digging into Canadian Soils: An Introduction to Soil Science (released in 2021). Most of the discussion at the 2025 AGM of our Committee focused on the certification/accreditation needed to work as a soil scientist, with overview of examples from the US and Australia.

In August 2025, we developed terms of reference for the CSSS Soil Education Committee, which was shared with the CSSS Council on August 13, 2025.

At the 2026 CSSS Annual Meeting in July in Guelph, ON the Soil Education Committee will convene a Soil Education Session entitled - *Soil Science Education: Current Practices and Future Directions*, and will also have its AGM where to discuss future initiatives of our committee.

Pedology Committee Annual Report 2026

Co-chairs: Angela Bedard-Haughn (academia)

Daniel Saurette (government)

Secretary: Brandon Heung (academia)

1. Annual meeting occurred July 22nd, 2025, in Winnipeg.
2. Next meeting will occur in Guelph at the CSSS-CSA conference June 20- 25, 2026
3. Canadian System of Soil Classification:
 - a. Development continues with edits being incorporated into a digital version of the 3rd edition
 - b. Target final version June 2026
 - c. Attempt to release at CSSS 2026 in Guelph
4. Engagement with AAFC/CanSIS
 - a. Members of the Pedology Committee several regular meetings with AAFC/CanSIS to raise and discuss concerns with the Soil Landscape Grids of Canada and general lack of collaboration between CanSIS and the soil science community in Canada (government, academia, private sector)
 - b. These technical meetings concluded in January 2026. Members of the Pedology Committee have drafted a letter to AAFC/CanSIS summarizing all previous discussions
 - c. Additional meetings specifically to discuss collaboration between AAFC/CanSIS and the soil science community may be initiated after the federal government concludes its Work Force Adjustment
5. Upcoming Pedology Events:
 - a. CSSS-CSA pre-conference Soil Judging Contest June 20-21, 2026
 - b. CSSS-CSA post-conference Soil Classification and Pedology Tour, June 25th, 2026. Tour is focused on in-field examination of profiles affected by changes coming in the CSSC v4

CJSS Special Collection: Responses to the Senatorial Report “Critical Ground”

Suggested titles:

1. Advancing a National Soil Health Strategy for Canada
2. Advancing Soil Security in Canada
3. The Canadian Soil Science Community respond to “Critical Ground”

Purpose:

Report is very policy based, how does this translate to science and knowledge gaps and boots on the ground work being done by the Canadian Soil Science Community. AAFC employees may not want to comment on the report. However, this is more of a science report on state of knowledge and how to move forward.

Core topics:

1. Response to the 2024 Critical Ground report following the sections of the report
 - a. Introduction A1
 - b. Policy
 - i. National Soil Health Strategy and Advocate A2
 - ii. Social Needs A3
 - iii. Indigenous Perspective A4
 - c. Technology
 - i. Soil health scoring framework A5
 - ii. MIR spectroscopy A6
 - iii. GIS and remote sensing A7
 - iv. Soil Data Institute A8
 - d. Education
 - i. K to12 content A9
 - ii. University education A10
 - e. Funding
 - i. Impact of funding cuts to AAFC A11
 - ii. Impact of funding cuts to Living Labs A12

Guest editors:

1. Derek MacKenzie
2. Laura Van Eerd
3. Emmanuel Mapfumo
4. Barbara Kischuk?

We need to suggest a list of potential authors for these articles.

A1 – Derek, Laura, Emmanuel
A2 – Adrian Paul, Susie, Derek
A3 – Sabrina Peric, others?
A4 – Melissa, others?
A5 – Jenny, Derek, Laura
A6 – Gordon, Mervin, Adam

A7 – Preston, others?

A8 – Preston, Brandon, Derek, David

A9 – Maja, Tom, Amanda

A10 – Emmanuel, Maja, Tom

A11 – Dean's of Ag faculties

A12 – JC, Edward, Cam

Summary of Activities of the CSSS Soil Health Commission (2025–2026)

Over the past year, the Soil Health Commission of the Canadian Society of Soil Science (CSSS) has focused on advancing national dialogue on soil health policy, strengthening scientific collaboration, and supporting knowledge mobilization within the Canadian soil science community.

A major area of activity has been engagement with the development of a National Soil Health Strategy (NSHS) for Canada. Commission members reviewed presentations and updates on the emerging strategy and discussed the potential role of CSSS in contributing scientific expertise to its development. Discussions emphasized several priority themes for national coordination, including extension and learning, soil health evaluation and data systems, research and education, and communication and stakeholder engagement. Members also discussed policy developments such as Bill S-230, which proposes establishing a national soil health strategy, and considered potential funding pathways through federal strategic development programs.

Another major initiative undertaken by the commission has been coordinating a CSSS response to the report *Critical Ground*. Members discussed organizing working groups to develop a scholarly response and considered publishing a special issue or article collection in the Canadian Journal of Soil Science (CJSS). The proposed special issue would include perspectives, review articles, and other contributions examining the report's implications for soil science research and policy in Canada. Efforts included identifying potential guest editors and recruiting authors from within the soil science community and related disciplines.

In preparation for the 2026 CSSS Annual Meeting, the commission has also been actively involved in coordinating soil health programming. Members discussed organizing multiple soil health sessions and a potential symposium focused on soil health themes, while ensuring scheduling did not conflict with related sessions such as soil spectroscopy. Options considered included integrating the symposium with other events such as the commission's lunch meeting or relocating it within the conference schedule. These efforts aim to strengthen the visibility of soil health research within the society's annual scientific program.

Organizational developments within CSSS were also discussed during the year. The society introduced changes to governance structure, including renaming sub-committees as commissions to better distinguish administrative functions from facilitation and coordination roles. The Soil Health Commission will report its activities at the society's Annual General Meeting scheduled for March 23, 2026.

Looking ahead, key next steps identified by the commission include finalizing the proposal for the CJSS special issue responding to *Critical Ground*, recruiting contributing authors, and continuing to support the development of the National Soil Health Strategy through scientific input and collaboration. The commission will also continue organizing soil health sessions and knowledge-exchange opportunities within the CSSS annual meeting and broader Canadian soil science community.

CSSS Soil Health Committee
Meeting March 6, 2026
Agenda

Attendees: Richard, Derek, Amanda, Claudia, Judith, Matthew, Brandon, Henry, Sandra, Adrian, Adam, Nafsa

Regrets: David, Emmanuel, Barbara

Agenda:

1. Soil Health Session at the annual meeting
2. Soil Health Symposium at the annual meeting
3. Canadian Journal of Soil Science Special Issue: Response to Critical Ground
4. Changes to AGM (March 23,2026)
5. Open Discussion

Discussion:

1. Many Soil Health Sessions at the June conference this year, please submit abstracts.
2. Misunderstanding with NSHS Symposium format and timing, scheduled for Sunday, but we don't want to conflict with Soil Spectroscopy
 - a. Option a – move it to the AGM time slot and have catering, cash bar, or pot luck
 - b. Option b – move it to regular afternoon time slot
 - c. Option c – combine it with the Soil Health Commissions lunch meeting
3. Special collection on Critical ground
 - a. Draft returned with request to simplify and generate potential author list, I will circulate potential author list, then submit revised draft to CJSS.
 - b. Journal development officer can help with author selection – Advertise or just invite?
4. AGM on March 23, 2026
 - a. Decoupled from meeting NEW
 - b. TOR change for sub-committees to be called commissions to separate administration from facilitation
5. Discussion from the floor
 - a. None

Action Item:

1. Derek – reach out to potential authors for Critical Ground response
2. Derek – Send draft to CJSS for special collection
3. Derek – Soil Health Commission report for AGM March 23, 2026

CSSS Soil Health Committee
Meeting Nov. 25, 2025
Agenda

Attendees: Emmanuel, Laura, Bobbie, David, Adrian, Paul, Jenny , Adam, Charlotte, Amana, Judith

Agenda:

1. Collaboration on the National Soil Health Strategy
2. CSSS response to Critical Ground
3. Open Discussion

Discussion:

1. Collaboration on the National Soil Health Strategy
 - NSHS - Presentation
 - Paul - follow-up w/funding - AAFC proposal in review
 - Bill S-230 - second reading in senate to establish a NSHS
 - Draft strategy can be reviewed
 - 4-5 topic areas - need working group + subject matter experts.
 - Extension + learning
 - Evaluation + data
 - Research + Education
 - Communication + Engagement
 - David- is funding in jeopardy because of cut -bucks to AAFL
 - not sure, but there is a commitment in GOV response to support
 - Claudia - what type of funding?
 - strategic development program.
2. CSSS response to Critical Ground
 - Laura – lunch meeting - sign-up for working group
 - CSSJ - special issue
 - Brandon - response from society is challenging, might not reflect views of every one, smaller working groups
 - Adrian - this may still be difficult to organize.
 - guest editor to badger people to write divide up different sections.
 - start w, people who contributed testimony
 - EU - soil health directive - 60/40 vote
 - why did 40% say no? Document.
 - Bobbie - open to global input - Aus./SHI
 - peer-reviewed.
 - CSS J- Perspectives, review.
 - Reach out to Anne, if yes, reach out for guest editors. – all types of articles.
 - Judith - co-editor w, Anne - Dec. 10th meeting outline

Action Item:

1. Outline for CSSJ special issue to Anne and Judith for Dec. 10th meeting

2026 Communication Committee Report

- The communications committee members in 2026 include the Western Councillor (Chair, Mervin St. Luce). Eastern Councillor (Co-Chair, Eastern Ikechukwu Agomoh), Past President (Richard Heck), a member of the Education Committee (Maja Krzic or Amanda Diochon or Chantel Chizen), CJSS Editor-in-Chief (Anne Naeth), and 2 Ad hoc (Richard Farrell and Nate Basiliko) members.
- An Ad hoc front-end subcommittee was formed in 2024 to deal with communication unification through the website, social media and email to the membership. The 2026 membership for this subcommittee includes Western Councillor (Mervin St. Luce), Social Media Manager (Susan Fisk), Admin (Nancy Zubriski), and Webmaster contractor (Shirley Ho).
- Soil GPT ([Soil GPT](#)) link has been added to the website.
- Shirley Ho (Webmaster Contractor) has been contracted with a proof-of-concept website redesign based on survey that went out to membership.
- A communications manager was proposed, and a roles and responsibilities are in the GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE RULES, PROCEDURES, AND GUIDELINES proposed revision document.
 - Contracted for remunerated service by council for a 2-year term, on recommendation of the communications committee.
 - May be reappointed for multiple terms.
 - Member of the communications committee.
 - Reports to the co-chairs of the communications committee.
 - Provides strategic support relating to the society's communications, specifically to increase reach among priority stakeholder groups and increase visibility.
 - Manages the society website, social media, and newsletter, and develops digital graphical content, ensuring accuracy and engagement.
 - Prepares and assists with communications materials, including news, feature articles, media statements, blog posts, and key messaging documents.
 - Performs additional duties that may be assigned by the co-chairs of the communications committee.
 - May attend council meetings (non-voting member) to participate in relevant discussions and must withdraw for discussions constituting a conflict of interest.
- The CSSS website will be using csss.ca email addresses to ensure there are no issues with emails directed to incorrect recipients.
- Solicitation of content from our membership
 - CSSS is looking for more content as recycling of old blog posts is occurring.
 - Abstract from thesis, layman's term from students
 - Life as a Soil Science Professional
 - CJSS perspectives or noteworthy articles
- The communications committee would like to thank the ongoing support from Nancy Zubriski (Admin), Susan Fisk (Social media manager), and Shirley Ho (Webmaster contractor).

Henry Chau, Western Councillor (2025 Chair of Communications Committee)

Life as a Soil Science Professional

Special request: participate in our Life as a Soil Scientist profiles!

Our Life as a Soil Scientist section of the blog is meant to encourage students to pursue a career in soil science. We need your help to let them know what it's like to be a professional! Be like Maren Oelberman, Grace Gowera, Amanda Diochon, Michael Seome Swafo, Timi Ojo, and Daniel Saurette - and follow the instructions below. View Timi's profile [here](#):

Here are the questions to answer, about 50 words each, please:

- When did you first learn about soil science?
- What interests you most about soil?
- What was your path to becoming a soil scientist?
- What is your favorite thing about soil?

In addition, please send at least two photos of you in "action" shots. These can be in the field or lab. Please provide the photographer's name and your Twitter handle. Email csss.soils@gmail.com for more information!

24th World Congress of Soil Science Committee of the Canadian Society of Soil Science

March 14, 2026

Ms. Lee-Ann Bauman, P.Ag.
Secretary, CSSS Council

Re: 2025-26 Annual Report to CSSS Annual General Meeting

Dear Ms. Bauman,

Please accept this document as the 2025-26 Annual Report of the 24WCSS Committee. This represents a synthesis of information provided in the detailed reports #16 to #18 submitted to the CSSS Council, as well as more recent developments.

A) The 24WCSS Committee, Subcommittees & Working Groups:

1) The composition of the 24WCSS Committee is currently: Drs. Richard J. Heck (as Chair), Jacynthe Masse (as Vice-Chair), Richard Farrell (CSSS Council Liaison), David Lobb, Daniel Saurette, Amanda Diochon, Asim Biswas, Kari Dunfield, Joann Whalen, Louis-Pierre Comeau, Tegbaru Gobezie and Preston Sorenson.

2) The *24WCSS Technical Tours* Subcommittee, established in 2023, the chair position is current vacant. Terms-of-Reference yet to be approved.

3) The *2030 International Soil Judging Contest* Subcommittee, established in 2024, is being chaired by Dr. Daniel Saurette, who is also a member of the IUSS International Soil Judging Contest Working Group. Terms-of-Reference were approved during the October 2025 24WCSS Committee meeting.

4) The *24WCSS Event Branding* Working Group, established in 2025 meeting, is being co-chaired by Drs. Jacynthe Masse and Asim Biswas. Terms-of-Reference were approved during the October 2025 24WCSS Committee meeting.

5) During its October 2025 meeting, the 24WCSS Committee established a *24WCSS Finances* Subcommittee and approved its Terms of Reference, with Dr. Preston Sorenson being selected as chair.

6) During its December 2025 meeting, the 24WCSS Committee established: 1) a *24WCSS Promotion & Outreach* Subcommittee and approved its Terms-of-Reference, with Dr. Louis-Pierre Comeau being selected as chair and Dr. Tegbaru Gobezie as member; 2) a *24WCSS PCO Selection* Working Group, currently comprised of Drs. Richard Heck, Jacynthe Masse, Richard Farrell and Joann Whelan; 3) a *24WCSS IUSS Nominations* Working Group and approved its Terms-of-Reference, comprised of Richard Heck, Jacynthe Masse, Richard Heck, Daniel Saurette and Judith Nyiraneza.

7) Since the 2024-25 Annual Report, the 24WCSS Committee met three times: 17 October'25 (rescheduled from 11 September'25), 08 December'25, and 24 February'26.

B) Development of a Definitive Logo for the 24th WCSS:

1) The logo currently in use by the 24WCSS Committee remains that which was developed for our first bid in 2018, and which was revised for our second bid in 2022.

2) During November & December of 2025, the *24WCSS Event Branding Working Group* reached out to CSSS members by email (through the CSSS Business Office) to invite ideas for a new definitive logo for the 24th WCSS. Niaka Agence Créative Autochtone (of Wôlinak QC) has been contracted by the CSSS to design the new logo. It is expected that this process will be completed by the end of March of 2026. Once approved by the 24WCSS Committee, the new logo will be used on all communications, outreach and promotional activities for the 24th WCSS.

C) Update on the 24th WCSS to the IUSS Council:

1) A progress report for the 24th WCSS was presented during the 2025 Virtual Annual IUSS Council Meeting in December 2025. This included updates on completed contracting, the ongoing search for a PCO and selection of nominees for the 1st and 2nd Divisional Vice-Chair positions, as well as on the evolution of our 24WCSS Committee structure.

D) Progress related to 2030 International Soil Judging Contest:

1) During Fall'25 & Winter'26, efforts were made to recruit a team of four graduate students, who were already planning to attend the 23rd WCSS, to participate in the 2026 International Soil Judging Contest. CSSS Council was prepared to cover the extra costs for the team to participate in the event. Unfortunately, there was not sufficient interest to register a team.

2) As part of the 2026 "Soils & Crops in Focus" Joint Conference, Daniel Saurette, together with colleagues from Guelph, are organizing a student soil judging contest.

3) Daniel Saurette and Richard Heck continue to participate on the IUSS International Soil Judging Contest Working Group. An official website has been established by the Working Group (<https://soiljudgingiuess.github.io/>), on which resources are being published.

E) Nominations of IUSS Divisional 1st & 2nd Vice Chairs:

1) As hosts for the 24th WCSS, in accordance with the IUSS Statutes and Bye-laws, the CSSS is required to nominate individuals to serve as 1st and 2nd Vice Chair of each of the four IUSS Divisions during the period 2026 to 2030. In addition to their role in the IUSS Divisions, these individuals will form the core of the *24WCSS Scientific Program Subcommittee*.

2) In early January 2026, the *IUSS Nominations Working Group* sent out an invitation to all CSSS members (through the CSSS Business Office) inviting applications for the eight positions. Eleven applications were received. The Working Group presented a list of nominees which was approved by the 24WCSS Committee and the CSSS Council and has been formally submitted to the IUSS Electoral Committee, through the IUSS Secretariat. Publication of these results will be done pending approval of the IUSS.

F) Contracting Professional Conference Organizers:

1) In early January'26, the 24WCSS Committee and CSSS Council approved the Request for Proposals (RfP for Professional Conference Organizer (PCO)), as developed by the *24WCSS PCO Selection Working Group*.

2) In mid January '26, RfPs were sent to five national PCOs, by the *24WCSS PCO Selection Working Group*, of which four submitted proposals by the early February'26 deadline.

3) Evaluation of the four proposals have now been completed, with two PCOs being invited to interviews with the *24WCSS PCO Selection Working Group* during the last week of March'26. It is anticipated that the selection and contracting of PCO will be completed by mid April'26.

G) Development of Promotional Material:

1) In early March'26, the *24WCSS Promotion & Outreach* Subcommittee contacted CSSS members by email (through the CSSS Business Office), to solicit videos for promotional material for our booth in Nanjing and beyond. One of these requests is for members to record a short video (~ 30 seconds or so) of themselves extending an invitation to attend the 24th WCSS – examples of a short script were provided in the announcement. Colleagues were also invited to submit any existing videos (e.g., YouTube or Vimeo links) that they may have produced regarding their research or other professional activities. As was done for bid in Glasgow, we plan to prepare a compilation of these video clips which will run in our booth in Nanjing.

H) General Engagement of CSSS Members and other Stakeholders:

1) In effort to continue to engage CSSS members on general issues related the IUSS and the 24th WCSS, the Chair of the 24WCSS Committee submitted contributions to the August'25, December'25 and March'26 CSSS Newsletters under the topic of "Canada in the IUSS - Towards 24th WCSS and Beyond". Regular contributions will continue to be submitted to upcoming issues.

2) *A standing invitation to participate on the 24WCSS Committee, as well as on any of its Subcommittees or Working Groups, is extended to all CSSS Members.*

I) Conflict-of-Interest Avoidance:

1) Considering my (Richard Heck) current simultaneous roles as Chair of the 24WCSS Committee, 2025 President of the CSSS, as well as Chair of IUSS Division 1 and member of the IUSS Executive Committee, I have formally abstained from making any motions and from participating in any votes, within the CSSS Council, respectively, related to items in Sections B, E & F above.

J) Other Upcoming Items:

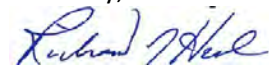
1) Over the next three months, the *24WCSS Promotion & Outreach* Subcommittee will be developing materials for our 24th WCSS promotional booth at the 23rd WCSS. Anyone interested in contributing to this effort is welcome, and should contact the Subcommittee Chair, Louis-Pierre Comeau. *Members are especially being asked to submit (to 24wcscs@gmail.com) any video contributions by the end of March'26.*

2) Prior to the end of 2026, several major issues will be addressed: 1) The 24WCSS Committee will work with the PCO (to be contracted) to refine the framework for interactions; 2) The *24WCSS Finances* Subcommittee will work with the CSSS Council, to refine the financial framework for the 24th WCSS; 3) A *24WCSS Scientific Program* Subcommittee will be established and will meet to discussion initial vision and strategy.

3) The remaining regular 2026 meetings of the 24WCSS Committee are scheduled for the 21st of May, 17th of September and 17th of December. A special session is being proposed during this year's CSSS/CSA Joint Annual Conference in Guelph, to provide updates and encourage engagement by member.

With the close of the 23rd WCSS, this coming June, the eyes of the soil science world will shift to us, as we prepare for the 24th WCSS in 2030.

Sincerely,



Dr. Richard J Heck, P.Ag.
Chair, 24WCSS Committee
24wcscs@gmail.com

March 14, 2026

Ms. Lee-Ann Bauman, P.Ag.
Secretary, CSSS Council

Re: Rules Committee Report for 2025 CSSS Annual General Meeting

Dear Ms. Bauman,

Please accept this document as the Rules Committee Report for the 2026 CSSS Annual General Meeting. It conveys key developments since the 2025 AGM.

A) Composition of the 2025 Rules Committee:

1) As per the *Rules and Guidelines Regarding Conduct of the Affairs of the Canadian Society of Soil Science (CSSS) Updated March 2021*, the composition of the Rules Committee for 2025 has been me, as 2025 CSSS President, as well as Drs. Richard Farrell and Anne Naeth, as Past-Presidents.

B) Consultation:

1) Results of the CSSS member survey of July'25 were fully published in the August'25 CSSS Newsletter.

2) During Fall'26, members of the CSSS Council were engaged to provide feedback on the proposed revisions to governance structure and documents.

3) Drafts of the revised governance documents were circulated to members for review prior to the Special Business Meeting of the CSSS held virtually on 19th December 2025. Members in attendance were given the opportunity to address any aspect of the proposed changes.

4) Final proposed revisions of the governance documents, taking into consideration feedback from consultations was presented to the CSSS Council during its meeting on 20th February of 2026. During this meeting, the Council passed the motion: "**Motion em-2026-05:** Motion that, following the refinements to the bylaws and rules as discussed, the documents will be circulated to the membership in the lead-up to the AGM, and a vote will follow after the AGM."

5) On 05 March 2026, copies of the proposed revised 'By-laws' and 'General Administrative Rules, Procedures and Guidelines' documents, both dated 02 March 2026, were circulated to CSSS members by email, through the CSSS Business Office.

C) Highlights:

1) The 'By-laws' document was updated with the assistance of Corporate Canada's online "By-law builder: not-for-profit corporations". Notwithstanding the results from the July'25 survey of members, suggesting that a higher number be selected for quorum, in recognition of current participation trends (attendance at meetings and asynchronous votes), the Rules Committee is recommending remaining at 10% of membership.

2) Specific items for attention in the 'General Administrative Rules, Procedures and Guidelines' document: i) Clarifications of member categories; ii) Refinement of Councillor & managerial positions descriptions; iii) Roles of the Eastern & Western Councillors, vis-à-vis the proposed establishment of a 'Communications Manager' (to be appointed); iv) Refinement of the concept of 'Committee', distinct from proposed 'Commissions'; v) Ongoing decoupling of the AGM (to be held

virtually during the 3rd week of March each year), and the linkage of the transition of Councillors to the AGM; vi) Clarification of procedures for members meeting and provisions for special votes outside of meetings; vii) Enhancement of details regarding CSSS Scientific and Technical Events.

3) Also provided, as Appendices to the ‘General Administrative Rules, Procedures and Guidelines’, are: A. CSSS Annual Administrative Calendar, B. CSSS Permanent Committees, C. CSSS Temporary Committees, D. CSSS Commissions, E. CSSS Honours, Awards & Scholarships, F. Current Affiliations of the CSSS, and G. Nomination Forms. Some of these documents will require further refinement and approval by Council.

D) Proposed Motions:

1) “Motion that CSSS members approve, though voting by asynchronous electronic ballot, opening **DATE** and closing **DATE**, the adoption of the revised document ‘*A By-Law Relating Generally to the Conduct of the Affairs of the Canadian Society of Soil Science Inc. (dated 02 March 2026)*’, **as presented/amended**, which will supersede the document ‘*A by-law relating generally to the conduct of the affairs of Canadian Society of Soil Science Inc. (dated 17 June 2014)*’ effective immediately.”

2) “Motion that CSSS members approve, though voting by asynchronous electronic ballot, opening **DATE** and closing **DATE**, the adoption of the document ‘*General Administrative Rules, Procedures , and Guidelines (dated 02 March 2026)*’ with its associated Appendices, **as presented/amended**, which will supersede the document ‘*Rules and Guidelines Regarding Conduct of the Affairs of the Canadian Society of Soil Science (CSSS) Updated March 2021*’ effective immediately.”

Sincerely,



Richard J Heck, P.Ag.

2025 Chair of the CSSS Rules Committee

RE: Petition and letter sponsored by CSSS?

From Alison Munson <Alison.Munson@sbf.ulaval.ca>
Date Wed 2/18/2026 11:45 AM
To Richard Heck <rheck@uoguelph.ca>

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Great! Thankyou, let me know what is decided. Alison

De : Richard Heck <rheck@uoguelph.ca>
Envoyé : 18 février 2026 11:43
À : Alison Munson <Alison.Munson@sbf.ulaval.ca>; Adam Gillespie <agilles@uoguelph.ca>
Cc : mdm7@ualberta.ca; Sylvie Quideau <sylvie.quideau@ualberta.ca>
Objet : Re: Petition and letter sponsored by CSSS?

Hello Allison,
I will put this on the agenda for the next meeting of the CSSS Council, scheduled for this coming Friday.

Regards,
Richard

Dr. Richard J. Heck, P.Ag.
Chair, Division 1 (Soils in Space and Time) of International Union of Soil Sciences
2025 President, Canadian Society of Soil Science
Past-President, Board of Directors of Ontario Institute of Agrologists
Chair, 24th World Congress of Soil Science Committee
Professor (Soils and Landscape Processes)
School of Environmental Sciences, University of Guelph
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ses.uoguelph.ca/people/richard-heck



From: Alison Munson <Alison.Munson@sbf.ulaval.ca>
Sent: Wednesday, February 18, 2026 11:22 AM
To: Richard Heck <rheck@uoguelph.ca>; Adam Gillespie <agilles@uoguelph.ca>
Cc: mdm7@ualberta.ca <mdm7@ualberta.ca>; Sylvie Quideau <sylvie.quideau@ualberta.ca>
Subject: Petition and letter sponsored by CSSS?

Certaines personnes qui ont reçu cet e-mail ne reçoivent pas souvent de e-mail de la part de alison.munson@sbf.ulaval.ca. [Pourquoi c'est important](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the University of Guelph. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. If in doubt, forward suspicious emails to IThelp@uoguelph.ca.

Hello Richard and colleagues :

Following the announcement of AAFC centre closures (and farms), myself and colleagues in Quebec published a letter in La Presse and have started a petition against the closing of the centre in Sainte-Foy.
See here the French version published and the support : <https://www.lapresse.ca/dialogue/opinions/2026-02-12/recherche-en-agriculture/des-coups-qui-compromettent-l-autonomie-alimentaire-canadienne.php>

The AQSSS has a petition sponsored on line here : <https://lnkd.in/e-6x6tFe> We have also contacted federal politicians, and provincial politicians. Jean Caron is talking to a conservative rep today.

Do you think that CSSS could sponsor a national petition? We know that the Guelph centre has also been designated to close, and with Lacombe. Considering the current circumstances (see letter), we find this unacceptable. Perhaps you think it is a futile effort, but I think we should make as much noise as possible to demonstrate that these are poor decisions.

The Globe was not interested in our letter, but I have tried the Gazette in Montreal and am waiting for their response. Perhaps we could adapt the letter for Guelph Mercury or the Edmonton Journal?

Thanks for considering,

Alison Munson
Professeure retraitée
Université Laval

Mark Carney's government cuts critical links in the agricultural research network of Canada

The announcement of the closure of three of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's (AAFC) 20 research centres (Quebec City, Guelph and Lacombe) and four satellite farms across the country is a disaster. The research and development centre in Quebec City has existed for almost 60 years, created on the occasion of Canada's centennial. For years, the research teams of these centres have collaborated closely with Canadian universities, including Université Laval and the University of Guelph, contributing to the training of an incalculable number of young researchers who have become leaders throughout Quebec and elsewhere in the world. The announcement of the loss of this partnership is a huge shock to the entire agricultural research community.

Research at the Quebec City Research and Development Centre is focused on reducing the environmental impacts of agricultural practices, while improving forage productivity and harvests in a colder and wetter climate than the rest of Canada. This centre also has key expertise on soil, air and water quality. A recent study by the Institut de recherche et développement en agroenvironnement (IRDA) reveals that 90% of agricultural soils in Quebec show signs of degradation, a situation that is reflected throughout North America and Europe. In contrast, Europe has prioritized increasing soil health to an acceptable level by 2050 to protect the food independence of its own population. After the Harper government ended the work of several federal soil teams 15 years ago, the Carney administration is now closing research centers that have essential expertise to protect Canadians from agricultural soil and environmental degradation.

Politicians and civil society rarely realize that all the citizens of the world are "30 cm away from famine". What does it mean? It means that all the food we eat depends on 30 cm of soil at the surface of the Earth. In Quebec and Ontario, we have several critical issues related to agricultural soils: organic market garden soil (such as the Holland marsh) are eroding and sinking, reducing our ability to produce local vegetables. The area under grassland, which allows soil regeneration, is decreasing while that under annual crops is increasing. There is a problem of significant compaction of fertile agricultural soils in several Canadian regions: the St. Lawrence Valley, the Fraser Valley, southwestern Ontario and the prairies. These soils become compacted due to the loss of organic matter and the increase in the size and weight of agricultural machinery. As a result, yields decrease and the profitability of production decreases. More fertilizers are then added to try to compensate for this decrease and, consequently, a significant portion of these fertilizers ends up in our rivers and lakes. In the long term, these issues are catastrophic for farmers and their ability to produce. The teams at the research centres were actively contributing to finding solutions to many of these problems, through projects carried out jointly with farmers.

There is already a lack of expertise in Canada to support the research activities needed to address this major trend of agricultural land degradation. The closure of these centres and farms, where unique research has developed over decades, has an incalculable negative impact on the agricultural community. The end of the work carried out by these teams will further accelerate the loss of critical expertise on forage plants and soil health. Long-term research, as AAFC researchers have been doing for decades, is essential to propose credible and applicable

solutions to agricultural stakeholders. In the current economic and geopolitical context, there is no worse time to slash this crucial research. This decision necessarily stems from a profound misunderstanding of the importance of agricultural research for the Canadian population and a complete ignorance of this situation, even though it is supported by numerous scientific reports. We ask the Carney government to reverse course in order to protect the future of the next generations of Quebec and Canada.

Food self-sufficiency is necessary in Canada and research activities to support it are part of a far-sighted strategy for the future. However, we are facing enormous challenges, as it will be necessary to continue producing enough food in a context where climate change in the coming decades will shake up our practices. AAFC's research teams are at the heart of these challenges. Maintaining agricultural research activities is fundamental to implementing Canada's Food. Cuts announced at AAFC weaken our agricultural system and only accelerate Canada's dependence on foreign countries to the detriment of farmers and consumers.

Alison Munson, retired Full Professor, Université Laval

Jean Caron, Full Professor, NSERC Chair in conservation and restoration of organic soils, Université Laval

Vincent Poirier, Professor, Director, Institut de recherche en agriculture et agroalimentaire (IRAA), Université du Québec en Abitibi-Témiscamingue (UQAT)