



Canadian Society of Soil Science

Société Canadienne de la Science du Sol

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The summer seems barely over, the short and temperamental autumn already gives signs of giving into winter. Was never to be trusted. Planning for the next research season already feels late. The flurry of “to be done”, choosing our next president elect, preparing for the next annual meeting of our Society, which will be held jointly with IUSS Division 1 - Soils in Space and Time and the Global Soil Security Conference, is already occupying our overflowing calendars. Please read through our newsletter and ponder how you may contribute. Be informed and participate...and look forward to the mid-winter news on all these and more.

CSSS Council

President

Richard Farrell

University of Saskatchewan

Ph: 306 966-2772

r.farrell (at) usask.ca

Past-President

Amanda Diochon

Lakehead University

Ph: 807 343-8010 ext. 8444

adiochon (at) lakeheadu.ca

President-Elect

Richard J. Heck

University of Guelph

Ph: 519 824-4120 ext. 52450

rheck (at) uoguelph.ca

Secretary

Lee-Ann Bauman

Terralogix Solutions Inc.

Ph: 780 461-7726 ext.232

baumanL15 (at) gmail.com

Treasurer

Preston Sorenson

University of Saskatchewan

Ph: 306 966-4343

prs352 (at) mail.usask.ca

Eastern Councillor

Adrian Unc

Memorial University

Ph: 709 637-7153

aunc (at) mun.ca

Western Councillor

Henry Chau

Lincoln University

henry.chau (at) lincoln.ac.nz

Graduate Student Representative

Blake Weiseth

University of Saskatchewan

blake.weiseth (at) gmail.com

Editor in Chief CJSS

M. Anne Naeth

Department of Renewable

Resources

University of Alberta

Ph: 780 492-9539

anne.naeth (at) ualberta.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!

Call for Papers: Soils and Disasters: Towards Resilience

Disasters are becoming more common in our world, from both natural and human-made (anthropogenic) causes. These events and their impacts vary temporally and spatially. Some last just minutes; others decades; some occur infrequently, others more often; some impact small areas, others large ones. Such events, including fire, flooding, drought, volcanic eruption, climate change, and warfare, usually have profound impacts on our soils. If unmitigated and/or not reclaimed, land uses such as mining, agriculture, deforestation, and urban sprawl can lead to disasters. These impacts include changes in soil chemical, physical, and biological properties, which can alter processes within soils. Understanding and addressing these impacts is critical to sustainable resource development and utilization, food and fibre production, and ecosystem functioning.

Call for Papers: Soils and Disasters: Towards Resilience (Con't.)

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 understanding the impacts, moderating the risks, and reparation. Examples are inherent soil resilience to disasters, soil property deterioration, contaminant remediation, reclamation, soil building (Anthrosols), impacts on food security, and nature-based climate solutions.

For further information contact Dr David Chanasyk, Guest Editor at chanasyk@ualberta.ca.

CSSS Soil Health Committee

Soil Health Blog Content

The new Soil Health Committee would like to ask everyone working in Soil Health Research or Education to write a blog (500 words, popular media language) about their work for promotion on the CSSS website. We would like to have two new blogs every month, one from a graduate student and one from a professor, and then we will promote these through our social media feeds. Please let me know if you would like to participate by emailing your blog or questions to Derek MacKenzie (mdm7@ualberta.ca).

National Soil Health Strategy

The Soil Conservation Council of Canada (SCCC) has engaged all agricultural sectors of Canada on the need for a National Soil Health Strategy. They will release a report on what they heard in the near future. They have identified four foundational pillars for establishing a national strategy and are asking members of the CSSS for help to develop and deliver action items under these four pillars:

1. Evidence-Based Soil Health Actions (Research)
2. Learning, Education, and Technology Transfer of Soil Health (Education and Outreach)
3. Supporting Public & Private Sector Interests in Soil Health (Resources)
4. Public Engagement in Soil Health (Communication)

If you are interested in being involved in this work, please fill out a google form at the following link: <https://forms.gle/jd9kbKezcq1tWmnQ6>

We will then invite all interested parties to the December meeting of the CSSS Soil Health committee to discuss strategies and working groups.

2024 CSSS International Travel Award

7th International Soil Classification Congress

**Submitted by: Raphaël Deragon, Agr. M.Sc.
Ph.D. candidate, Soil and Environment
Université Laval**



7th International Soil Classification Congress, Hokkaido, JHapan.

From June 2nd to June 9th, 2024, I attended the 7th International Soil Classification Congress in Hokkaido, Japan.

This year's theme was centred around the toposequence of Histosols, Andosols and Fluvisols. The week started with a half-day field trip to visit the volcanic caldera lake Shikotsu. Then followed two days of oral presentation (16) and poster (20) sessions in an intimate setting. The keynote speakers shared their insights on the current understanding of soil formation and classification around the globe and the soils of Japan. The latter presentation was particularly informative for me. We learned that 13% of the land in Japan is used for agriculture, of which half is under rice paddies. Moreover, due to urbanization and the expansion of cities, the total extent of agricultural soil decreased by 50% between 1960 and 2015.

Japan is dominated by brown forest soils (33%), Andosols (30%, volcanic and carbon-rich soils) and fluvic soils (14%). Through other talks, I learned more about ongoing initiatives to update US Taxonomy, the German Soil Systematics and the WRB. This was particularly interesting for me, considering the upcoming 4th version of the CSSC. My talk was well received by the participants, even though it focused on an automated classification approach of peaty, limnic, and mineral layers at the field scale using probes and proximal sensors, and not on traditional soil classification.



Figure 2: Vertisol, US Taxonomy/ Anthrosol, WRB

The week concluded with a memorable three-day field trip where we were spoiled with delicious food. Oh, and we also had the opportunity to visit nine soil pits, comparing the WRB, US Taxonomy, Australian, and Japanese soil classification systems. These visits sparked stimulating discussions about the differences, similarities, and complexities of each system. We visited a research station conducting trials on rice paddies (Figure 2: Vertisol, US Taxonomy/ Anthrosol, WRB), described a deep-plowed soil down to 80 cm using a trencher for Chinese yam production

2024 CSSS International Travel Award (Con't.)

7th International Soil Classification Congress



Figure 3: Entisol, US Taxonomy/
Andosol, WRB)

(Figure 3: Entisol, US Taxonomy/Andosol, WRB), and saw a heavy clayey soil with mostly horizontal water flow, depleting iron in the biopores, leading to lighter colours (Figure 4: Ultisol, US Taxonomy/ Stagnosol, WRB). The Japanese organizing committee orchestrated all aspects of the conference with incredible attention to detail, with the comfort and experience of the participants in mind.

Throughout the week, the organizers and participants emphasized the need to initiate students, the next generation of pedologists, to soil classification by inviting them to participate in this type of conference. Practical field tours were highlighted as crucial to their understanding of soil formation and evolution around the globe. This is why I am deeply grateful and privileged to have been financially supported by the CSSS. The practical knowledge I acquired and the network I developed during this trip will allow me to become a better soil scientist and, one day, a good pedologist. I will cherish the memories of my stay in Japan and the friendships I have formed with many passionate and friendly soil scientists I hope to meet again. I strongly encourage students to apply for this award to experience a similar life-changing journey in another country and receive constructive external criticism on their work.



Figure 4: Ultisol, US Taxonomy/
Stagnosol, WRB

Student Photo Contest

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

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

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

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



Submission deadlines

General submissions will be accepted at any time.

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

Submissions specifications

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

Submission contacts

All entries should be sent to

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

Prizes

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

Students may submit more than one image per competition.

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

CJSS Photo Submissions

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

Canada in the IUSS - Towards 24th WCSS and Beyond

Richard J Heck, Chair IUSS Division 1

Foreword – This represents the third installment of reflections and news items from the IUSS, with special attention on the 2024 IUSS Inter-Congress Meeting, as well as the early lead-up to the 23WCSS in Nanjing, China. Updates regarding our ongoing early work to organize the 24WCSS are also provided.

2026 WCSS is on the Horizon...

The 2024 IUSS Inter-Congress Meeting will be held during October 21st to 24th, 2024 in Nanjing (www.iussic2024.aconf.org/), under the theme of “Soil Health for Future Generations”, in parallel with the 15th Soil Science Society of China National Congress. The primary purpose of an inter-congress meeting is to bring the IUSS Council together, for its annual business meeting, in the host country of the next WCSS, which allows them to better understand on-going preparations for the next WCSS. It is also during this meeting that the Council elects a ‘President-Elect’, who begins a two-year term in January of the following year, transitions to their two-year of ‘IUSS President’ at the start of the year following the next WCSS, and then subsequently serves a two-year term as ‘Past-President’. Up to ten ‘Honorary Members’ are also elected during the inter-congress meeting. WCSS host countries have the option to organize the inter-congress meeting together with another national meeting, but it is not required.

A call for session proposals, for the 2026 WCSS, is now open (www.23wcss.org.cn/topic/). Session proposals can be submitted through the email address wcss20206@issas.ac.cn by March 31st, 2025. These will be reviewed by May 31st, 2025, after which a call for abstracts will be announced. As a 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/).

Since the previous Newsletter, some changes have been approved, by the IUSS Executive Council, in the scientific structure of Division 1 *Soils in Space and Time*. The *IUSS World Soil of the Year* Task Force was converted into a Working Group. The *Cryosols* Working Group, which was established in 1992, will be converted (upon Council approval in Nanjing), to Joint Commission 1.7/3.8 *Permafrost-Affected Soils*, within Divisions 1 and 3 ‘Soil Use and Management’ – the current WG Chair and Vice-Chair (Adrian Unc), will assume those positions for the new Commission. The *Soil Monitoring* Working Group, established in 2010, has been closed – related activities will be continued in Commission 1.5 *Pedometrics*. A new Working Group *International Accreditation* has also been approved.

Continuing our progressive introduction of IUSS Divisions, Division 2 Soil Properties and Processes, chaired by Giuseppe Corti (Italy), focuses on the “integration of physics, chemistry, biology, mineralogy and pedogenesis to understand fundamental soil properties and processes that control transport, cycling, speciation and bioavailability of elements or molecules” (www.iuss.org/divisions/division-2-soil-properties-and-processes/). Currently, there are five Commissions in Division 2: 2.1 Soil Physics, 2.2 Soil Chemistry, 2.3 Soil Biology, 2.4 Soil Mineralogy, and 2.5 Physical/Chemical/Biological Interface Reactions. This Division also has three Working Groups: Critical Zone System, Soil Modelling Consortium, and Pedofauna (which was also just created).

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

Moving into 2025, the IUSS begins its next cycle of elections for Chairs of Divisions, as well as Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Commissions. By the end of March'25, the IUSS Secretariat will formally announce the open positions; the nomination period will close at the end of July'25; by the end of October'25, the ballots will be circulated to all IUSS members; member organizations will have until the end of April'26 to submit their national preferences; the election results will be announced by the end of May'26. Elected officers will assume their positions on January 1, 2027, and continue until December 31, 2030. All IUSS Members (including the CSSS), which are in 'good-standing', are allowed to nominate individuals for the positions of Chair and Vice-Chair of the Commissions. In the case of Division Chairs, the CSSS will not be eligible to nominate individuals during this next cycle, since, as hosts for the 24WCSS in 2030, Canada is designated the positions of 1st and 2nd Vice-Chair of each Division, as well as the position of Vice-President (Congress). As we progress into 2025, we will be establishing a strategy to identify and nominate individuals for the Division Vice-Chair positions by March of 2026, who will assume their positions at the closure of the 23WCSS. I encourage all members interested in serving in the various Officer positions to stay alert to relevant upcoming communications – please do not hesitate to reach out to me if you have any questions.

With respect to the 24WCSS, we will be presenting an update to the IUSS Council, during the 2024 Inter-Congress Meeting, on our preparations to host that event in 2030. At that time a 'ratification' vote will be held by the Council. Once 'ratification' is completed, we will be able to formalize an MOU with the IUSS, as official hosts of the 24WCSS. With this, we will be able to execute a license agreement with the Metro Toronto Convention Centre, by the end of December 2024. At the same time, we are proceeding with the establishment of the 'Not-for-Profit', approved during the recent CSSS AGM, which will be responsible for administering the delivery of the 24WCSS.



Survey on Location-Based Soil Data

Dear members of CSSS,

We are reaching out about an important project funded by the Sustainable Agriculture Research Initiative of the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC), the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC), and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC). This initiative aims to establish the Canadian Soil Data Portal (CSDP)—a centralized platform to modernize Canada's soil data infrastructure for greenhouse gas reduction and climate change mitigation. Led by Dr. Brandon Heung at Dalhousie University, the CSDP will address critical data gaps and improve accessibility to essential soil data across Canada.

About the Canadian Soil Data Portal (CSDP)

The CSDP will equip Canada with up-to-date, comprehensive soil data to support climate initiatives and net-zero emissions goals. Integrating recent data from public and private sources, this platform will overcome issues of fragmented data, limited access, and high analysis costs. The CSDP will facilitate efficient soil carbon monitoring through advanced soil spectroscopy and high-resolution mapping for accurate, cost-effective assessments. This unified resource will empower stakeholders to adopt sustainable practices, making climate mitigation more scalable and cost-effective across Canada.

Survey on Current Use of Soil Data Portals

As part of the CSDP initiative, Drs. Maja Krzic (University of British Columbia) and Margaret Schmidt (Simon Fraser University) are leading an educational subproject focused on developing tools for post-secondary soil science education. To ensure these tools are relevant and effective, we are conducting a survey to understand how location-based soil data is accessed and used across Canada. The insights gathered will also shape future educational resources within the CSDP.

Survey Objectives

1. Understand how location-based soil data is used across various sectors in Canada.
2. Evaluate accessibility, frequency of use, and satisfaction with current soil data systems.
3. Identify gaps and opportunities to inform the development of the CSDP, including its applications in education and soil science.

Your Input is Essential

We invite you to complete the survey at [survey link](#). The deadline is November 29, 2024.

Please share the link with others who may find it relevant to broaden participation.

Many thanks,
Maja Krzic (UBC) & Margaret Schmidt (SFU)

Canada Research Chair in Water Resource Management

Graduate Student (MSc/PhD student in agriculture) - Research Affiliate Program



Dr. Hailong He
Canada Research Chair in
Water Resource Management
for Sustainable Agriculture and
Associate Professor

The Department of Soil Science at the University of Manitoba is delighted to introduce Dr. Hailong He as our new Canada Research Chair in Water Resource Management for Sustainable Agriculture and Associate Professor.

Hailong received his B.Sc. in Soil and Water Conservation from Northwest Agriculture and Forestry University in China and a Ph.D. in Water and Land Resources at the University of Alberta in 2015. He was professor in Soil Physics and Soil & Water Conservation at the Northwest A&F University (China) before joining UM this August. His research interests are to better understand, measure and model mass and energy transport processes in arid and cold regions under climate change. Dr. He has published 90+ peer-reviewed research articles, edited 4 book chapters, and filed 13 patents and software licenses. He has been recognized with a number of recent awards at the international and national levels, including Early-Career Scientist Awards from Soil Science Society of America and its Soil Physics and Hydrology

Division, Soil Science Society of China, and China Society of Cryospheric Science. He serves as associate/deputy editor for Geoderma, European Journal of Soil Science, Soil Science Society of America Journal, and Vadose Zone Journal and as editorial board member for a few journals. He was awarded “Excellence Associate Editor” by Vadose Zone Journal. He also serves as executive committee members of International Soil Modelling Consortium, Soil Physics and Hydrology division of SSSA, and Soil Physics division of Soil Science Society of China.



Job Postings

University of Guelph Dean, Ontario Agricultural College

The Ontario Agricultural College (OAC), at the University of Guelph (U of G), is seeking a new Dean, and invites applications and nominations. The Dean will take office in the summer of 2025.

For more information on the position click the link below.

https://mcusercontent.com/ca7fd4410b9dab34e3ef8b381/files/e0005b2d-76ff-f35f-425d-dcbc60d22e42/Final_Advertisement_Dean_OAC_1_.pdf

Graduate Student (MSc/PhD student in agriculture) - Research Affiliate Program

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada - Science and Technology Branch, Kentville (Nova Scotia) are looking for to recruit a Master or PhD student for a new project which explores the effect of organic amendments in conventional and organic viticulture systems on soil health and microbial diversity and functioning in Nova Scotia.

Below is the (RAP) Research Affiliate Program Advertisement which has been posted on GC Jobs website for process # 24-AGR-RAP-46A with a **closing date of December 6, 2024.**

English Link: [Graduate Student \(MSc/PhD student in agriculture\)](#)

French Link : [Étudiant\(e\) à la maîtrise ou au doctorat en agriculture.](#)

Postdoctoral Research Fellow – GHG Modeling

Location: Boreal Ecosystems Research Facility/ Grenfell Campus, Memorial University of Newfoundland, Corner Brook, NL, Canada

Category: Research

Group: Postdoctoral Research

Department: School of Science and the Environment

Duration: 1-year, possible extension for the 2nd year and beyond based on performance

Tenure: Full-time; Grant funded

Salary: \$60,000/annum + plus benefits

Deadline: Applications will be reviewed on an ongoing basis until the position is filled

Anticipated Start: January 1, 2025

For more information on the above position click the link below:

For more information click [HERE](#)

Job Postings (con't.)

PhD: Soil structural degradation and nitrous oxide emissions

Soil structural degradation is a significant threat to both NZ and global ecosystems. This degradation has profound consequences, including loss of production and increased risk of soil erosion, nutrient loss, and GHG Emissions.

Current methods for assessing soil structural vulnerability rely on traditional, non-functional properties. These provide inadequate predictions for soil ecosystem services like plant production and GHG mitigation.

With funding from the New Zealand Smart Ideas programme, this project will focus on the dynamic functional properties of soil structure (e.g. relative gas diffusivity) and their relationship with greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) with a focus on nitrous oxide emissions. Through experimentation and modelling, the candidate will evaluate how dynamic functional properties and N₂O emissions respond to soil compaction.

The PhD candidate will be embedded in a team of experts comprising soil science, environmental science, biophysical modelling, and crop production, and be based in the Lincoln Research hub. The supervisory team comprises of Prof. Tim Clough and Dr Chamindu Deepagoda (Lincoln University), Dr Wei Hu, and Dr Rogerio Cichota (Plant & Food Research), along with an advisory team: Dr Brent Clothier (Plant & Food Research), Dr John Drewry (Manaaki Whenua – Landcare Research), and Prof. Stephan Peth (Leibniz University Hannover, Germany). The candidate will contribute to new knowledge in soil and environmental science through the development and application of skills in several of the following areas: soil physics, soil mechanics, stable isotope techniques, nitrogen cycling and GHG emissions, molecular biology, data analysis and modelling.

A tax-free annual stipend of \$40,000 (NZD) per year, for up to three years, and Lincoln University tuition fees, for up to three years, will be provided.

The candidate should be ready to commence their studies 20th January 2025.

How To Apply

To apply please send your CV and cover letter via email by 30th November 2024 to:

Prof. Tim Clough, Soil and Physical Sciences
Faculty of Agriculture and Life Sciences Lincoln University, New Zealand
Email: Timothy.Clough@lincoln.ac.nz

Job Postings (con't.)

PhD: Soil structural degradation and nitrous oxide emissions (con't.)

Entry requirements:

Preferred candidate's skills and experience:

- Good time management of tasks and deadlines.
- Curiosity and a willingness to learn.
- Creativity and problem solving.
- An ability to formulate a hypothesis.
- Background/undergraduate study in soil science or related fields.
- Ability to collaborate effectively with colleagues and peers.
- The ability to critique and synthesis literature, analyse data and the ability to produce scientific written outputs.

Are you eligible

- The PhD is open to those who meet the entry level requirements for a PhD at Lincoln University, New Zealand, and is open to New Zealand citizens, residents and international candidates who can meet the appropriate visa requirements.
- The programme will be looking for a diversity of skills across the successful applicants.
- PhD applicants must be eligible at the time of application to register as a candidate for a Doctoral degree at Lincoln University or expect to become eligible by January 2025

Candidates who already have a doctorate in an applicable/related field are not eligible for consideration.

Conferences | Events | Meetings

Soils for our Future A Gathering of Global to Local Perspectives

Soils for our Future

July 20-25, 2025
RBC Convention Centre,
Winnipeg, Manitoba

The SOILS FOR OUR FUTURE 2025 brings together three conference events; 5th Global Soil Security Conference, Canadian Society of Soil Science Annual Meeting, and International Union of Soil Sciences Division 1 - Soils In Space and Time Meeting.

Hosted by the Soil Conservation Council of Canada and the Manitoba Soil Science Society. With over 700 researchers, industry members, leaders of farmer organizations, graduate students and other attendees, SOILS FOR OUR FUTURE 2025 provides global perspective to today's research to sustain our future.

Spanning five days, the conference provides attendees of the events to meet in plenary/technical sessions with their individual organizations and for all to come together in keynote sessions, tradeshow, posters, workshops and field tours.



Conferences | Events | Meetings (Con't.)

ICOBTE & ICHMET 2025: A Joint Global Conference. on Biogeochemistry and Heavy Metals

ICOBTE & ICHMET 2025

September 22-26, 2025
Korea University, Seoul, South Korea

The ICOBTE conference series is organized by ISTEb (International Society for Trace Element Bioavailability and Environmental Health), a non-profit organization founded in 1999 to advance research on trace elements. ICOBTE focuses on the bioavailability and environmental impact of trace elements, while ICHMET, first started in 1975 in Toronto, Canada, provides a global platform for discussing the presence and impact of metals and metalloids in the environment. agro-ecosystems.

Alberta Soil Science Workshop

Soils Workshop

February 18-20, 2025
 Edmonton, Alberta

The Alberta Soil Science Workshop is coming to Edmonton February 18-20, 2025 and we are extending our call for abstracts so attendees can hear about all the exciting soil science happening in AB.

This year's theme is *Unlocking the Role of Soil Science to Achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals*. We encourage abstracts from all facets of soil science, but also encourage abstracts that touch on the multifaceted nature of soil science and the interface with policy, economics, and social sciences. Our aim is to foster interdisciplinary dialogue regarding the complexities of soil management from local to global scales. If this sounds like something you would like to be involved with, our abstract submission form can be found here: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/19mJBkCiN5h36sTwZsAZTSiz5Ay3vf-1v/edit>. Abstracts are due December 13, but early submissions are encouraged.

More information can be found here: <https://www.soilsworkshop.ab.ca/>

This conference is excellent for networking and provides students with the opportunity to interact with professionals that have pursued diverse career paths in soil science.



CANADIAN SOCIETY OF SOIL SCIENCE
SOCIÉTÉ CANADIENNE DE SCIENCE DU SOL

CSSS - Business Office

Contact: Nancy Zubriski
PO Box 434
Pinawa, Manitoba, Canada,
R0E 1L0

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