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Colleagues, we are well into 2026, and I suspect that many of you are also looking forward to spring, after what has been a seemingly long winter.

I would like to start this message recognizing Dr. Asim Biswas, CSSS Fellow and former CSSS President, on being 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!

Since the last Newsletter, we have completed our elections for new CSSS Councillors. Congratulations and welcome to Ikechukwu Ogomoh (AAFC Fredericton) - our incoming Eastern Councillor, to Mervin St. Luce (AAFC Swift Current) - our incoming Western Councillor, and to Adrian Unc (Memorial University) - who has been our Eastern Councillor and who will be remaining on Council as our new President-Elect. At the same time, I would like to express appreciation to outgoing member of Council, Henry Chau (AAFC Lethbridge) - who has been our Western Councillor. I would especially like to thank our outgoing Past-President and CSSS Fellow, Richard Farrell (University of Saskatchewan), who also previously served as Western Councillor.

Our special business meeting, held virtually on December 19th, 2025, had a strong turnout, despite being so close to the holiday break. This meeting was focused on issues related to our ongoing refinement of our governance framework. Both 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); 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).

CSSS Council

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President's Message (Con't.)

Council has decided that the 2026 CSSS AGM will be held in virtual mode on Monday March 23rd, 2026, from 12:00 am to 2:00 pm (ET). A 'Save-the-Date' announcement has been circulated, with the agenda and supporting documents to be circulated by March 7th. Anyone who would like to add items to the agenda should contact our Secretary, Lee-Ann Bauman. During the upcoming AGM, we will also be considering proposals to organize the 2028 CSSS Annual Conference, with preference being given to bids from western Canada.

During its first meeting of 2026, Council approved circulation of the revised CSSS 'By-laws' and 'Rules' documents, which have taken into consideration discussions during the December special business meeting. The CSSS Rules Committee consists of myself, Richard Farrell and Anne Naeth. Though lengthy, we encourage members to review these documents before the upcoming AGM. Formal motions for their adoption will be put to members during the AGM, with asynchronous virtual voting to follow.

With the transition of CSSS Councillors, following the 2026 AGM, we will begin using dedicated institutional emails (eg. csss.presidentcouncil@gmail.com) for CSSS business communications. See Henry Chau's Western Councillor report for details.

As will be elaborated later in the Newsletter, consultation of CSSS members for the 2026 IUSS elections is currently underway. Please check your emails and complete your ballot by the March 6th deadline.

Members are reminded of the upcoming deadlines (many on April 1st, 2026) for the various CSSS Awards and Scholarships – details can be found at: <https://csss.ca/awards-criteria/>. We continue to closely 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. Currently, the Bill is in Committee stage (<https://www.parl.ca/legisinfo/en/bill/45-1/s-230>).

Finally, I would like to remind everyone of the upcoming CSSS-CSA Joint Conference "Soils & Crops in Focus", scheduled for June 20th to 25th in Guelph. Thanks to Adam Gillespie and the local organizing committee, who have been working hard to evolve the scientific program and various other activities. For details, see:

<https://event.fourwaves.com/cssscsa2026/pages>

Richard Heck
CSSS President

Reminder - CSSS Membership Renewal 2026

This is a reminder that the CSSS 2026 membership portal is available online at <https://csss.ca/become-a-member/>. Thank you to everyone who has already renewed. We greatly appreciate your continued membership and support.

Canada in the IUSS - Towards 24th WCSS and Beyond

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

Foreword – This represents the seventh installment of reflections and news items from the IUSS, with updates for this 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 Acceptances, Registrations & more...

As reminder, the 23rd WCSS *Soils and the Shared Future for Mankind*, will be held in Nanjing, China, from June 7th to 12th, 2026 (www.23wcss.org.cn/). Abstract acceptances have now been communicated to authors. Early bird registration remains open until March 7th, 2026 (www.23wcss.org.cn/IR/index.html). Those who will be requiring letters to apply for visas are encouraged to complete their registration early.

2025 IUSS Council Meeting...

The 2025 Annual IUSS Council meeting was held virtually on December 18th. The CSSS was officially represented by our President-Elect, Judith Nyiraneza. As Chair of the 24WCSS Committee, I also provided an update on key developments related to our planning for the 2030 congress in Toronto. 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*. Drs. Asim Biswas and Abdul Mouazen (Belgium), who were Chair and Vice-Chair of the WG, have now transitioned to serve the same respective roles in the Joint Commission for the 2026 to 2030 cycle.

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

The election for open IUSS Division and Commission Officer positions, as well as for members of the various IUSS Standing Committees, is now underway. National societies are consulting their membership to determine which candidate they will support for each position – these results must be submitted to the IUSS Secretariat by March 20th of 2026. An announcement, including bios of the candidates and access to a voting system, was circulated by email to all CSSS members on February 19th – please take time to express your opinion before the deadline of March 6th. Note that Canada has officially nominated candidates for Joint -Commission 1.7/3.8 'Permafrost-Affected Soils' and for Commission 2.3 'Soil Biology'.

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

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

In early January an official call was sent to members of the CSSS for applications to the positions of 1st and 2nd Vice-Chair of each IUSS Division. As mentioned in previous communications, as host for the 24th WCSS in 2030, Canada is automatically assigned these positions. 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. A total of eleven excellent applications were received for the eight available positions. As of the submission of this report, the selection process was still ongoing. The final list of nominees, which must be formally submitted to the IUSS Secretariat by the end of March 2026, will be announced to members during the upcoming AGM. I would like to thank all colleagues who put their name forward for these important positions.

Contracting of Professional Conference Organizer for the 24th WCSS...

Also in January, Requests-for-Proposals (RfPs) were formally sent to several well-established Canadian professional conference organizing companies. Four proposals have been received and are currently being evaluated by a dedicated working group, comprised of representatives of the 24WCSS Committee and the CSSS Council. Our current target is to have the PCO selected and contracted by the end of March 2026.

Updating our Official 24th WCSS Logo...

Based on the feedback from their consultation of CSSS members last November-December, Jacynthe Masse and Asim Biswas (co-chairs of the 24WCSS Event Branding Working Group) have been moving forward with the development of a new official logo for the 24th WCSS. In this regard, a Quebec-based design company, Niaka Agence Creative Autochtone, has been contracted. The new logo is expected to be ready by the end of March 2026 and will be used in any subsequent promotion and outreach regarding the event.

24th WCSS Booth at the Nanjing Congress...

As was mentioned in previous CSSS Newsletters, 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).

Louis-Pierre Comeau (Chair of the 24WCSS Promotion and Outreach Subcommittee) has recently circulated an announcement to CSSS members, inviting them to contribute videos for promotional material to be used in our booth in Nanjing and for subsequent promotion. One of these requests is for members to record a short video (~ 30 seconds or so) of yourself extending an invitation to attend the 24th WCSS – examples of a short script were provided in Louis' announcement. At the same time, we are inviting colleagues to submit any existing videos (e.g. Youtube or Vimeo links) that they may have produced regarding their research or other professional activities. As we did for our bid in Glasgow, we plan to prepare a compilation of these video clips which will run in our booth in Nanjing. We are asking that any video contributions also be submitted by the end of March 2026 (to 24wcss@gmail.com). If anyone has ideas for our booth in Nanjing, please do not hesitate to contact us.

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

Getting Involved – We Need YOU!...

Upon the closure of the 23rd WCSS in Nanjing, the eyes of the international soil science community will be directed our way! If you are not already engaged, please know that there will be many kinds of opportunities to participate and contribute. As a reminder, David Lobb is chairing the '24WCSS Technical Tours' Subcommittee and Daniel Saurette is chairing the '2030 International Soil Judging Contest' Subcommittee. Check out the 24th WCSS website for other details: www.24wcss.org. If you wish to become involved in the activities of the 24WCSS Committee, either contact any of the subcommittee or working groups chairs directly or send an email to me.

Ontario Soils GeoHub: Helping Farmers Harness Soil Data



For farmers, having access to accurate soil information is essential for making informed decisions about crop selection, farm management, and land stewardship.

This is why the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness (OMAFRA) has launched the [Ontario Soils GeoHub](#), a free online platform that helps farmers make better use of provincial and federal soil data. The site allows farmers to discover, visualize and download relevant soil information products such as the [Ontario topsoil report](#) and its dashboard, and includes a localized Soils Spatial Search, which lets you view detailed soil information for your area. [Soils Spatial Search](#) includes data on slope, soil texture, CLI rating, stoniness, drainage type, soil hydrologic group, and drainage design code.

The [Ontario Soils GeoHub](#) also features innovative new pilot [digital soil maps](#) for the Ottawa area. These maps allow farmers to view important soil properties such as pH levels, total organic carbon content, cation exchange capacity and soil texture at different depths.

The [Ontario Soils GeoHub](#) will continue to grow with new soil data as it becomes available. Users are encouraged to explore the site and see how these resources can support their operations, and to share feedback through the online form to help shape its future.

2026 Joint Meeting of the CSSS and CSA



CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

The Organizing Committee of the **Soils and Crops in Focus** Joint Meeting of the Canadian Society of Soil Science (CSSS) and the Canadian Society of Agronomy (CSA), is pleased to announce a **Call for Oral and Poster Abstract** submissions.

Abstract Guidelines:

- **Deadline:** March 31st, 2026.
- Abstracts to be no longer than 300 words.
- Submit your abstract using the **conference website at:**
<https://event.fourwaves.com/cssscsa2026/pages>
- Please indicate your preferred format (oral or poster).

Please visit the [conference website](#) under 'submissions' to view the range of sessions. Final presentation format and session placement will be determined by the program committee and session organizers.

We look forward to your submissions! For any further inquiries, please reach out to CSSSCSA2026@uoguelph.ca

Respectfully,

Laura Van Eerd, Kari Dunfield

Co-chairs, 2026 Soils and Crops in Focus Program Committee



CSSS Rules Committee

Over this year, the CSSS Rules Committee, comprised of Richard Farrell, Anne Naeth and Richard Heck, have undertaken a major review of the governance framework of the CSSS. This has included consideration of its 'By-laws' (last revised in 17 June 2014), its 'Rules and Guidelines' (last revised March 2021), as well as its administrative and management structure. As was done in 2014, the proposed revisions to the By-laws was generate with the assistance of Corporate Canada's online "By-law builder: not-for-profit corporations".

The review process has involved engagement of CSSS members through virtual townhalls in spring of 2025, updates during the 2025 AGM, as well as sharing of the full draft revisions of the '[By-laws](#)' and '[General Administrative Rules, Procedures and Guidelines](#)' documents, in the lead-up to the special business meeting held this past December. In addition to feedback provided by members during the various townhalls and meetings, members of the CSSS Council have also provided input.

During its February 2026 meeting, the CSSS Council approved the circulation of the proposed revision version to CSSS members, ahead of the upcoming virtual AGM on March 23rd 2026. At that meeting, formal motions will be made to members to approved the adoption of the proposed revised versions of both documents.

Members are encouraged to review these documents and, to facilitate discussion during the AGM, forward concerns to members of the Rules committee ahead of time. Voting will be by asynchronous electronic ballot, immediately following the AGM (to allow for greater participation of CSSS members).

Richard Heck,
Chair CSSS Rules Committee

5th International Soil Judging Contest - June 2-6, 2026, Nanjing, China - 2026 World Congress of Soil Science



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.23wcoss.org.cn/> or contact us at soiljudging@issas.ac.cn. More information on the soil judging contest is [available here](#).

2026 Call for Award Nominations

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 recognize their accomplishments and contributions. Nominating is easy, but please keep in mind that nominations must be received by the deadline of April 1, 2026. Nominators are responsible for submitting completed applications by the deadline; incomplete applications will not be considered.

CSSS Fellow Award - Awarded to CSSS members with a distinguished record of accomplishment in soil science and service to the Society. Nominees must be CSSS members in good standing at the time of nomination.

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

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

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! Nominees must be CSSS members in good standing at the time of nomination.

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 csss.presidentelectcouncil@csss.ca, Chair of the CSSS Awards Committee, by **April 1, 2026**.

CSSS PEDOLOGY TRAVEL AWARD

This award provides travel funds to allow CSSS members to attend an international conference, workshop or meeting related to pedology, to enhance our international presence and the future of our expertise in this key area of soil science.

Individual awards are capped at \$2000, with the actual amount based on receipts for registration, travel, and accommodation. A total of \$6000 is allocated annually and awards will be made until the funds are exhausted, with any unallocated funds dispersed at the discretion of the Awards Committee. Application deadlines are: March 15, June 15, and September 15; with award confirmations made by March 31, June 30, and September 30, 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 applicants must be members in good standing at the time of the application, and although student members may apply, priority will be given to regular (non-student) members.

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 csss.presidentelectcouncil@csss.ca, Chair of the CSSS Awards Committee.

2026 Call for Award Nominations (Con't.)

STUDENT AWARDS

The CSSS has several awards aimed at promoting student participation in the society. Applicants must be registered in a graduate program in soil science at a recognized University or College and be a member of the CSSS in good standing at the time of their application. Only completed applications received by the deadline will be considered.

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 2026 joint conference of the CSSS and the Canadian Society of Agronomy (CSA) will be held at the University of Guelph from June 20-25, 2026.

Graduate students who are CSSS members are eligible to receive a Student Travel Award in the amount of \$700. A maximum of 12 awards is given each year. Applications are due on **April 1, 2026**.

CSSS Student Travel Awards for International Soil Science Meetings

This award provides opportunity for student members of the CSSS 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. Individual awards are capped at \$3000, with the actual amount based on receipts for registration, travel, and accommodation. A total of \$9000 is allocated annually and awards will be made until the funds are exhausted with any unallocated funds dispersed at the discretion of the Awards Committee.

Complete applications must be submitted by **March 15, June 15, or September 15**; with award confirmations made by March 31, June 30, and September 30, 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 csss.presidentelectcouncil@csss.ca, Chair of the CSSS Awards Committee.

CSSS Student Presentation Awards

Competing students must be members of the CSSS in good standing at the time of their registration for the meeting.

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.

2026 Call for Award Nominations (Con't.)

CSSS Student Presentation Awards

Competing students must be members of the CSSS in good standing at the time of their registration for the meeting.

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.

GRADUATE STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

Dr. Karl C. Ivarson Soil Science Scholarship

This scholarship (valued at \$2,000) was created by Dr. Karl C. Ivarson through a gift to the Agricultural Institute of Canada Foundation, which in 2017 was rebranded as the Canadian Foundation for Food and Agricultural Education. In 2024, the administration of this scholarship passed to the CSSS.

In keeping with Dr. Ivarson's wish, the scholarship provides financial support to students entering their 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. Note: First year Ph.D. students are eligible if they have studied soil science at the M.Sc. level.

Scholarships are awarded using the following criteria (not listed in order of importance): (i) academic achievement, (ii) area of study, (iii) community involvement, (iv) career interests, and (v) letters of recommendation. Applicants must be CSSS members in good standing at the time of application. The application deadline is **April 15**. Only completed applications received by the deadline will be considered.

The application guidelines and application form are available on the CSSS website at <https://csss.ca/awards-criteria/>. Please send your completed application via e-mail to csss.presidentelectcouncil@csss.ca, Chair of the CSSS Awards Committee.

Steve Pawluk Scholarship

This scholarship (valued at \$2,000) was created by the colleagues of Dr. Steve Pawluk through gifts to the CSSS and was established to provide financial support to graduate students entering their second or subsequent year of graduate studies in soil science (in areas of agriculture, forestry, environmental science, or land reclamation) at a recognized Canadian university. Preference will be given to applicants conducting soil science research on landscape dynamics or micromorphology, including soil formation processes, soil evolution over time or across landscapes, soil processes involved in providing ecosystem services, and research using innovative tools or interdisciplinary approaches.

Scholarships are awarded using the following criteria (not listed in order of importance): (i) academic achievement, (ii) area of study, (iii) community involvement, (iv) career interests, and (v) letters of recommendation. Applicants must be CSSS members in good standing at the time of application. The application deadline is midnight EDT **September 30**. Applicants are responsible for submitting completed applications by the deadline; incomplete applications will not be considered.

The application guidelines and application form are available on the CSSS website at <https://csss.ca/awards-criteria/>. Please send your completed application via e-mail to csss.presidentelectcouncil@csss.ca, Chair of the CSSS Awards Committee.

24th World Congress of Soil Science - Videos

Dear CSSS Members,

As we prepare for the 24th World Congress of Soil Science (24WCSS), to be held in Toronto in July 2030, we invite you to help promote this important international event through short video contributions.

We are making **two distinct requests** to our membership:

1) Personalized Invitation Videos (20–40 seconds)

We encourage you to record a brief video introducing yourself (name, institution, and area of expertise) and inviting colleagues from around the world to join us in Toronto.

Because we are targeting the international soil science community, we strongly encourage members to record their invitation in **any language or languages you wish**. This will help broaden our global reach and engagement. We also invite you to reflect the theme of our Congress, **“Soils in a Warmer World”**.

Please send your completed video (or a download link) to: 24wcss@gmail.com

To make this easy, three optional script examples are provided below. You are welcome to adapt them to your own voice and style.

Option 1 – Polished Core Script

Hello, my name is [Name]. I am a [graduate student / researcher / professor] at [institution], working in the area of [field or specialization].

In July 2030, the 24th World Congress of Soil Science will be held in Toronto, Canada. The Congress will bring together soil scientists from around the world to share research, exchange ideas, and advance soil science for a sustainable future.

I warmly invite you to join us in Toronto and to be part of this global gathering of our community.

Option 2 – Short, Conversational Version

Hello, my name is [Name], and I'm a [position] at [institution].

In July 2030, Toronto, Canada will host the 24th World Congress of Soil Science, bringing together soil scientists from across the globe.

I hope you'll consider joining us for this exciting international event.

Option 3 – More Formal Version

Hello, my name is [Name], and I am a [position] at [institution], with research interests in [field].

I am pleased to share that the 24th World Congress of Soil Science will take place in Toronto, Canada, in July 2030. This Congress will provide a major international forum for scientific exchange and collaboration across all areas of soil science.

I would be delighted if you would consider participating in this important global event.

An example video and simple recording instructions can be viewed here:

<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/BuLy6DDe9BA>

24th World Congress of Soil Science - Videos (Con't)

2) Existing Lab or Department Promotional Videos

We also invite professors and scientists to share **existing short videos** (e.g., YouTube or Vimeo links) that promote their research programs, laboratories, extension activities, or soil science departments.

If you already have such a video, please send the link to: 24wcss@gmail.com

These videos may be featured as part of our broader outreach strategy to highlight the strength, diversity, and global impact of soil science.

We hope many of you will participate and help build momentum toward 24WCSS while showcasing the excellence of Canadian and international soil science.

Thank you for your support.

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

CSSS Council New Emails

Following the CSSS AGM, the new CSSS Council will be in place. For your reference, the new Council email addresses are listed below.

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

Mervin St. Luce, Western Council, 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.gradrepcouncil@csss.ca

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

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

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/>

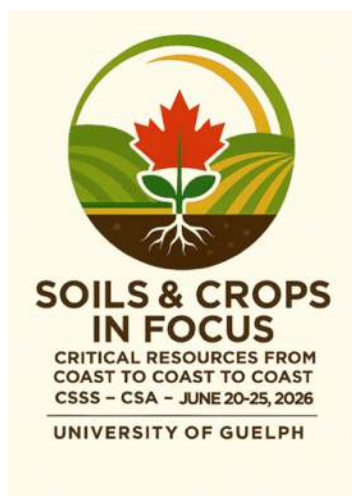
Life as a soil scientist encourages students to pursue a career in soil science by showing what real-life soil scientists do! We need your help to let them know what it's like to be a professional soil scientist! Be like Maren Oelberman, Grace Gowera, Daniel Saurette and more by filling out a simple 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!

Conferences | Events | Meetings

Save the date!

The Canadian Society of Soil Science **Annual General Meeting** is scheduled for March 23, 2026 from 12:00 noon – 2:00 pm. EST. The meeting will be held virtually.

A link to attend, an agenda and other related documents will be circulated by March 9, 2026.



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.

Conferences | Events | Meetings (Con't.)



SOIL 230 Pedology Field School



Course Details

Where:

In-person field school near Lac la Nonne, AB
1-hour drive northwest of Edmonton
Accommodations are available within a 30-minute drive from the study area

When:

June 3-5, 2026 (8 hours each day, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., with coffee and lunch breaks)

Fee:

\$650 (+GST)

Additional Notes:

- 24 hours toward Professional Development
- Transportation, meals, and accommodations not included

Questions:

env-learning@montrose-env.ca

Registration:

<https://SOIL230-Sp26.eventbrite.ca>

This 24-hour introductory soil science course is 100% field-based. The 3-day field school, led by Dr. Konstantin Dlusskiy, focuses on hands-on experience and application to industry standards.

- Description of soil pits and landscapes
- Field diagnostics of soil properties and processes
- Soil classification to Subgroup level of the *Canadian System of Soil Classification*
- Soil sampling protocols
- Hazards associated with ground disturbance and the *Alberta One Call* procedure

Seats are limited – early registration is recommended

Conferences | Events | Meetings (Con't.)



ALBERTA SOILS TOUR 2026

May 27 to 29, 2026

EXPLORING PALLISER'S TRIANGLE

Medicine Hat - Cypress Hills - Brooks - Choppy Sandhills

The 2026 Alberta Soils Tour is an excellent training opportunity for those working with soils, including soil scientists, ecologists, land managers, ranchers, and farmers. Experts will present information on soil formation, soil profiles, landscapes, soil conservation, land management, and agronomy.

TOUR LEADERS

Konstantin Dlusskiy Senior Soil Scientist
Ed Karpuk Resource Inventory Specialist, Retired
Brendan Bischoff Rangeland Agrologist

REGISTRATION

Regular \$370 | **Student** \$320

Includes transportation from Medicine Hat, parking, guidebook, meals, and snacks

Registration deadline May 1, 2026

<https://2026absoilstour.eventbrite.ca>

ACCOMMODATIONS

Holiday Inn Express and Suites

9 Strachan Bay SE, Medicine Hat, Alberta
 403-504-5151

Book before May 6, 2026

Mention the Alberta Soils Tour to receive a discounted rate (Code: AST)

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.soilsworkshop.ab.ca/soils-tour>

Or contact **Danielle Hutson** Soils Tour Coordinator,
 Element Materials Technology

780-242-8829 | albertasoilstour@gmail.com

DAY 1 – MAY 27

Depart Medicine Hat, head south towards Cypress Hills

- Vertical zonality along elevation gain from Sage Creek Grazing Reserve north, towards Cypress Hills: Brown to Dark Brown to Black Chernozems on glacial till
- Chernozems on gravelly deposits in Cypress Hills

DAY 2 – MAY 28

Depart Medicine Hat, head northwest towards Brooks

- Solonchic soils on glacial till at Antelope Creek Ranch.
- Brown and Dark Brown Chernozems on very coarse glaciofluvial deposits at Mattheis Research Ranch.
- Doughnut moraine and Dark Brown Chernozem on glacial till

DAY 3 – MAY 29

Depart Medicine Hat, head north toward South Saskatchewan River valley

- Eutric Brunisols to Regosols on eolian dunes in Choppy Sandhills.
- Cumulic Regosols on recent fluvial sediments along the South Saskatchewan River.
- Brown Chernozems on glaciolacustrine sediments

Seats are limited – early registration is recommended



Conferences | Events | Meetings (Con't.)



**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/)



AIC Conference

Agri-Food Innovation 2026 - Canada's Unique Advantage for Nation Building

May 26 & 27, 2026 | Ottawa, ON

The Agri-Food Innovation Council Conference is an occasion for agriculture and food leaders in research and innovation and related stakeholders to gather and share information on key issues affecting the sector.

This year's theme is *Agri-Food Innovation 2026 – Canada's Unique Advantage for Nation Building*.

<https://www.aic.ca/2026-conference/>

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 13-16, 2026
op2026.com

**Registration and abstract
submission now open!**



**THE 4TH GLOBAL
SOIL BIODIVERSITY
CONFERENCE** Victoria, Canada
12-15 April 2026

Victoria, British Columbia, Canada
12 - 15 April, 2026

<https://www.globalsoilbiodiversity.org>

Conferences | Events | Meetings (Con't.)

The poster features three circular headshots of the event participants against a background of dark soil. Below each headshot is their name and affiliation. The event title is prominently displayed in the center. At the bottom, there are icons for date and time, and logos for the Canadian Journal of Soil Science and the Canadian Society of Soil Science.

MODERATOR
Dillon Muldoon
Canadian Society of Soil Science

SPEAKER
Dr. M. Anne Naeth
Canadian Journal of Soil Science

SPEAKER
Morgan Tunzelmann
Canadian Journal of Soil Science

**Publishing Your Research:
Panel and Discussion**

DATE
March 18, 2026

TIME
1:00PM TO 2:30PM (ET)

Canadian Journal of Soil Science

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

Publishing Your Research: Panel and Discussion

Hosted by the Canadian Society of Soil Science and the Canadian Journal of Soil Science

Date: Wednesday, March 18, 2026

Time: 1:00 to 2:30 pm Eastern time

Please register for the session here: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/1017708419473/WN_s5avliaXT2mpL59CvvnGSw

All are welcome.

Presenters:

Dr. M. Anne Naeth, co-Editor-in-Chief, Canadian Journal of Soil Science

Morgan Tunzelmann, Journal Development Specialist, Canadian Journal of Soil Science

Moderated by Dillon Muldoon, Graduate Student Representative, Canadian Society of Soil Science

Publishing is a core part of being a scientist but navigating where to begin can feel daunting for early-career researchers. This session offers a clear, practical overview of the dos and don'ts of publishing your work and demystifies the publication process. Aimed at graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, and other emerging researchers, the panel will provide guidance on developing and submitting your article, what editors look for, how peer review works behind the scenes, and how to effectively respond to reviewers' comments.

Announcements

Maren Oelbermann, PhD is now a Technical Editor for the Journal of Environmental Quality. She was previously an associate editor and has been promoted to Technical Editor for a 2-year term.

Camila Cardoso defended her doctoral thesis on December 9, 2025.

Title of Thesis: Quantifying sustainable agricultural practices in central Alberta, Canada: Examining the effects of conservation tillage, compost, and biochar applications on carbon sequestration in agricultural soils

Degree: PhD in Soil Science

School: University of Alberta

Supervisor: Dr. Derek MacKenzie

Canadian Soil Science Resource List

A curated reference for members to bookmark and revisit throughout the year.

National Organizations

- Canadian Society of Soil Science (CSSS) - <https://csss.ca>
- Canadian Soil Biodiversity Observatory - <https://sis.agr.gc.ca/cansis/biome/index.html>
- Canadian Land Reclamation Association (CLRA) - <https://www.clra.ca>
- Soil Health Network - <https://www.soilhealthnetwork.ca>

Provincial Organizations

- Manitoba Soil Science Society (MSSS) - <https://mbsoils.ca>
- Pacific Regional Society of Soil Science - <https://www.prsss.ca>
- Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement - <https://www.ontariosoilcrop.org>

Key Resources

- CSSS - Soil Health Committee - <https://csss.ca/csss-soil-health-committee-2/>
- Canadian Soil Classification Committee - <https://csss.ca/pedology-committee/>
- Centre for Sustainable Soil Management - <https://www.sustainablesoils.ca>

Help us grow this list.

If you have additional Canadian soil science organizations, events, or resources to suggest, please share them for inclusion in future editions by emailing csss.officemanagercouncil@csss.ca.

CJSS Cover Photo 2026



Abhijeet Pathy
University of Alberta
Winner, 2026 CJSS Photo Contest

Abhijeet Pathy works on remediation and reclamation of polluted environments, with a focus on using biochar to remove heavy metals and hydrocarbons from groundwater, industrial wastewater, and contaminated soils. His research emphasizes developing sustainable and economically viable biochar-based systems suitable for industrial-scale applications. He completed his Bachelor of Science degree in biotechnology at the National Institute of Technology, Rourkela, India in 2021, and is currently pursuing his doctoral research at the University of Alberta. Beyond academia, Abhijeet is a minimalist with interests in investing, supporting underprivileged students, YouTube content creation, building applications through vibe coding, and reading.

I took this photo near Cold Lake during my PhD fieldwork. My research is addressing how we can clean up contaminated soil and water using a carbon-rich material called biochar. This site is a peatland that has been contaminated for nearly 20 years. Before my first field trip, I expected to see a barren, damaged landscape. Everything I had heard about the site led me to imagine a place where nothing could survive. But I was surprised. The site was green and alive; grasses, mosses, and even willow trees were growing, despite the contaminated soil beneath them. Standing there, I felt a quiet sense of awe. It reminded me that life doesn't give up easily. Even under long-term environmental stress, it finds ways to adapt and persist. As a soil science student, this experience deepened my belief in the importance of remediation. On a personal level, it also stayed with me as a lesson, that even in difficult or uncertain times, growth is possible, and resilience can slowly take root.



Winning Photo - 2026 CJSS Photo Contest

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

Send all entries to the CJSS Editor-in-Chief (csss.cjsseditorcouncil@csss.ca) and the Graduate Student Representative (csss.gradrepouncil@csss.ca).

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.

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 (csss.cjsseditorcouncil@csss.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

Contact: Nancy Zubriski
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