



Canadian Society of Soil Science

Société Canadienne de la Science du Sol

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CSSS History



*Richard Farrell
President, CSSS*

Well, it's a new year and what a year it has been so far. Here on the Prairies, it seemed as if there was no winter . . . until there was, and as I write we are digging out from the biggest snowstorm of the past several years. Anyway, it is my great pleasure and honor to serve the CSSS as it's 70th President. For those of you who know me, you will understand the significance of this for me and for those of you who don't, well you can ask me in Vancouver when we meet for the 2024 Annual Meeting of the CSSS.

I would like to start by thanking our (now) Past-President Amanda Diochon for her excellent leadership over the past year. Thanks also go to our out-going Council members Asim Biswas (Past-President) and Diane Knight (Treasurer) for their commitment and many contributions to the CSSS. At the same time, I am pleased to welcome Richard Heck (President-Elect) and Preston Sorenson (Treasurer) to Council where they have already been

busy at work for the Society.

Last year the Society introduced a new award (the Early Career Award) and this year I am pleased to announce the launch of the Dr. Steve Pawluk Scholarship for graduate students in programs with a focus on soil science. In addition, the CSSS is now home to the Dr. Karl C. Ivarson Soil Science Scholarship – having taken the reins from the Canadian Foundation for Food and Agricultural Education (CFFAE). Information about both these scholarships will be available at <https://csss.ca/awards-criteria/> in the near future. A huge thanks to Anne Naeth and David Chanasyk for shepherding establishment of the Pawluk scholarship and to Dave Burton and Amanda Diochon for their work in bringing the Ivarson scholarship to the CSSS.

This past year also saw the establishment of the Soil Health Committee chaired by Dr. Derek McKenzie. The committee had it's first meeting earlier this year and will join in on a discussion to develop a National Soil Health Strategy being organized by the Soil Conservation Council of Canada. The Pedology Committee (co-chaired

CSSS Council

President

Richard Farrell

University of Saskatchewan
Ph: 306 966-2772
r.farrell@usask.ca

Past-President

Amanda Diochon

Lakehead University
Ph: 807 343-8010 ext. 8444
adiochon@lakeheadu.ca

President-Elect

Richard J. Heck

University of Guelph
Ph: 519 824-4120 ext. 52450
rheck@uoguelph.ca

Secretary

Lee-Ann Bauman

Terralogix Solutions Inc.
Ph: 780 461-7726 ext.232
baumanL15@gmail.com

Treasurer

Preston Sorenson

University of Saskatchewan
Ph: 306 966-4343
prs352@mail.usask.ca

Eastern Councillor

Adrian Unc

Memorial University
Ph: 709 637-7153
aunc@mun.ca

Western Councillor

Henry Chau

Lincoln University
henry.chau@lincoln.ac.nz

Graduate Student Representative

Blake Weiseth

University of Saskatchewan
blake.weiseth@gmail.com

Editor in Chief CJSS

M. Anne Naeth

Department of Renewable
Resources
University of Alberta
Ph: 780 492-9539
anne.naeth@ualberta.ca

Presidents Message (Con't.)

by Daniel Saurette and Angela Bedard-Haughn) continues to work on the 4th edition of the Canadian System of Soil Classification (CSSC) while I continue discussions with the publisher of Soil Sampling and Methods of Analysis regarding development of a new (3rd) edition of the book. Plans for the 24th World Congress of Soil Science (WCSS) continue to progress under the able direction of Richard Heck and Jacynthe Masse and though the WCSS is still a few years off, it is never too early to get involved. Updates on these (and other) initiatives will be presented at the Annual Meeting in Vancouver.

Last year's Annual Meeting in Truro was a huge success and set a high bar for the 2024 meeting in Vancouver. The theme for this year's meeting (June 9th to 13th on the beautiful UBC campus) is Soil Functions for Future Generations and based on the proposed sessions and field tours, it looks to be a very interesting and exciting meeting. I look forward to the Annual Meeting as a chance to catch up with friends and colleagues and to see the direction in which our discipline is moving. Having recently attended the Soils & Crops Workshop in Saskatoon and seeing the presentations by our soil science graduate students it is hard not to be excited for the future of soil science in Canada! So, please join us in Vancouver to see the future.

Soil science has been a lifelong journey for me—having started with a grade school science project when I was 13—and the CSSS has been a large part of that journey for the past 30 years. I hope that your journey has been as much fun as mine and I look forward to meeting you all in Vancouver.

PS. One last shout-out to the members of Council who are continuing in their roles: Amanda Diochon (Past-President), Henry Chau (Western Councillor), Adrian Unc (Eastern Councillor), Blake Weiseth (Graduate Student Representative), Lee-Ann Bauman (Secretary), and Anne Naeth (CJSS Editor-in-Chief); and to the people who make our work easier: Nancy Zubriski in the business office, Susan Fisk who manages our social media, and Shirley Ho for her help maintaining the website.

2024 CSSS Annual Meeting

2024 CSSS Annual Meeting: Soil Functions for Future Generations

University of British Columbia, Vancouver
June 9-13, 2024

Registration open now. Click [here](#) for details.

Call for Abstracts submission deadline April 15, 2024.

Click [here](#) for details

Canada in the IUSS - Towards 24th WCSS and Beyond

Richard J Heck, Chair IUSS Division 1

Foreword – As most of you know, the Canadian Society of Soil Science will be hosting the 24th World Congress of Soil Science (24WCSS), in Toronto during July of 2030, on behalf of the International Union of Soil Sciences (IUSS). To help better acquaint CSSS members with the IUSS, and progressively engage them in this once-in-a-career opportunity, I will endeavor to make regular contributions to the CSSS Newsletter.

An Introduction to the IUSS...

The IUSS is the global union of soil scientists, functioning as an international non-governmental organization. Its mission is “promote all branches of soil science and its applications, to promote contacts among scientists and other persons engaged in the study and the application of soil science, to stimulate scientific research and to further the application of such research.” The CSSS is a Full Member of the IUSS – as such, individual members of the CSSS are also individual members of the IUSS and, therefore, are eligible for various rights (such as voting for IUSS officers) and privileges (such as discount registration fees at IUSS events). The official webpage of the IUSS, which is currently being revised, can be found at:

www.iuss.org. A copy of the 2021-2030 IUSS Strategic Plan can be found at: www.iuss.org/strategic-plan/.

The CSSS is a Full Member of the IUSS – as such, individual members of the CSSS are also individual members of the IUSS and, therefore, are eligible for various rights and privileges.

The International Society of Soil Science was established on May 19, 1924, at a ceremony in Rome, Italy. In 1993, the ISSS became a member of the International Council for Scientific Unions (now called the International Science Council), changing its name in 1998 to the International Union of Soil Sciences to reflect this membership: 2024 marks the 100th anniversary of the organization, with the IUSS Centennial Celebration and Congress being organized for May in Florence, Italy (www.centennialiuiss2024.org/).

In 2023, the Secretariat of the IUSS was moved to Rome, and is being administered through the Consiglio per la ricerca in agricoltura e l'analisi dell'economia agraria -CREA. The Secretariat can be contacted through its institutional email address (iuss.secretariat@crea.gov.it). From governance perspective, the ultimate authority lies with the IUSS Council, which is comprised of one accredited representative from each Full Member organization, three representatives from among the IUSS Honorary Members, as well as the members of the Executive Committee. While the Council is responsible for issues such as the approval of the Statutes and Bye-Laws, as well as the selection of hosts of WCSS, the Executive Committee is responsible for the day-to-day decision making. The Executive Committee is comprised of President, President-Elect, and Past President, Vice-President (Congress), Chairs of the four scientific Divisions, Chairs of the Standing Committees (Budget and Finance, Structure and Statutes; Prizes and Awards; Presidential Elections), as well as the Secretary and the Treasurer.

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

The scientific activities of the IUSS are coordinated by Committees for each of the four scientific Divisions (1-Soils in Space and Time, 2-Soil Properties and Processes, 3-Soil Use and Management, 4-The Role of Soils in Sustaining Society and the Environment). Chairs of the Divisions are elected to four-year mandates. The first and second Vice-Chairs of each Division are nominated by the country selected to host the next WCSS. Within each Division, Commissions (coordinated by Chairs and Vice-Chairs, also elected to four-year mandates) are responsible for guiding and supporting ongoing activities in specific fields. There are also various Working Groups, which have specific objectives and typically an eight-year mandate, that may be associated with one or more Divisions and/or Commissions. The selection of Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the Working Groups is internal, occurring as necessary. Details regarding the IUSS Divisions, Commissions and Working Groups can be found on the IUSS website (under Organization).

Over the past century, Canada has participated in the ISSS/IUSS in diverse ways. Attendees to the First ISSS Congress, held in Washington DC, included Profs FA Wyatt (Alberta), AH Joel (Saskatchewan), JH Ellis (Manitoba) and HM Nagant (Quebec). Moreover, the month-long post-congress soil tour (those were the days!), on the Soil Congress Special train, passed through British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba. In 1978, under the leadership of Dr. CF Bentley (President of the IUSS from 1974 to 1978), the 11th ISSS Congress was hosted in Edmonton. Various post-congress tours were organized across Canada (sis.agr.gc.ca/cansis/publications/manuals/ca_1978_ISSS_Tour/index.html). For their various contributions to international soil science, two members of the CSSS have been made Honorary Members of the IUSS: Dr. V. Ignatieff in 1978, and Dr. AR Mermut in 2012.

During the 22nd World Congress of Soil Science, hosted in Glasgow in 2022, the Canadian Society of Soil Science was successful in its bid to host the 24WCSS in Toronto, during July of 2030. Though still several years off, the 24WCSS Committee has been created, with the responsibility of planning, development, organization, and realization of this event (www.24wcss.org).



International Union of Soil Sciences

AAFC Scientists Earn International Accolades for Children's Book on Soil Science

See original article from [Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada website](#) (2022)

Two AAFC scientists have achieved international recognition in what might seem like an unexpected category: a children's book contest. Their submission, entitled "Soil Biodiversity: What's Most Important?" ranked second out of 100 entries from 60 countries.

In honor of World Soil Day (WSD) 2020, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Union of Soil Sciences (IUSS) and the Global Soil Partnership (GSP) launched a scientific children's book contest on soil biodiversity with the motto "keep soil alive, protect soil biodiversity".

They put the call out to researchers around the world, and when Dr. Ben Ellert of the Lethbridge Alberta Research Center heard about it, inspiration hit. Even better, Dr. Ellert knew just the right colleague to approach as a collaborator: Katelyn Lutes, a soil technician with an aptitude for illustration. Both scientists have extensive experience and insight into soil biodiversity, and they saw the contest as an opportunity to create something of lasting value to promote an interest in their field.

"COVID-19 forced us all to look for creative ways to put our skillsets to use," says Dr. Ellert. "When we saw the call for scientific children's books coming from these prominent agricultural agencies, we thought there could be no better way to help promote healthy soil for generations to come than by creating something that could be used to inspire young people at home and around the world. Putting this book together has been an absolute joy, and has helped to remind us why we care so much about our work."

Soil health and soil biodiversity play an important role in ensuring the sustainability of agricultural operations across Canada. Understanding the role that soil plays in production is critical to farmers, and AAFC scientists are committed to advancing soil science through a variety of intensive studies and ongoing research projects. The book put together by Ellert and Lutes outlines the many different fields of expertise that go into the study of soil, including entomology, botany, microbiology and more.

For Ellert and Lutes, placing second in the contest is just the icing on the cake. "Win or lose, we knew we would come out of this with a book that could be used to help inspire an interest in soil science for years to come," says Lutes. "It's wonderful to know that our work will be used to help spark the careers of future soil scientists and researchers and to promote the importance of protecting our soil."

Key Points:

- The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Union of Soil Sciences (IUSS) and the Global Soil Partnership (GSP) have selected a book authored and illustrated by AAFC researcher Dr. Ben Ellert and soil technician Katelyn Lutes as the winner of an international children's scientific book contest.
- Ellert and Lutes collaborated on the book as a way of sharing their expertise and passion for soil science with children.

AAFC Scientists Earn International Accolades for Children's Book on Soil Science (Con't.)

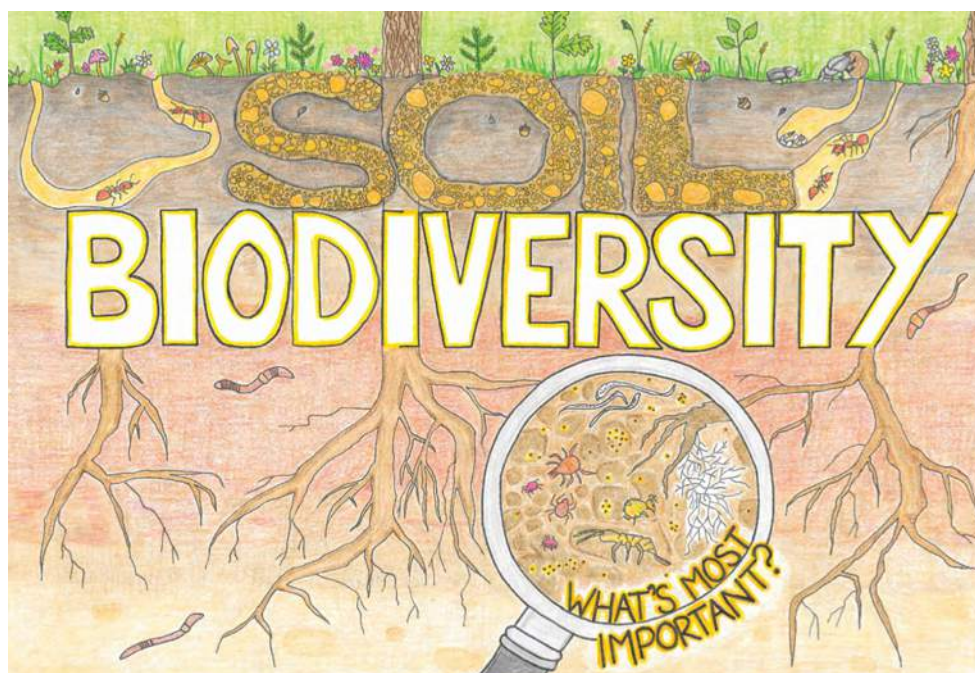
Related information

The premise of the book is that six diverse scientists gather to discuss the most important features of soil biodiversity, but each, coming from a distinct discipline, has their own idea. For the authors, this is reminiscent of the wonderful diversity of scientific approaches among the talented colleagues they work with. Of course, it all works out in the end! The book is lushly illustrated and includes many attention-getting drawings to highlight life in the soil.

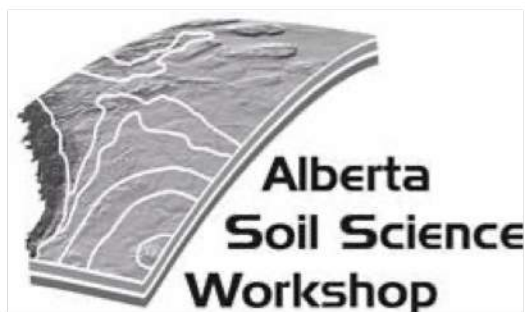
Katelyn Lutes is a soil research technician working in the biogeochemistry lab at the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada Research and Development Centre in Lethbridge. She earned a Master's Degree focused on soil science, and has considerable experience in field, greenhouse and laboratory research. She applies her expertise in analytical chemistry to environmental gas and water samples, as well as plant tissues and especially soils. In her spare time she enjoys hiking in the mountains and drawing.

Benjamin Ellert is a research scientist in biogeochemistry with the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada Research and Development Centre at Lethbridge. He earned a Ph. D. in soil science, and has considerable experience in research on the cycling of carbon, nitrogen and other biogeochemicals in agroecosystems. He studies the land-atmosphere exchanges of greenhouse gases associated with biogeochemical cycling, applies isotopic techniques to trace element flows in the environment, and gleans insights from assorted long-term field experiments. Ellert's interest in agriculture stems from his early years on a small mixed farm at Milk River in southern Alberta.

To read the book, download [Soil Biodiversity: What's Most Important?](#)



Upcoming Tours & Courses



2024 ALBERTA SOILS TOUR

May 29-30, 2024

Boreal Transition Region

Kikino – Bonnyville – Cold Lake

The Alberta Soils Tour is an excellent training opportunity for those working with soils, whether your focus is on soil conservation, land reclamation, or agronomy. Experts will provide background on soil formation and the various soil profiles for each landscape encountered during the tour. Information on various soil conservation, land habitat, and agronomy topics for the areas will be presented.

Day 1 – May 29

Departing from Alberta Innovates/Innotech (250 Karl Clark Rd NW, Edmonton, AB T6N 1H5)

- Visit Kikino Metis Settlement to observe Orthic Gray Luvisols and Organic soils on a hummocky morainal landscape
- Travel East to the watershed of the Sand River to view a catena of Organic soils to Dark Grey Luvisols
- Learn more about Luvisols and Chernozems used for agricultural research trials just outside of Bonnyville, AB

Overnight stay in Bonnyville, AB

Day 2 – May 30

Departing from Bonnyville, AB

- Discuss the new Athroposolic soil order while observing Gleysols and Luvisols northeast of Cold Lake, AB
- Near Iron River AB, visit Brunisols on ice-contact deposits
- Eolian sand dunes near Bruderheim, AB, will be the last stop on the tour

Bus returns to Alberta Innovates, Edmonton, AB

TOUR LEADERS

Jeff Battigelli – NAIT

Elise Neumann – EPA

TOUR COST

Registration Fee is \$255.00 (includes transportation, parking, guidebook, meals, snacks and refreshments). A discounted rate of \$200 for students is available.

ACCOMMODATIONS in BONNYVILLE

Microtel Inn & Suites

5409 Lakeland Rd

\$141.00 + taxes

Phone: 587-792-1269

Best Western

5401 43 St

\$101.00 + taxes

Phone: 780-826-6226

Book accommodations before April 29, 2024

Mention *the Alberta Soils Tour* to receive the discounted room rate

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact: **Konstantin Dlusskiy**, Soils Tour Coordinator
Paragon Soil and Environmental Consulting Inc.

Phone: 780-914-2067

E-mail: kdlusskiy@paragonsoil.com,

or visit <http://www.soilsworkshop.ab.ca/tour.html>

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: **May 1, 2024**

Register online at <https://2024absoilstour.eventbrite.ca>



Upcoming Tours & Courses (Con't.)

SOIL 3610
Field Methods in Land Resource Science
Summer 2024, Churchill Manitoba
University of Manitoba



General Info

Location: Churchill Northern Studies Centre (CNSC), Manitoba, Canada
Instructor: Dr. Mario Tenuta (204) 290-7827 mario.tenuta@umanitoba.ca
Dates: Aug 23–31, 2024 (begins and ends in Churchill)
Credits: 3



Course Info

Prerequisite: SOIL 3600 or consent of instructor
Field Work: group learning activities in coastal, tundra, wetland and boreal soil environs
Lectures and Laboratories: sessions in the CNSC to augment field work
Cultural: indigenous learning experiences
Evaluation: in-course assignments and project
Course Costs: course tuition, course fee (~\$1200), travel to Churchill (\$510 Via from Winnipeg, \$160 Via from Thompson, \$650 flight from Thompson, \$1,400 flight from Winnipeg). Students responsible for own travel to Churchill and back. Course fee includes 8 nights and meals at CNSC, course vehicles and gas.



Upcoming Tours & Courses (Con't.)

Soil Classification short online course (SOIL410), March 27 and 28, 2024. The deadline for registration is quickly approaching. The course is provided by Paragon Soil and Environmental Consulting. This advanced soil science course led by Dr. Konstantin Dlusskiy focuses on common landforms and parent materials associated with soils in Prairies, soils of the ten Soil Orders in the Canadian System of Soil Classification, classification of soils to the Subgroup level, classification of human-modified soils, and the relation of soil-forming processes and factors of soil formation to the genesis of corresponding soils.

Details: www.paragonsoil.com/courses
 Questions: learning@paragonsoil.com
 Registration: <https://SOIL410-Wi24.eventbrite.ca>

Soil Mapping short online course (SOIL420), April 3 and 4, 2024. Provided by Paragon Soil and Environmental Consulting. This advanced soil science course led by Dr. Konstantin Dlusskiy focuses on the process of soil survey, prediction of soil types based on imagery interpretation, design of soil map legends, and preliminary soil mapping.

Details: www.paragonsoil.com/courses
 Questions: learning@paragonsoil.com
 Registration: <https://SOIL420-Wi24.eventbrite.ca>

Pedology Field School (SOIL230), May 21 to 23, 2024. In-person field school near Lac la Nonne, AB, 1-hour drive NW of Edmonton. Accommodation is available within a 30-minute drive from the study area. This 24-hour introductory soil science course is fully field-based. The 3-day field school led by Dr. Konstantin Dlusskiy focuses on hands-on experience with application to industry standards. It covers the description of soil pits and landscapes, field diagnostics of soil properties and processes, soil classification to the Subgroup level of the Canadian System of Soil Classification, and soil sampling protocols.

Details: www.paragonsoil.com/courses
 Questions: learning@paragonsoil.com
 Registration: <https://SOIL230-Sp24.eventbrite.ca>

Soil Science (IESR200), April 15 to 22, 2024. This introductory 3-credit course is offered through Yellowhead Tribal College and taught by Dr. Konstantin Dlusskiy of Paragon Soil and Environmental Consulting Inc. The course includes an overview of soil formation and soil classification with an emphasis on soils of Western Canada. This course is provided in a hybrid format with in-person classes in Edmonton and online synchronous classes available via the ZOOM platform.

Details: www.paragonsoil.com/courses
 Questions: learning@paragonsoil.com
 Registration: <https://ytced.ab.ca/admissions/how-apply/>

Soil Classification and Mapping (EXCPE4297), May 7 to 13, 2024, This 3-credit advanced agrology course is provided by Online Learning and Continuing Education (University of Alberta) and instructed by Dr. Konstantin Dlusskiy of Paragon Soil and Environmental Consulting Inc. The course includes a one-day in-person mandatory field trip in the Edmonton (AB) area. The course focuses on soil processes, principles of the Canadian System of Soil Classification, soil profiles and diagnostic features, factors of soil formation and soil-forming processes, soil survey procedures, and utilization of existing spatial information to support soil mapping at a detailed scale.

Questions: learning@paragonsoil.com; or erm@ualberta.ca
 Registration: <https://ext.ualberta.ca/course/>

2024 Call for CSSS Award Nominations

Submitted by Richard J Heck, P.Ag., President Elect

FELLOW, HONORARY MEMBERSHIP, SOIL SCIENCE FOR SOCIETY, EARLY CAREER AWARDS

Do you know someone who has made significant contributions to Canadian soil science? The CSSS Fellow, Honorary Membership, Soil Science for Society, and Early Career Awards provide an opportunity for you to nominate a deserving recipient to ensure that their accomplishments and contributions are recognized. Nominating a colleague is easy, so please take the time to submit an award nomination for a deserving colleague before the deadline of **April 1, 2024**.

CSSS Fellow Award - awarded to CSSS members with a distinguished record of accomplishment in soil science and service to the Society.

CSSS Soil Science for Society Award - awarded to a member or non-member who has contributed towards promoting soil science to the general public.

CSSS Honorary Membership Award - awarded to non-members who have rendered valuable or special service to soil science.

CSSS Early Career Award - recognizes professionals who have made an outstanding contribution to soil science within five (5) years of completing their most recent degree (e.g. B.Sc., M.Sc., Ph.D.). Go soil science!

Please go to <https://csss.ca/awards-criteria/> for more details on the nomination process for *CSSS Fellow, Honorary Membership, Soil Science for Society, and Early Career Awards*. All nominations must be submitted via e-mail (Word or pdf attachments) to Richard J Heck, P.Ag. (rheck@uoguelph.ca), Chair of the CSSS Awards Committee, by **April 1, 2024**.

CSSS PEDOLOGY TRAVEL AWARD (regular members only)

This award provides travel funds (up to \$4000 each year) to allow for at least one regular CSSS member to attend an international conference, workshop or meeting related to pedology, so as to secure our international presence and the future of our expertise in this area of soil science. Applications will be reviewed three times per year, or until all available funds have been allocated. Complete applications must be submitted by March 15th, June 15th, or September 15th; award confirmations will be made by March 31st, June 30th, and September 30th, respectively. If no applications have been received by the September deadline, applications will be evaluated in the order that they are received for the remainder of the calendar year.

Award details and requirements are available on the CSSS website at <https://csss.ca/awards-criteria/>. Please send your completed application via e-mail to **Richard J Heck, P.Ag. (rheck@uoguelph.ca)**, Chair of the CSSS Awards Committee.

2024 Call for CSSS Award Nominations (Con't.)

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP and AWARDS

The CSSS has a scholarship and several awards aimed at supporting students:

Dr. Karl C. Ivarson Soil Science Scholarship

This scholarship was created by Dr. Karl C. Ivarson through a gift to the Agricultural Institute of Canada Foundation, which eventually became the Canadian Foundation for Food and Agricultural Education. In 2024, the administration of this scholarship passed to the CSSS. Dr. Ivarson's wish was to provide financial support to a student(s) entering second or subsequent year of graduate studies in soil science (in areas of agriculture, agro-ecology, resource management, environment, geology, or other related disciplines) at a recognized Canadian university.

Candidates must be Canadian citizens or hold Canadian Permanent Resident status, and be registered full time in their second or subsequent year of a graduate program in soil science (agriculture, agro-ecology, resource management, environment, geology, or other related disciplines) at a recognized Canadian university. In 2024, one scholarship in the amount of \$2000 will be awarded. Applications are due on **April 15, 2024**.

Full details on the criteria and application procedure are available on the CSSS website at <https://csss.ca/awards-criteria/>. Please send your completed application via e-mail to Richard J Heck, P.Ag. (rheck@uoguelph.ca), Chair of the CSSS Awards Committee

CSSS Student Travel Awards to attend the CSSS Annual Meeting

This award was established in 1991 to encourage student attendance at the CSSS Annual Meeting. The 2024 CSSS Annual Meeting will be hosted by the Faculty of Land and Food Systems on the Vancouver Campus of the University of British Columbia, in Vancouver, British Columbia, from June 9-13.

Graduate students who are CSSS members are eligible to receive a Student Travel Award in the amount of \$700. A maximum of 12 awards are given each year. Applications are due on **April 1, 2024**.

Graduate students who are CSSS members are eligible to receive a Student Travel Award in the amount of \$700. A maximum of 12 awards are given each year. Applications are due on **April 1, 2024**.

CSSS Student Travel Awards for International Soil Science Meetings

This award allows student members to broaden the scope of their work and expand their relationships with soil science researchers outside of Canada. This is expected to build capacity and increase engagement between students studying soil science at Canadian universities and those in the international soil science community. A total of \$8000 is allocated annually and awards will be made until the funds are exhausted.

Applications will be reviewed three times per year, or until all available funds have been allocated. Complete applications must be submitted by March 15th, June 15th, or September 15th; award confirmations will be made by March 31st, June 30th, and September 30th, respectively. If no applications have been received by the September deadline, applications will be evaluated in the order that they are received for the remainder of the calendar year.

Details for all Student Travel Awards, and their respective application forms, are available on the CSSS website at <https://csss.ca/awards-criteria/>. Please send your completed application via e-mail to Richard J Heck, P.Ag. (rheck@uoguelph.ca), Chair of the CSSS Awards Committee.

2024 Call for CSSS Award Nominations (Con't.)

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP and AWARDS (Con't.)

CSSS Student Presentation Awards

1. The **C.F. Bentley Award** was initiated in 1983 to encourage and recognize excellence in oral presentations by students at the CSSS Annual Meetings. The Award honours [Dr. Fred Bentley](#) who was CSSS President in 1956-57 and inducted as a CSSS Fellow in 1973. The C.F. Bentley Award winner receives \$500, the first runner-up \$300, and the second runner-up \$200.
2. The **President's Award** was established in 1992 to foster excellence in student poster presentations as a means of disseminating research results at the CSSS Annual Meetings. The President's Award winner receives \$500, the first runner-up \$300, and the second runner-up \$200.

CSSS Undergraduate Book Award

This Award recognizes students at Canadian universities who demonstrate excellence in Soil Science at the undergraduate level. Award winners receive a printed copy of *Digging Into Canadian Soils*, published jointly by the CSSS. Candidates are nominated by their university department.



Department of Soil Science, University of Manitoba Graduate Fellowship Awards (UMGF) Now Open

Submissions of UMGF applications are being accepted until March 30, 2024. Prospective graduate students to the Soil Science MSc and PhD programs can apply. This is a department-level competitive award based on academic performance, contribution to equity, diversity and inclusion, support of indigenous perspectives, publications, and other contributions. For information and applications please see [Link](#).

The Dr. Steve Pawluk Scholarship

The Canadian Society of Soil Science (CSSS) is pleased to announce the launch of the Dr Steve Pawluk Scholarship.

Dr Steve Pawluk was a professor in the Department of Soil Science at the University of Alberta. His research focused on understanding dynamic changes within soil systems that impact soil relationships influenced by hydrogeology, geomorphology, vegetation and soil fauna. His work occurred on major Canadian soils, including Podzols, Solonchets, Brunisols, Chernozems, Luvisols, Gleysols and Cryosols.

Steve was a dedicated teacher and inspiring mentor to many students and colleagues, through the 1960s to 1990s. He supervised thirty graduate students who went on to have distinguished careers with universities, governments and the private sector. He made a profound contribution to soil science in Canada, actively participating on committees and research on various soil orders, which led to development of the Canadian System of Soil Classification.

He served as Chair of the Department of Soil Science and as Associate Dean (Research) for the Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry at the University of Alberta. He contributed greatly to the International Congress of Soil Science held in Edmonton, Alberta in 1978, was named a CSSS Fellow in 1980 and served as President of CSSS in 1983.

An annual scholarship of \$1,000 will be administered by CSSS to support graduate students in programs focused on soil science; for example, in agriculture, forestry or environmental sciences.

Donations to the scholarship fund are invited and will be greatly appreciated. Receipts for tax purposes will be issued by CSSS.

For further information on the scholarship and donations, please contact David Chanasyk at chanasyk@ualberta.ca.



Call for Papers for a Collection

Soils and Disasters: Towards Resilience

Submission deadline: December 1, 2024

Disasters are common in our world today, from both natural and human made (anthropogenic) causes. Such events, including fire, flooding, drought, volcanic eruption, climate change, unmitigated mining, warfare, deforestation, and industrial urban sprawl, can have tremendous impacts on our soils. How we understand and address these impacts is critical to the functioning of our planet.

CJSS is calling for a global collection of papers on soils and their resilience associated with natural and human made disasters. Papers could focus on various research topics relating to soils and disasters, including the role of soils in moderating risks, soil remediation, soil building (Anthroposols), impacts on food security, and nature based climate solutions, to name a few.

Publication fees for accepted submissions to any CJSS collection are \$250 Open Access (optional) + \$30 per page.

For more information, please visit: <https://cdnsiencepub.com/topic/cjss-soil-disasters>

General Call for Papers to your Journal

CJSS is our journal and we are currently seeking submissions in any area of soil science. These could include a research article, review, mini review, letter to the editor, communication, or discussion. We have a new section called Perspectives, where you can contribute a fully referenced thought piece that facilitates discussion of scientific concepts and practices and current issues and topics in soil science.

Visit us at: <https://cdnsiencepub.com/journal/cjss>

Get specific information on articles and submission at: <https://cdnsiencepub.com/journal/cjss/authors#guidelines>

Or contact Editor In Chief M. Anne Naeth to discuss your ideas for submission: anaeth@ualberta.ca

Student Photo Contest

If you are a student interested in visually projecting your research and have interesting and memorable research photos you would like to share, consider entering the CSSS photo contest!

The top submission will receive a \$125 cash prize from CSSS and will be featured on the cover of the Canadian Journal of Soil Science (CJSS).



Select photos may be used as covers for special collections organized by the CJSS. Students whose photos are used for this purpose will receive a \$75 cash prize from CSSS.

All photos selected by the CJSS will be acknowledged on the CSSS website and in the CSSS newsletter, and at the CSSS Annual meeting.

The deadline for submissions is August 31 of each year.

All submissions must meet the following specifications:

- Image should focus on some aspect of soil science to reflect CJSS content.
- Image size and resolution must be at least 8.5" x 11" at 300 dpi or higher.
- No collages; one single image only.
- Image must be well focused and not blurry.
- Image must not include people.
- Image should not be manipulated or heavily edited.
- Acceptable image formats are jpg, png, or tif.

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.

Job Postings

Intermediate Soil Specialists and Soil Handling Monitors, Paragon Soil and Environmental Consulting Inc.

Paragon Soil and Environmental Consulting Inc. (Paragon) is a leading environmental consulting company specializing in soils, vegetation, and wetlands as they relate to natural resource and infrastructure development and reclamation. Our team has the good fortune to work on many of the largest and most dynamic industrial projects in the country. Our reputation with clients is built through using applied science, decades of experience, and consistently sound judgment to help their projects be successful. Paragon is currently seeking **Intermediate Soil Specialists** and **Soil Handling Monitors** to join our growing team in Edmonton, Alberta. Detailed job descriptions can be found at www.paragonsoil.com/careers or by clicking the links below. Please submit your application to HR@paragonsoil.com, including your resume (with three references) and a cover letter that outlines why you would be a great fit for the Paragon team.

Click the links below to view the full postings for each position.

- [Intermediate Soil Specialists](#)
- [Soil Handling Monitors](#)

Grounded in Soils Blog



Opportunities to participate in our public communications blog - Grounded In Soils! The blog enjoys an average of 600 readers per month!

All members can participate in our Grounded In Soils blog. We have two types of categories:

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! Be like Maren Oelberman, Grace Gowera, Daniel Saurette and more - it's 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!

Blog posts about your research projects! Work with our social media manager to compile a relatable blog post about your research (at any level). We can even work with research papers. We do need two photos to help portray the work. Email csss.soils@gmail.com for more information! Here is an example of this type of blog post: <https://groundedinsoils.wordpress.com/2024/03/03/high-organic-matter-soils-in-southwestern-quebec-are-good-for-agriculture/>)

Conferences | Events | Meetings

2024 CSSS Annual Meeting

2024 CSSS Annual Meeting: Soil Functions for Future Generations

University of British Columbia, Vancouver
June 9-13, 2024
Registration open now. Click [here](#) for details.

Call for Abstracts submission deadline April 15, 2024.
Click [here](#) for details

2024 CSSS Annual Meeting - Submit an Abstract

Session: Soil inorganic carbon – soil organic carbon’s neglected cousin
Session Chairs: Kirsten Hannam, Benjamin Ellert, Sandra Yanni

SUBMIT AN ABSTRACT

<https://csss2024.landfood.ubc.ca/abstract-submissions/>

Soil inorganic carbon (SIC) accounts for about one-third of the soil carbon pool yet it is largely ignored.

This session invites topics on SIC: quantification, modelling, dynamics, enhanced rock weathering, potential for C sequestration and others.

Please consider submitting an abstract and join us!!

See the link for details [Program | Canadian Society of Soil Science \(ubc.ca\)](#)

Conferences | Events | Meetings (Con't.)

We are delighted to invite you to **The 9th International Symposium on Soil Organic Matter- SOM 2024**. This event is set to take place from Sunday, May 26 to May 31, 2024, at the Mohammed VI Polytechnic University (UM6P) in Ben Guerir, Morocco, Africa.

SOM 2024 marks an exciting milestone as this will be the first time the symposium is hosted in Africa. This conference represents a unique opportunity for you to showcase your research and network with colleagues from across the globe.

Please join us as we delve into cutting-edge technologies to advance our understanding of topics around the theme of "Soil organic matter for global soil health and decarbonization".

For more information, including abstract submission and registration details, please visit our [conference website](https://som2024.um6p.ma) (som2024.um6p.ma).

We encourage you to share this announcement with your friends and colleagues who share your passion for soil organic matter and its global impacts.

Summary of Event Details:

Date: May 26-May 31, 2024

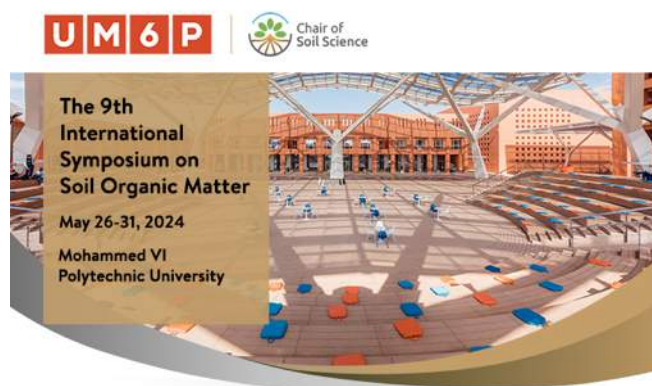
Location: Mohammed VI Polytechnic University (UM6P) in Ben Guerir, Morocco, Africa

Theme: "Soil Organic Matter for Global Soil Health and Decarbonization"

Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions or need further information.

Welcome to SOM 2024!

Joann Whalen & Ngonidzashe Chirinda
Co-chairs, SOM 2024
som2024@um6p.ma



The 24th International Conference on Environmental Indicators will be held on June 9-12, 2024 in St. Louis, USA.

This post-pandemic conference will create an interdisciplinary atmosphere that connects researchers, environmental managers and policy makers representing the interdisciplinary nature of environmental indicators throughout the world and expands our multi-faceted perspectives on environmental indicator research, education and

application.

Conference Webpage: www.environmentalindicators.org

Continued on next page...

Conferences | Events | Meetings (Con't.)

24th International Conference on Environmental Indicators (Con't.)

Conference Venue: The conference will be held at the Conference Center of Southern Illinois University in Edwardsville (SIUE), Illinois, United States. SIUE is located in the St. Louis Metropolitan Area, about 25-minute driving to the St. Louis International Airport and the Gateway Arch in downtown St. Louis. There are many tourist attractions in St. Louis and the surrounding areas in the American bottom, such as the iconic Gateway Arch tower, Missouri Botanical Garden, and Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis.

Conference Program: The conference welcomes presentations on any topics of Environmental Indicators. The program includes, but is not limited to, the following areas: Physical and chemical indicators, bioindicators/biomarkers, emerging contamination, pollution control and remediation, environmental risk assessment, human and animal health, application of environmental indicators for environmental management, regulation policy development, and environmental resilience and sustainability. The conference will include invited plenary lectures, oral and poster presentations.

Abstract: A one-page abstract for oral or poster presentation needs to be submitted to 2024-ICEI@siue.edu before April 1, 2024. The abstract template will become available at the conference webpage. All abstracts will be peer-reviewed, and accepted abstracts will be included in the conference proceedings.

Registration: The conference registration deadline is May 1, 2024. The registration rate for regular participants is \$500 (USD), \$350 for students. The late/on-site registration rate for all categories is \$600. Society members (both regular and student members) will receive a \$50 discount. The registration and payment information will become available soon at the conference webpage.

International Advisory Committee:

Dr. Robert Armon, Israel Institute of Technology, Israel
 Dr. Harrison Atagana, University of South Africa, South Africa
 Dr. Nancy D. Denslow, University of Florida, USA
 Dr. Juan Antonio Campos Gallego, University of Castilla-La Mancha, Spain
 Dr. Elias Hakalehto, University of Helsinki & Finnflag Oy, Finland
 Dr. Diane S. Henshel, Indiana University, USA
 Dr. Zhaojun Li, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences, China
 Dr. Tiequan Zhang, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Canada

Local Organizing Committee:

Dr. Joseph Kusi, Department of Environmental Sciences, SIUE
 Dr. Nicholas Guehlstorf, Department of Political Science, SIUE
 Dr. Zhi-Qing Lin, Department of Biological Sciences, SIUE
 Dr. Kevin Tucker, Department of Chemistry, SIUE
 Dr. Kyong Sup Yoon, Department of Environmental Sciences, SIUE
 Dr. Jim J. Zhou, Department of Civil Engineering, SIUE

Important Deadlines:

Abstract Submission: April 1, 2024
 Notice of abstract acceptance: April 15, 2024
 Conference Registration: May 1, 2024

Conference Secretariat Contact: 2024-ICEI@siue.edu

Conferences | Events | Meetings (Con't.)

Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the Organizing Committee of the **European Geosciences Union (EGU) 2024 General Assembly**, I am pleased to invite you to participate in **Session BG3.15** titled **“Linkages Between Soil Fauna and Biogeochemical Cycles”**. We, the conveners, encourage submissions from all aspects of research dealing with the effects of soil fauna on ecosystem functioning, such as (1) the regulation of soil organic matter decomposition, (2) nutrient cycling and soil fertility, (3) soil carbon storage, (4) greenhouse gas emissions, (5) soil hydrology and nutrient leaching, (6) trophic interactions and energy fluxes, (etc.). We welcome both oral and poster presentations. In keeping with the EGU's commitment to diversity and inclusion, we are promoting diversity among presenters with respect to career stage, gender, geographical origin, and scientific approaches.

The EGU General Assembly will be held at the **Austria Center Vienna, on 14–19 April 2024**. Although we would love to see you in person, you may also attend online if you are unable to travel on those dates. For those requiring financial aid to help cover travel expenses, we invite you to consult the EGU 2024 web page for information on financial support and waivers. The deadline for submitting an abstract is Wednesday, 10 January 2024, 13:00 CET.

We hope you will join us next April.

On behalf of all conveners:

- **Gerrit Angst** (Institute of Soil Biology and Biochemistry, Czech Academy of Sciences, Czechia)
- **Robert Bradley** (University of Sherbrooke, Canada)
- **Ingrid Lubbers** (Wageningen University and Research Centre, The Netherlands)
- **Jan Willem Van Groenigen** (Wageningen University and Research Centre, The Netherlands)

**** IMPORTANT LINKS ****

EGU 2024 Webpage: <https://www.egu24.eu/>

Abstract submission: https://www.egu24.eu/programme/how_to_submit.html

EGU Financial Aid: https://egu24.eu/guidelines/supports_and_waivers.html

Austria Centre Vienna: <https://www.acv.at/en/>

Conferences | Events | Meetings (Con't.)



Centennial Celebration and Congress of the International Union of Soil Sciences

**May 19-21, 2024
Florence, Italy**

(centennialiuiss2024.org/)

- Registration is open (<https://centennialiuiss2024.org/registration/>), with early bird fee payment available from December 5th 2022 to Mar 25th 2024.
- The opportunity to register for pre-congress or post-congress tours/activities is also now open, noting that there are limits on the number of participants for certain items (<https://centennialiuiss2024.org/activities-tours/>)

Understanding the past, to build into the future; Calling all members of the Canadian Society of Soil Science!

Do you have a piece of society history you would like to share? Is there a member (past or present) that has made a significant contribution to soil science that you would like to see profiled? After preparing a brief history for the IUSS Genealogy for their Centennial Celebration we realized that documentation of our history is a gap that we would like to fill. Time is passing far too quickly and this is a great opportunity to share and gather stories and knowledge about our members and great society! If you would like to contribute or collaborate, please get in touch with Amanda (adiochon@lakeheadu.ca).



CANADIAN SOCIETY OF SOIL SCIENCE
SOCIÉTÉ CANADIENNE DE SCIENCE DU SOL

CSSS - Business Office

Contact: Nancy Zubriski
PO Box 637
Pinawa, Manitoba, Canada,
R0E 1L0

Telephone: (204) 299-2327
Email: nzubriski@gmail.com
Website: www.csss.ca