



Canadian Society of Soil Science

Société Canadienne de la Science du Sol

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CSSS Newsletter

President's Message

Colleagues, the end of 2025 is fast approaching. Though there may remaining items that we are each pushing to complete, it is also a traditional time to reflect over the past year. My message will take a similar approach.

As this Newsletter goes out, we find ourselves amid our election for new CSSS Councillors. This year, in addition to our next President-Elect, both of our Eastern and Western Councillor positions are due for transition. Our graduate student representative, Dillon Muldoon, will be staying on for a second term. At the same time, the IUSS Elections have been announced, and we will also soon be launching the call for selecting nominees for the IUSS Divisional Vice-Chair positions – more on this in the 'Canada in the IUSS' installment. *Please take time to participate in these elections.*

Since first engaging our members through a couple of virtual town hall meetings this past spring, through a survey circulated in early summer (and published in the August 2025 CSSS Newsletter), and during the 2025 AGM, the CSSS Rules Committee (comprised of myself, Richard Farrell and Anne Naeth), in consultation with the other CSSS Councillors, have continued its revisions of the structure and governance framework of the CSSS. A draft of these revisions will be circulated to CSSS members at the start of this December, with follow-up virtual Q&A town hall being planned for mid-December. We are looking forward to broad engagement of our members in providing feedback on the revisions being proposed. The current plan is to seek the approval of the various revisions, by members, early in 2026. *Watch for further information and notifications on this matter.*

With the passing of the torch from Mario Tenuta and the rest of the committee (who organized the success 2025 'Soils For Our Future' joint conference in Winnipeg this past July), Adam Gillespie and his committee are now fully engaged with colleagues of the Canadian Society of Agronomy, in planning our next annual conference in Guelph. *Also keep watch for upcoming communications regarding requests for session proposals, abstract submissions and registrations.* The 2026 conference is planned for June 20 to 25.

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President's Message (Con't.)

Following from the finalization of an MOU between the CSSS and the IUSS, regarding our hosting of the 24th WCSS, and the signing of the venue contract with the Metro Toronto Convention Center, the 24th WCSS Committee has continued to work on other emerging issues related to this 2030 event. More information on how to become involved will also be provided in the 'Canada in the IUSS' installment.

In closing, I would like to express my deep appreciation for the opportunity to have served as your Society President over this past year. It has been a pleasure to work with the other talented and dedicated members of the CSSS Council, as well as with Nancy Zubriski in our business office, and to engage with members on the various items we have been developing. I extend best wishes to all, that the upcoming holidays will be relaxing and rewarding, and that your 2026 will be happy and successful. Safe travels.

Happy World Soil Day (December 5th) 2025!

Richard J. Heck
CSSS President

2026 CSSS Membership is Open



CSSS 2026 Membership registration is now open! Click the link below to complete your registration.

Thank you for being a member of CSSS. We sincerely appreciate your continued support.

[Renew or join online](#)

Canada in the IUSS - Towards 24th WCSS and Beyond

Richard J Heck, IUSS Division 1 Chair & 24 WCSS Committee Chair

Foreword – This represents the sixth installment of reflections and news items from the IUSS, with updates for next year's 23rd World Congress of Soil Science-WCSS and the ongoing IUSS general elections. Updates regarding our ongoing work to organize for the 24th WCSS are also included.

Decade of Soil Science for Sustainable Development: www.iuss.org/decade-of-soil-sciences-for-sustainable-development/

IUSS World Soil of the Year: www.iuss.org/world-soil-of-the-year/

23rd WCSS – Abstract Submissions, Registrations & more...

Planning and organization is advancing for the 23rd WCSS “Soils and the Shared Future for Mankind”, to be held in Nanjing, China, from June 7th to 12th, 2026 (www.23wcass.org.cn/). The call for abstract submissions for the 23rd WCSS has now been extended until December 23rd, 2025 (www.23wcass.org.cn/submission/index.html), notification of acceptance will be sent by February 7th, 2026. Early bird registration remains open until March 7th, 2026 (www.23wcass.org.cn/IR/index.html).

As was mentioned in the previous CSSS Newsletter, we would like to coordinate the participation of CSSS members, who are attending the 23rd WCSS, as part of our promotional booth for the 24th WCSS. In this regard, if you would like to have your name added to our registry of individuals (who will be attending the Nanjing meeting), please send a short email to me (rheck@uoguelph.ca).

2025-26 Elections for IUSS Division & Commission Officers, and Standing Committee Members...

The candidate list for open positions of the various IUSS Division and Commission Officer, as well as of the IUSS Standing Committees has now been approved by the IUSS Electoral and Executive Committees. The official notification of the election, the list of candidates, and voting instructions have also now been sent to the various national society members of the IUSS. Each society is now to undertake a consultation of their membership, to determine which candidate they will support for each position – these results must be submitted to the IUSS Secretariat sometime between this coming December 20th and March 20th of 2026. The election results will be announced by May 31st of 2026. Successful Division and Commission Officers will assume their respective positions on January 1st of 2027. In this regard the CSSS will be organizing a vote of our members, to determine which candidates it will officially support...watch for this process and please participate. Note that Canada has officially nominated candidates for Joint -Commission 1.7/3.8 ‘Permafrost-Affected Soils’ and for Commission 2.3 ‘Soil Biology’.

Selection of IUSS Divisional 1st & 2nd Vice-Chairs for 2026-30 ...

As was mentioned my previous Newsletter installments, as host for the 24th WCSS in 2030, Canada is assigned the positions of 1st and 2nd Vice-Chair of each IUSS Division. In addition to participating in the ongoing governance of the Divisions, through their Divisional Committees, the 1st & 2nd IUSS Division Vice-Chairs will also form the core of the Scientific Program Committee for the 24th WCSS (July 2030) and will be expected to progressively engage in the development of that program, as part of the broader activities of the

Canada in the IUSS - Towards 24th WCSS and Beyond (Con't)

24WCSS Committee. Details of our selection process are currently being finalized and will be announced by mid-December of this year, so that we will be able to submit our nominations to the IUSS Executive Committee by the end of March of 2026. *If you are personally interested in being considered for one of these positions, or know of someone who should be encouraged, please watch for further information and notifications coming through the CSSS Business Office. Again, I also invite anyone interested in learning more about these positions or this process to contact me.*

24th WCSS Updates...

A 24WCSS Finances Subcommittee has now been established, comprised of the Chair and Vice-Chair of the 24WCSS Committee, the current Past-President and Treasurer of the CSSS Council, a fifth member of the 24WCSS Committee yet-to-be determined, and eventually representation (non-voting) of the professional conference organizer (yet-to-be contracted).

In addition to the pending process to select nominees for the 1st and 2nd IUSS Divisional Vice-Chair positions, the 24WCSS is also preparing the call for proposals from professional conference organizers – our goal is to have the PCO contracting completed by the end of Q1 of 2026.

As per the email circulated by the CSSS Business Office (on 11 Nov 2025), on behalf of Jacynthe Masse and Asim Biswas (co-chairs of the 24WCSS Event Branding Working Group), members of the CSSS are invited to participate in the redesigning of our logo for the 24th WCSS. In this regard, “We’d like to pick your brains for inspiration — tell us about the **themes, colours, symbols, or designs** you think should be part of the 24WCSS logo”, “So please don’t hesitate to share your thoughts, sketches, or even keywords that might inspire us as we shape the visual identity of this exciting event by answering this quick survey: <https://forms.gle/g2c1C8Uir2UVHJFBA> by **December 23rd 2025**.”

Again, reminding members that David Lobb is chairing the ‘24WCSS Technical Tours’ Subcommittee and Daniel Saurette is chairing the ‘2030 International Soil Judging Contest’ Subcommittee. Louis-Pierre Comeau and I are beginning to work on the issue of ‘Promotion & Outreach’ – this, combined with the renewal of our logo, are in response to the need for us to plan and prepare for our promotional booth at the 23rd WCSS in Nanjing next June. While there will be further direct engagement of members for the preparation of content for our booth, *there is an open invitation for CSSS members to become involved in the activities of the 24WCSS Committee, either by contacting any of the subcommittee or working groups chairs directly, or myself.* As a reminder, the website for the 24th WCSS can be found at: www.24wcss.org.



Participation and Judging Support 5th International Soil Judging Contest, June 2-6, 2026, Nanjing, China



Join us in the vibrant city of Nanjing for the 5th International Soil Judging Contest in June 2-6, 2026, a highlight of the 2026 World Congress of Soil Science. We invite the global soil science community to this ancient capital, where rich history meets modern innovation. The contest will be held in the week prior to the main sessions of the Congress.

Co-organized by the Soil Science Society of China (SSSC) and the International Union of Soil Sciences (IUSS), this contest is a premier platform for emerging scientists. It combines rigorous training with new, specialized modules on regional soils, fostering excellence and international collaboration.

Assemble your four-person team to receive intensive training from a distinguished panel of international experts. Then, apply your skills in a practical field challenge set in the unique landscapes of the Yangtze River Delta.

Ready to test your expertise against the world's best? Early-career researchers are encouraged to seize this opportunity. For full competition details and registration, please visit <https://www.23wcsc.org.cn/> or contact us at soiljudging@issas.ac.cn.

More information on the soil judging contest is [available here](#)



2025 Steve Pawluk Scholarship recipient: Prabin Ghimire



Prabin Ghimire

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. The successful applicant is Prabin Ghimire.

Prabin Ghimire, originally from Nepal, is a PhD candidate in Soil and Environment Sciences at Université Laval, Quebec and a research affiliate with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. His doctoral work investigates soil health and molecular microbial dynamics within the traditional Three Sisters intercropping system across diverse Canadian agroecosystems. While prior research highlights the system's promise for low-input, regenerative agriculture, the underlying microbial and ecological mechanisms as well as the long-term benefits and scalability across diverse Canadian agroecosystem is not studied. By applying modern microbial ecology tools, Prabin examines how plant-microbe-soil interactions regulate nutrient cycling, resilience, and productivity, and assesses the Three Sisters system as a model for agroecological transition.

Prabin holds an MSc in Agriculture (Soil Science) from the Institute of Agriculture and Animal Science, Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu, Nepal. His master's research investigated nitrogen-boron synergies in wheat to improve yield and residual soil fertility, addressing spikelet sterility in high-yielding varieties through targeted nutrient management approach.

Looking ahead, he aims to become a researcher and academic leader in soil and environmental sciences, integrating research, teaching, and outreach to advance sustainable cropping system. He is committed to mentoring and advocating evidence-based agricultural practices that benefit both communities and ecosystems. Outside of academia, Prabin enjoys travelling, meeting new people, and volunteering especially visiting primary schools and long-term care homes, where listening to residents' stories deepens his appreciation of community.



CANADIAN SOCIETY OF SOIL SCIENCE
SOCIÉTÉ CANADIENNE DE LA SCIENCE DU SOL

Alberta Soils Tour



Introducing the 2026 Alberta Soils Tour

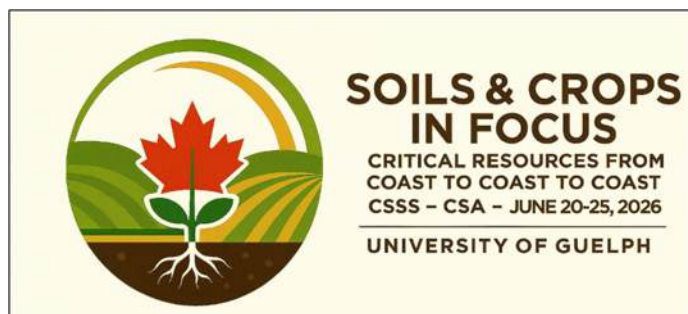
EXPLORING PALLISER'S TRIANGLE: Understanding the challenging soils of Alberta's southeast

- Join us May 27 to 29, 2026, starting and ending in Medicine Hat, Alberta
- Explore the soils of southeast Alberta, including the Chernozemic, Solonchic, Brunisolic, and Regosolic Orders
- Learn from experts in pedology, geology, agrology, biology, and range and land management
- Open to soil scientists, agrologists, biologists, ecologists, land managers, ranchers, farmers, and soil enthusiasts
- Registration to open early 2026
- <https://www.soilsworkshop.ab.ca/soils-tour>
- For more information, contact Danielle Hutson danielle.hutson@element.com



2026 Joint Meeting of the CSSS and CSA

Call for Sessions and Workshops



CALL FOR SESSIONS & WORKSHOPS

The Organizing Committee of the 2026 Joint Meeting of the Canadian Society of Soil Science (CSSS), and Canadian Society of Agronomy (CSA) is announcing our **Call for Sessions and Workshops**.

We invite members of CSSS and the CSA to propose technical sessions and workshop topics. Members can also propose joint sessions and workshops between the Societies.

Please include the following:

- **Title:** A short title for the technical session or workshop of less than 140 characters.
- **Description:** A summary of the proposed technical session or workshop (250 words max).
- **Organizer/Moderator:** Name and contact information of the individual(s) organizing the session or workshop.

Deadline & Submission Information – Proposals must be submitted to CSSSCSA2026@uoguelph.ca in MS Word format by **Jan 31st, 2026**. Results of a review of proposals will be emailed in early February, 2026.

We look forward to your topic suggestions! For further inquiries, please contact CSSSCSA2026@uoguelph.ca.

Adam Gillespie, Josh Nasielski (conference co-chairs)

Kari Dunfield, Laura Van Eerd (program committee co-chairs)

<https://event.fourwaves.com/CSSSCSA2026>

2026 Joint Meeting of the CSSS and CSA Call for Sessions and Workshops (Con't.)



APPEL À SESSIONS ET ATELIERS

Le comité organisateur de la réunion conjointe 2026 de la Société canadienne de la science du sol (CSSS) et de la Société canadienne d'agronomie (CSA) lance son appel à propositions de sessions et d'ateliers.

Nous invitons les membres de la CSSS et de la CSA à proposer des sessions techniques et des thèmes d'ateliers. Les membres peuvent également proposer des sessions et ateliers conjoints entre les deux Sociétés.

Veuillez inclure les éléments suivants :

- Titre : Un titre court pour la session technique ou l'atelier (moins de 140 caractères).
- Description : Un résumé de la session technique ou de l'atelier proposé (maximum 250 mots).
- Organisateur/Modérateur : Nom et coordonnées de la ou des personnes responsables de l'organisation de la session ou de l'atelier.

Date limite et soumission – Les propositions doivent être envoyées en format MS Word à CSSSCSA2026@uoguelph.ca au plus tard le 31 janvier 2026. Les résultats de l'évaluation des propositions seront communiqués par courriel tôt en février 2026.

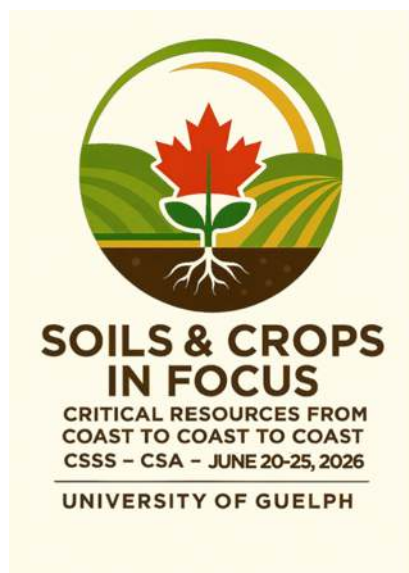
Nous attendons vos suggestions de sujets avec impatience! Pour toute question, veuillez contacter CSSSCSA2026@uoguelph.ca.

Adam Gillespie, Josh Nasielski (coprésidents de la conférence)

Kari Dunfield, Laura Van Eerd (coprésidentes, comité du programme)

<https://event.fourwaves.com/CSSSCSA2026>

Conferences | Events | Meetings



We are delighted to invite members of the Canadian Society of Soil Science (CSSS) and the Canadian Society of Agronomy (CSA) to join us for a joint annual meeting, to be held June 20–25, 2026, at the University of Guelph. This collaborative gathering will provide a unique opportunity to connect across disciplines, share cutting-edge research, and foster dialogue on the future of soils, crops, and sustainable land management in Canada and beyond. We warmly welcome all attendees and look forward to offering an engaging program of scientific sessions, workshops, field tours, and networking events designed to inspire collaboration and innovation.

For more information visit the [Conference website](#)



23rd World Congress of Soil Science, jointly organized by the International Union of Soil Sciences (IUSS) and the Soil Science Society of China (SSSC) will be held from June 7 to 12, 2026 at the Nanjing International Expo Center in China, under the theme "Soil and the Shared Future of Humanity". Visit the [conference website](#) for more information.

Abstract submission deadline is **December 23rd, 2025**. For more information please see: <https://www.23wcsc.org.cn/submission/index.html>

Conferences | Events | Meetings (Con't.)



Manitoba Soil Science Society Conference and AGM
 Holiday Inn Pembina South, Winnipeg, Manitoba Canada
 February 5-6, 2026

The theme for the [69th Annual General Meeting](#) will be: "Soil Health Strategies for Manitoba Soils". The Call for Abstracts is now open! Submissions for posters and presentations are due noon December 15, 2025. Please see the [Call For Abstracts](#) for additional information.

**Diversity:
Key to
Resilience**

*14th Prairie Conservation and Endangered
Species Conference*

May 5-7, 2026 in Saskatoon, SK

- ✓ Plenary, concurrent & poster presentations
- ✓ Optional tours and workshops
- ✓ Banquet, silent auction, awards

**Visit prairiecesc.ca for
registration details!**

f Follow us on Facebook
@PCESC26

And Instagram [pcesc.sk!](https://www.instagram.com/pcesc.sk/)

Conferences | Events | Meetings (Con't.)

Soil Carbon in the Ecological Transition

1 - 3 April 2026

Rueil-Malmaison - France

SoilCET 2026 is the second edition of an international symposium gathering scientists to discuss the issues associated with soil carbon in the ecological transition.

This in-person event will take place at **IFP Energies nouvelles, Rueil-Malmaison (near Paris), France, from 1st to 3rd April 2026.**



Organic Phosphorus Workshop 2026

Charlottetown, Canada
July 13-17, 2026
op2026.com

Save the date!

Registration and abstract submissions will be open in January 2026.
Please sign up for updates on the website Op2026.com or email organicphosphorus2026@gmail.com.



THE 4TH GLOBAL SOIL BIODIVERSITY CONFERENCE

Victoria, Canada
12-15 April 2026



4th Global Soil Biodiversity Conference
Victoria, British Columbia, Canada
April 12-15 2026

Late-breaking poster submission

Deadline: January 30th, 2026

<https://globalsoilbiodiversity2026.org>



Career Opportunities

PhD Position - Winter 2026

Agroecological Integrated Crop/Livestock System Analysis, Laval University

The objective of this doctoral work will be to develop systemic analysis tools for studying the transition from a conversational dairy system to an agroecological integrated crop/livestock system.

[Click here for more information](#)

Grounded in Soils Blog

Promote your work in CSSS' Grounded In Soils blog! The blog enjoys an average of 600 readers per month! In addition, blogs are promoted on our Twitter and Facebook social media channels.

Any members can participate in either category:

Blog posts about your research projects! Work with our social media manager to compile a relatable blog post about your research (at any level). The only requirement is that we need two photos for the blog (for graphic interest and social media promotion). Email csss.soils@gmail.com for more information! Example: <https://groundedinsoils.wordpress.com/2024/03/03/high-organic-matter-soils-in-southwestern-quebec-are-good-for-agriculture/>

Life as a soil scientist encourages students to pursue a career in soil science by showing what real-life soil scientists do! We need your help to let them know what it's like to be a professional soil scientist! Be like Maren Oelberman, Grace Gowera, Daniel Saurette and more by filling out a simple set of questions, and providing two photos of you in "action" shots. These can be in the field or lab. Here is an example: <https://groundedinsoils.wordpress.com/2023/11/04/life-as-a-soil-scientist-daniel-saurette/>. Email csss.soils@gmail.com for more information!

24th World Congress Logo

Canada will host the 24th World Congress of Soil Science (WCSS) in 2030 — a landmark event that will bring together soil scientists from around the world under the theme “Soils in a Warmer World”. We’re beginning the exciting process of designing a logo for the event, and we’d love for it to reflect our collective identity as soil scientists and enthusiasts across Canada.

We’d like to pick your brains for inspiration — tell us about the themes, colours, symbols, or designs you think should be part of the 24WCSS logo.

This is meant to be a safe and creative space — no judgment, just ideas! So please don’t hesitate to share your thoughts, sketches, or even keywords that might inspire us as we shape the visual identity of this exciting event by answering this quick survey: <https://forms.gle/g2c1C8Uir2UVHJFBA> by December 23rd 2025.

Thank you for helping us design a logo that represents the spirit and diversity of soil science in Canada!

Asim and Jacynthe,
On behalf of the 24WCSS 2030 Organizing Committee



Student Photo Contest

Are you a student interested in visually projecting your research? Do you have interesting and memorable research photos you would like to share? Then look no further as the CSSS is accepting submissions for the [Canadian Journal of Soil Science \(CJSS\)](#) student photo contest.

Students may submit more than one image per competition and may enter more than one competition.

One photo will be selected each year for the cover of the CJSS. This photo will be used on the covers of all four issues for a given year.

Other photos may be used for promotional activities of the journal such as special collections or calls for papers.



Submission deadlines

General submissions will be accepted at any time.

Submissions for the annual CJSS cover are required no later than October 1.

Submissions specifications

- Image must focus on some aspect of soil science to reflect CJSS content.
- Image must not include people.
- Image size and resolution must be at least 8.5 x 11 inches at 300 dpi or better.
- Images must be a single photo; no collages.
- Cell phone photographs are acceptable as long as they meet the criteria.
- Acceptable image formats are .jpg, .png, or .tif.

Submission contacts

All entries should be sent to

M. Anne Naeth (anaeth@ualberta.ca) and Blake Weiseth (blake.weiseth@gmail.com).

Prizes

The submission selected for the CJSS cover will receive a \$250 cash prize. The winning photograph will be featured on the cover of the Canadian Journal of Soil Science for all four issues of the year, and on the CSSS website. Up to four submissions per year will receive \$125 each if selected for other purposes of CJSS such to promote special issues or collections.

Students may submit more than one image per competition.

Send all entries to the CJSS Editor-in-Chief: Dr. M. Anne Naeth (anaeth@ualberta.ca).

CJSS Photo Submissions

If you are interested in submitting photos for consideration by the CJSS as an issue cover or as advertising material but not as part of the student photo contest please send directly to M. Anne Naeth (anaeth@ualberta.ca). Any interested party can submit images provided that the images meet the criteria outlined for the student competition.



CANADIAN SOCIETY OF SOIL SCIENCE
SOCIÉTÉ CANADIENNE DE SCIENCE DU SOL

CSSS - Business Office

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