



# CANADIAN SOCIETY OF SOIL SCIENCE

## SOCIÉTÉ CANADIENNE DE LA SCIENCE DU SOL

### Agenda

**CSSS Annual General Meeting**  
**5:00 p.m. Tuesday, July 22, 2025**  
**Delta Hotel, Winnipeg, MB**

**Meeting location: Charleswood B, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor**

**Started 5:04 PM**

All related CSSS Council Reports can be found here:

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1tjeLtxX0PImcLiNXZfhtEz0P9dM8Vfqu?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1tjeLtxX0PImcLiNXZfhtEz0P9dM8Vfqu?usp=drive_link)

1. Call to Order (Richard Heck)
2. Approval of Agenda (Richard Heck)
  - a) Motioned by Angela Bedard-Haughn and seconded by Diane Knight, with all in favour.
3. Approval of Minutes from the 2024 CSSS AGM (Lee-Ann Bauman)
  - a) Minutes from the 2024 meeting were posted to the website and were in the google drive that was sent to the CSSS members.
  - b) No errors or omissions were noted.
  - c) Motion to accept the 2024 CSSS AGM Minutes was motioned by Bobbi Helgason, and seconded by Angela Bedard-Haughn, with all in favour.
  - d) Please refer to the 2024 CSSS AGM minutes.
4. Secretary's Report (Lee-Ann Bauman)
  - a) Please refer to the applicable report.
  - b) Open positions on the council in 2026 are President-Elect, Eastern Councilor, and Western Councilor.
5. Business arising from Minutes of 2024 AGM
  - a) Soil Sampling and Methods of Analysis (Rich Farrell)
    - i. Please let Rich Farrell, Adam Gillespie, and/or Sylvie Quideau know if you would like to write a chapter in the next version of the book.
    - ii. Rich Farrell aims to have a list of chapters and authors by the fall.
    - iii. Brandon Heung asked if the book would be open access and if we needed to pay a fee for that. Rich Farrell said that it will be open access, and we will pay a flat fee for open access
    - iv. Mario Tenuta asked about timelines. Rich Farrel said that it took 3 years last time, so he anticipates that it will take about the same amount of time.
  - b) Certified Professional Soil Scientist Program (Richard Heck)
    - i. Dawn Gibas, SSSA, and Michael Walker, Soil Science Australia, attended the 2025 CSSS conference.
    - ii. The IUSS Working Group has formed an international accreditation group.
  - c) Global Soil Biodiversity Sponsorship (Nate Basilko)
    - i. The Global Soil Biodiversity conference is in April 2026 in Victoria, BC.

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- ii. The conference is run by a not-for-profit.
- iii. Nate would like the CSSS to be visible at this international event. There will be approximately 400 – 1000 attendees.
- iv. The exhibitor booth is \$3000, and Nate volunteered to stay at the table. Nate talked with CSP and WCSS, who agreed to split the cost with CSSS.

**Motion 2025-30:** Motion that CSSS and 24WCSS agree to cosponsor an exhibitor booth with 24WCSS and CSP. \$1000 will go towards CSSS sponsorship. \$1,000 will be fronted by CSSS and will be reimbursed by 24WCSS in future. Motioned by Nate Basilko and seconded by Keith Reid, with all in favour.

### 6. Treasurer's Report (Preston Sorenson)

- a) Please refer to the applicable report.
- b) Recommendation for long-term health of the CSSS is that we could spend 3% of the asset pool each year for sponsorship so that our assets remain safe and healthy.
- c) Motion to accept the report motioned by Derek McKenzie, seconded by Diane Knight, with all in favour

**Motion 2025-31:** Motion that the CSSS sponsor a half-page ad for \$1,200 for the Global Soil Biodiversity conference, so the CSSS can be seen as an exhibitor and sponsor. Motioned by Nate Basilko and seconded by Derek McKenzie, with all in favour.

- d) Bobbi Helgason noted that there isn't much overlap between the two meetings, so we could get a few more memberships. Preston noted that the CSSS could pay out of our next year's budget since it is for the conference in 2026.
- e) Mario Tenuta noted that the Global Soil Biodiversity conference is an informal organization. He asked if Nate could be the CSSS liaison and then it could be listed in the program. Nate Basilko is on the organizing committee and will ask about that.

### 7. President's Report (Richard Heck)

- a) Please refer to the applicable report.
- b) Dr. David Lobb has just recently completed his term as the Canadian representative on the Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils.
- c) Richard H. completed the Resolution of appreciation to those who were involved in the conference organization:  
 "On behalf of the CSSS Council, I would like to express our congratulations and appreciations to Mario Tenuta (Chair), Alan Kruszel, Inoka Amarakoon, Henrique Carvalho, Cristine Morgan, Megan Westphal, Marla Riekman, Alex Koiter, David Lobb, Daniel Saurette, Alexis Gloutney, Carlie Johnston, Amanda Desrochers and Tori Maxwell for their various roles in the conference organization. At the same time, I would like to express appreciation our conference planner, Elena Gagliardi of Kelly Forgala Events – especially for the successful last-minute efforts to pivot from the RBC Convention Centre to the Delta Hotel, in response to the influx of wildfire evacuees."
- d) Rich. Farrell also thanked the Delta for being able to accommodate the CSSS last minute.

### 8. Report of Committees:

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- a) Awards Committee (Judith Nyiraneza)
  - i. Please refer to the applicable report.
  - ii. We have not received any nominations for honorary members
  - iii. We have not received any applicants for the Steve Pawluk scholarship for \$2,000. The deadline is September 30, 2025.
  - iv. Motion to accept the report motioned by Maxime Pare and seconded by Angela Bedard-Haughn, with all in favour.
- b) Education Committee (Maja Krzic)
  - i. The objective of the committee is to enhance discussion on education, and they try to have one project each year.
  - ii. In October, a working group of thirteen members started inventorying all soil science courses in Canada. They are planning to submit the findings to CJSS.
  - iii. Rich Farrell noted that, as of yesterday, the English version had accessed 91,817 times with 176,347 page visits (i.e., chapters accessed) since Nov 2021 (including 1,000 hits in the past month). The French version had been accessed 19,161 times with 33,131 page visits since Sep 2023 (including 882 hits in the last month).
  - iv. The Education Committee organizes one poster and one oral session per conference, and the oral session is occurring tomorrow.
  - v. The Education Committee will be proposing a new award and the terms of reference. These will be sent to the CSSS Council. Angela Bedard-Haughn noted that it might be better to broaden the requirements for the Soil Science for Society Award.
  - vi. Next steps: Education committee to draft the terms of reference and send to the CSSS. The CSSS council will discuss and bring to the AGM in 2026.
  - vii. Motion to accept the report motioned by Maxime Paré and seconded by Craig Drury, with all in favour.
- c) Pedology Committee (Daniel Saurette)
  - i. Please refer to applicable report.
  - ii. The goal for the next version of the Canadian System of Soil Classification was to be completed by the end of 2025; however, it is uncertain if this goal will be met.
  - iii. Dan Saurette thanked the organizing committee for organizing the soil judging contest and digging pits.
  - iv. The next soil judging event will be a 2-day event in Guelph before the conference.
  - v. Dan Saurette is exploring options to gather funds to support soil judging competitions at future meetings.
  - vi. The last soil judging competition was in 2010. Dan Saurette asked if we should consider having soil judging at each annual conference.
    1. Derek Mackenzie suggested seeing how the next two years of soil judging go and bring this back to the table. He also asked if we could do

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tours and soil judging together. Dan noted that it would be difficult to get the groups through the pit but noted that there is interest in non-students attending to watch and learn.

- vii. The pedology committee will be completing a Mandate Revision to assess if the mandate still meets the needs of the committee. They plan to:
    1. Develop Terms of Reference for the Pedology Committee.
    2. Develop guidelines for turnover for leadership.
  - viii. The pedology committee has asked the CSSS to evaluate the options for providing top-up funding for four students attending the WCSS in Nanjing to allow them to extend their stay to participate and represent Canada in the International Soil Judging Contest. They need to look at financial options for this, and a specific dollar value will have to be motioned at a later date.
    1. **Action Item:** Gordon Price asked Dan Saurette and the council to organize and evaluate this. All were in favour.
    2. David Lobb asked if it was exclusively for undergraduate students. Rich Farrell noted that the international contests were for undergraduate or graduate students.
  - ix. Motion to accept the report motioned by Keith Reid and seconded by Adam Gillespie, with all in favour.
- d) Soil Health Committee (Derek McKenzie)
- i. The Soil Health organized a soil health session at the conference.
  - ii. They are trying to formalize the relationship between SCCC and CSSS to formalize the National Soil Health Strategy for Canada.
  - iii. They have a small group working on a response to Critical Ground. The report is policy-heavy, so they are looking to respond based on the science.
  - iv. Brandon Heung asked if the response has to be approved by the council. Derek Mackenzie noted that the response will be submitted to the CJSS. They were not planning on having it be published in the CSSS name.
  - v. Then Derek Mackenzie asked if it should represent the whole of the CSSS view?
    1. Gordon Price noted that if it is a subcommittee of the CSSS and in the journal the society manages, the response would need to be approved by the society. David Lobb noted that it needs to be at least endorsed by the council. Maryse Bourgault suggested opening it up to general membership. Derek Mackenzie said that he can put it in the newsletter. Maryse Bourgault thinks it makes a stronger statement as a society, and not all feedback has to be included. Derek Mackenzie noted that we could do an e-vote. Adrian Unc said that we can have individuals endorse this or we could do it as a society.
  - vi. Derek noted that this report is needed because Critical Ground is missing the science and boots on the ground perspective. It will provide both support and criticism. Adrian Unc noted that it would be helpful to get more people to read report as it is a policy document that isn't as well read.

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- vii. Motion to accept the report motioned by Emmanuel Mapfumo and seconded by Bobbi Helgason, with all in favour.
- e) Communications Committee (Henry Chau)
  - i. Please refer to the applicable report and presentation.
  - ii. The Communications requires more member content. Previous content has been recycled as we don't have enough pieces for social media. Please send anything newsworthy to Henry Chau.
  - iii. Henry Chau asked how members feel about endorsing soil AI products.
    - 1. The proprietors of Soil GPT could come forward for an endorsement from CSSS if desired.
    - 2. Amanda Diochon liked the suggestion of having people come forward to ask for the CSSS to endorse it.
    - 3. Asim Biswas developed Soil GPT and the paper will be presented tomorrow. Asim Biswas will put a motion forward for endorsement in the future.
    - 4. Bobbi Helgason noted that it would make sense to wait until the peer review process at CJSS is complete prior to putting the link on the website.
    - 5. Henry Chau noted that there is concern of students using it for their school work.
    - 6. Derek MacKenzie suggested that the member should play with Soil GPT and once the article is peer-reviewing, then we could have an evote to put the link on the website.
    - 7. Maryse Bourgault asked if there were any rules for endorsing products for the CSSS.
    - 8. Adrian Unc thinks that the CSSS shouldn't endorse products because we don't want to be recommending certain products over others.
    - 9. David Lobb noted that we could put a link on the website as a passive endorsement.
    - 10. Henry Chau noted that a general disclaimer could be placed on the website for links.
    - 11. Rich Farrell stated that we tend to link to societies or publications. We could state that this article was published rather than formally endorsing it.
  - iv. **Action Item:** The Communication Committee could come up with a policy or recommendation to the council for how we move forward with AI products on the website.
  - v. Communications Officer Role:
    - 1. This would be a volunteer role. It would allow the separation of social media from the Eastern and Western Councilor roles so that the roles could focus on liaising with other societies and scientists in Canada.

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2. Rich Farrell noted that social media has become a much larger aspect over the last 5 years.
3. Amanda Diochon noted that we could adjust wording to “A soil science professional” rather than “A professional,” which may read as a communications professional. Also, there should be a limit on the number of hours per month.
4. Rich Farrell stated that we would like to see if we can fill this position as a volunteer position; however, if that isn't feasible, we will have to explore other options.

**Motion 2025-32:** Motion for the CSSS to investigate the decoupling of the communication responsibilities from the eastern and western councillor roles to explore the potential of creating a communications officer as a new role on council as a non-voting member with a 3-year term, with the option of renewing once. This role would be in charge of the newsletter, website and social media. The motion was moved by Gordon Price and seconded by Adam Gillespie, with all in favour.

- vi. Motion to accept the Communications Committee report. Moved by Derek MacKenzie and seconded by Amanda Diochon, with all in favour.
- f) 24WCSS Committee (Richard Heck)
  - i. Please refer to the applicable report.
  - ii. Richard Heck will be creating a branding working group to refresh the branding of the WCSS before Nanjing. If you are interested in helping out with this, please let Richard Heck know.
  - iii. Motion to accept the 24WCSS Committee Report moved by Amanda Diochon and seconded by Adam Gillespie, with all in favour.

**Motion 2025-33:** Motion that the CSSS membership rescind its motion, approved during the 2024 AGM (2024-16), which authorized “the CSSS Council to progressively lend up to \$50,000, to the 'not-for-profit' organization responsible to realize the 24th World Congress of Soil Science on behalf of the Canadian Society of Soil Science, in the lead-up to the 24th World Congress of Soil Science in July of 2030. Moved by Keith Reid and seconded by Amanda Diochon, with all in favour.

**Motion 2025-34:** Motion that the CSSS membership authorizes the 24WCSS Committee, in appropriate coordination with the CSSS Council, to progressively expend up to \$50,000 on costs related to the organization of the 24th World Congress of Soil Science in July of 2030. Moved by Amanda Diochon, and seconded by Nate Basilko, with all in favour.

- g) Rules Committee (Richard Heck)
  - i. Please refer to the applicable report.
  - ii. Dave Lobb thinks that a hybrid meeting would be great.
  - iii. Richard Heck suggested putting out a survey for scenarios for AGM

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- iv. Motion to accept the Rules Committee report. Moved by Derek MacKenzie and seconded by David Lobb, with all in favour.
- 9. CJSS Editor's Report (Judith Nyiraneza)
  - a) Please refer to the applicable report.
  - b) Morgan Tunzelmann, CJSS's Development Specialist, presented on upcoming issues:
    - i. Call for papers on Soil Life and Function on microbiology and biogeochemistry – Implications on natural and managed systems, with a deadline of February 1, 2026.
    - ii. A collection entitled "On-Farm Experimentation: Sustaining Soil Health and Productivity" will publish studies on living labs and will hopefully utilize the perspectives column for how these studies are completed. Due date TBD.
  - c) Motion to accept the CJSS Editor's Report. Moved by Maxime Paré and seconded by Adam Gillespie, with all in favour.
- 10. Student Representative's Report (Dillon Muldoon)
  - a) Please refer to the applicable report.
  - b) About 95/105 students came out to the graduate student mixer.
  - c) Dillon Muldoon thanked the organizing committee for organizing the event and CSSS for contributing funds. Also, thanked CJSS for discussing synergies with CJSS for professional development opportunities.
  - d) Motion to accept Student Representative's Report. Moved by Derek Mackenzie and seconded by Asim Biswas, with all in favour.
- 11. Western Councillor's Report (Henry Chau)
  - a) Please refer to the applicable report.
  - b) Motion to accept the Western Councillor's Report. Moved by Derek MacKenzie and seconded by Emmanuel Mapfumo, with all in favour.
  - c) Non-binding vote to discern the interest of the CSSS to stay on 'X' or Twitter.
    - i. Non-binding vote for getting off 'X'. All present in favour of getting off X. No one opposed.
- 12. Eastern Councillor's Report (Adrian Unc)
  - a) Please refer to the applicable report.
  - b) Motion to accept the Eastern Councillor's Report. Moved by Maxime Paré and seconded by Adam Gillespie, with all in favour.
- 13. New Business
  - a) Appointment of Financial Reviewers (Preston Sorenson)
    - i. Deferred to an email.
  - b) Progress on 2026 Meeting in Guelph (Adam Gillespie)
    - i. See slides for more information.
  - c) Interest for the 2027 Meeting with AQSSS in Quebec City (Maxime Paré)
    - i. See slides for more information.
  - d) Interest for the 2028 Meeting – no interest yet.
- 14. Business arising from the floor:



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- a) North American Proficiency Testing has a CSSS member on the oversight committee. Rich Farrell's term ends in December, and Craig Drury did it for 5 years before. They are looking for a member from a university lab for 2026. This will be in the newsletter.

15. Adjournment: 6:49 PM

### List of Attendees:

Name	Employer/University
Henry Chau	Agriculture and Agrifood Canada
Rich Farrell	University of Saskatchewan
Richard Heck	University of Guelph
Dillon Muldoon	Trent University
Preston Sorenson	University of Saskatchewan
Judith Nyiraneza	Agriculture and Agrifood Canada
Anthony Pelletier	University of Quebec at Chicoutimi
Maxime Paré	University of Quebec at Chicoutimi
Angela Bedard-Haughn	University of Saskatchewan
Annemieke Farenhorst	University of Manitoba
Bobbi Helgason	University of Saskatchewan
Raynald Lemke	Agriculture and Agrifood Canada
Bryce Geisel	Koch Agronomic Services
Sean Smukler	University of British Columbia
Maja Krzic	University of British Columbia
Amy Wells	University of British Columbia
Adam Gillespie	University of Guelph
Raphael Deragon	Universite Laval
Stephanie Lavergne	Université du Québec in Abitibi-Témiscamingue
Mano Krishnapillai	Memorial University
Harini Aiyer	University of British Columbia
Asim Biswas	University of Guelph
Emmanuel Mapfumo	Concordia University
Keith Reid	Retired
Eric Biq	UAI
Sylvia Nyamaizi	University of British Columbia
Nathan Basiliko	Lakehead University
Emmanuel Badewa	University College of the North

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<b>Name</b>	<b>Employer/University</b>
Morgan Tunzelmann	Canadian Journal of Soil Science
Dawn Gibas	Soil Science Society of America
Xiopeng Gao	University of Manitoba
Tianci Fei	University of Manitoba
Diane Knight	University of Saskatchewan
Amanda Diochon	Lakehead University
Maryse Bourgault	University of Saskatchewan
Brandon Heung	Dalhousie
Kymerly Eppich	University of British Columbia
Derek MacKenzie	University of Alberta
Tahmid Huq Easher	Olds College
Nathan Storey	Sil Industrial Minerals
Christopher Blackford	Ontario Ministry of Agriculture
Catlan Dallaire	NRCAN
Travis Pennell	Dalhousie/Agriculture and Agrifood Canada
Jingyi Yang	Agriculture and Agrifood Canada
Tandra Fraser	Agriculture and Agrifood Canada
Michael Walker	Soil Science Australia
Jeanne Durivage	Universite Laval
Craig Drury	Agriculture and Agrifood Canada
Gordon Price	Dalhousie University
David Lobb	University of Manitoba

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## **2024 Secretary's Report:**

a) Since the last AGM (on June 10, 2024, in Vancouver, British Columbia), the council has met eight times by video conferencing. The council voted on 29 motions by email and video conference.

b) Elections Report: The vacant positions for 2025 were President-Elect and Graduate Student Representative. Judith Nyiraneza was elected President-Elect. Dillon Muldoon was elected as the Graduate Student Representative.

For 2026, positions open on the council will be President-Elect, Western Councillor and Eastern Councillor. Please consider running for a council position, and please vote.

c) Outgoing council members, Amanda Diochon (former Past-President) and Blake Weiseth (former Graduate Student Representative) are thanked for their contributions to the CSSS council. Incoming council members are welcomed to the council. The CSSS is very grateful to those who let their names stand for election to the Society executive.

As of July 22, 2025, CSSS Council is:

<b>Past-President</b>	Rich Farrell
<b>President</b>	Richard Heck
<b>President-elect</b>	Judith Nyiraneza
<b>Secretary</b>	Lee-Ann Bauman
<b>Treasurer</b>	Preston Sorenson
<b>Graduate Student Representative</b>	Dillon Muldoon
<b>Eastern Councillor</b>	Adrian Unc
<b>Western Councillor</b>	Henry Chau
<b>CJSS Editor-in-Chief</b>	Anne Naeth

# Canadian Society of Soil Science 2024 Financial Report

Planned expenses for 2025 are indicated in the table below.

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Expenses	
Bank charges	\$12.00
Legal and professional fees	\$2,000.00
Office expenses	\$12,000.00
Social Media	\$12,000.00
Student Award	\$30,000.00
Subcontractors	\$1,000.00
Travel	\$1,500.00
WCSS Legal	\$17,500.00
<b>Total for Expenses</b>	<b>\$76,012.00</b>

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Based on previous membership incomes, \$25,000 is forecast for membership income in 2025 along with repayment for the 2024 conference of \$33,696.25. For total projected income of \$58,696.25 for 2025. Assuming 3 percent of the total assests can safely be spend, that means an additional \$17,805.12 can be spent for a total budget of \$76,501.37.

Statement of Activity  
Canadian Society of Soil Science  
January 1-December 31, 2024

DISTRIBUTION ACCOUNT	TOTAL
<b>Income</b>	
Conference Repayment	18,239.00
Membership	23,643.76
Pawluk Donation	75,500.00
Royalty	2,990.20
Sales	1,138.00
<b>Total for Income</b>	<b>\$121,510.96</b>
<b>Cost of Goods Sold</b>	
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>\$121,510.96</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Bank charges	19.15
Conference Advance	10,000.00
Insurance	1,471.25
Legal and professional fees	181.37
Office expenses	11,271.17
Social Media	14,339.80
Student Award	25,075.81
Subcontractors	525.00
Travel	1,289.06
WCSS Legal	2,962.30
<b>Total for Expenses</b>	<b>\$67,134.91</b>
<b>Other Income</b>	
Interest earned	119,597.61
Other Portfolio Income	16.90
<b>Total for Other Income</b>	<b>\$119,614.51</b>
<b>Other Expenses</b>	
<b>Profit</b>	<b>\$173,990.56</b>

Statement of Financial Position  
Canadian Society of Soil Science  
As of December 31, 2024

DISTRIBUTION ACCOUNT	TOTAL
<b>Assets</b>	
Current Assets	
Cash and Cash Equivalent	
Cash on hand	511.90
Chequing	69,894.64
Savings	20,026.72
<b>Total for Cash and Cash Equivalent</b>	<b>\$90,433.26</b>
Accounts Receivable (A/R)	
Prepaid expenses	-412.49
<b>Total for Current Assets</b>	<b>\$90,020.77</b>
Non-current Assets	
Property, plant and equipment	
711-08052	238,401.21
ICS 533-53061	155,826.82
ICS 533-53062	122,977.03
ICS 533-53064	76,299.75
<b>Total for Non-current Assets</b>	<b>\$593,504.81</b>
<b>Total for Assets</b>	<b>\$683,525.58</b>
<b>Liabilities and Equity</b>	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable (A/P)	
Credit Card	
<b>Total for Current Liabilities</b>	<b>0</b>
Non-current Liabilities	
<b>Total for Liabilities</b>	<b>0</b>
Equity	
Retained Earnings	
Profit for the year	172,424.36
Opening Balance Equity	511,101.22
<b>Total for Equity</b>	<b>\$683,525.58</b>
<b>Total for Liabilities and Equity</b>	<b>\$683,525.58</b>

**CANADIAN SOCIETY OF SOIL SCIENCE**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**DECEMBER 31, 2024**

**(UNAUDITED - SEE NOTICE TO READER)**



**Alexander, Sapriken & Waldron Accounting Inc.**



**Alexander, Sapriken  
& Waldron Accounting Inc.**

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For All Your Accounting Needs

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Lethbridge, AB T1H 6Y2  
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(f) 403-320-6332

### NOTICE TO READER

I have compiled the statement of financial position of Canadian Society of Soil Science as at December 31, 2024 and the statement of operations and changes in net assets for the year then ended from information provided by management. I have not audited, reviewed, or otherwise attempted to verify the accuracy of completeness of such information. Readers are cautioned that these statements may not be appropriate for their purposes.

Lethbridge, Alberta  
June 24, 2025

*Alexander, Sapriken & Waldron Accounting Inc.*

**CANADIAN SOCIETY OF SOIL SCIENCE**  
**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT**  
DECEMBER 31, 2024  
(UNAUDITED - SEE NOTICE TO READER)

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\$  
2024

**ASSETS**

CURRENT ASSETS

Cash	120,648
Long Term Investments	<u>593,505</u>
	<u><u>714,153</u></u>

**LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS**

SURPLUS	<u>714,153</u>
	<u><u>714,153</u></u>

On behalf of the Board

\_\_\_\_\_ Director \_\_\_\_\_ Director

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these statements.

The logo for Alexander, Sapriken & Waldron Accounting Inc. features the letters 'ASW' in a large, elegant, cursive script font.

**Alexander, Sapriken & Waldron Accounting Inc.**

**CANADIAN SOCIETY OF SOIL SCIENCE**  
**STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS**  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED  
DECEMBER 31, 2024  
(UNAUDITED - SEE NOTICE TO READER)

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	\$ <u>2024</u>
REVENUE	
Conference Income	18,239
Membership Income	23,644
Donation Income	75,500
Royalties	2,990
Other Income	1,155
Interest Income	<u>119,292</u>
	<u>240,820</u>
EXPENSES	
Bank charges	19
Office supplies and expenses	11,271
Awards expenses	25,076
Conference expenses	10,000
Insurance	1,471
Professional fees	181
Social media expenses	14,340
Travel expenses	1,289
Other expenditures	<u>3,487</u>
	<u>67,134</u>
EXCESS OF EXPENDITURES OVER REVENUE	<u><u>173,685</u></u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these statements.

The logo for Alexander, Sapriken & Waldron Accounting Inc. features the letters 'ASW' in a large, elegant, cursive script font.

**Alexander, Sapriken & Waldron Accounting Inc.**

**CANADIAN SOCIETY OF SOIL SCIENCE**  
**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS**  
FOR THE YEAR ENDING  
DECEMBER 31, 2024  
(UNAUDITED - SEE NOTICE TO READER)

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	\$ <u>2024</u>
BALANCE, BEGINNING OF YEAR	540,468
EXCESS OF EXPENDITURES OVER REVENUE	<u>173,685</u>
BALANCE, END OF YEAR	<u><u>714,153</u></u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these statements.

The logo consists of the letters 'A', 'S', and 'W' in a highly stylized, cursive script. The 'A' and 'S' are connected, and the 'W' is also connected to the 'S'. The letters are black and have a classic, elegant feel.

**Alexander, Sapriken & Waldron Accounting Inc.**

**CANADIAN SOCIETY OF SOIL SCIENCE**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED  
DECEMBER 31, 2024  
(UNAUDITED - SEE NOTICE TO READER)

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1. NATURE OF OPERATIONS

The Canadian Society of Soil Science is a non-governmental, non-profit organization for scientists, engineers, technologists, administrators and students involved in the professional field of soil science. Its goal is to nurture the discipline of soil science in Canada and ensure its relevance in the future.

2. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

These financial statements are prepared in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles. The significant policies are detailed as follows:

a) BASIS OF ACCOUNTING

These financial statements have been prepared using the cash accounting method and all expenses are recorded when paid

b) REVENUE RECOGNITION

Revenues are recognized when monies are received

c) CASH AND SHORT-TERM INVESTMENTS

Cash and short-term investments consist of cash and highly liquid interest-bearing instruments with maturities in the next year.

3. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The company's financial instruments consist of cash and investments. Unless otherwise noted, it is management's opinion that the company is not exposed to significant interest currency or credit risks and the fair value of these instruments approximate their carrying value.



**Alexander, Sapriken & Waldron Accounting Inc.**

July 22, 2025

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

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

Dear Ms. Bauman,

Please accept this document as my President's Report for the 2025 CSSS Annual General Meeting...

**Members of the Canadian Society of Soil Science,**

It is an honour to be serving as President of the CSSS and working with other colleagues on Council. I am pleased to submit a generally positive report and outlook for our Society.

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

Though our current membership numbers have waned slightly to 307 this year, from 324 last year, primarily in the early career and fellow categories, our 2025 regular (138), student (116) and emeritus (13) memberships are similar to 2024.

With the start of the new year, two colleagues joined Council, Dr. Judith Nyiraneza as President-Elect and Dillon Muldoon, replacing Blake Weiseth as the Graduate Student Councilor. At the same time, Dr. Amanda Diochon completed her year as Past-President. Again, I would like to take the opportunity to thank Blake and Amanda for their contributions.

During the 2024 Annual Meeting, the Honourable Senator Robert Black was made an Honourary Life Member of the CSSS, notably in recognition of his role and efforts on the Senate report entitled "Critical Ground: Why Soil is Essential to Canada's Economic, Environmental, Human, and Social Health". Senator Black's ongoing efforts to bring public and government attention to the importance of soil health is fully supported and appreciated by the CSSS.

Last October, Dr. Diochon represented (virtually) the CSSS during the 2024 Inter-Congress Meeting of the IUSS Council (held in Nanjing). This meeting involved voting on revised Statutes and Bylaws, as well as election of the IUSS President-Elect. The Council also received from myself, as Chair of the 24WCSS Committee, an update on our efforts related to the 2030 WCSS – this was viewed favorably and the necessary ratification vote was passed.

Between November of last year and April of this year, the Council, together with the 24WCSS Committee, were heavily focused on critical contracts for the 24<sup>th</sup> WCSS. On the advice of legal counsel, the CSSS Council decided to forego the creation of a standing alone not-for-profit to administer the Congress in 2030. The necessary Memorandum of Understanding has been successfully established between the CSSS and the International Union of Soil Sciences, and a License Agreement has been signed with the Metro Toronto Convention Centre to secure our venue for the Congress. The patience and efforts of our various Council and 24WCSS Committee members, during these negotiations, was fundamental to completing these tasks and much appreciated.

Dr. David Lobb has just recently completed his term as the Canadian representative on the Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils. To quote our former President and CSSS Fellow, Dr. Daniel Pennock: "David was appointed as Deputy Chair of the ITPS in 2018 and worked closely with the Chair, Dr.

Rosa Poch of Spain. His major role was as Chair of the Working Group for the 2025 for the 2025 Status of the World's Soil Resources report. David was the ITPS member with the most engagement with the report and was key to seeing the report through the many small hurdles it faced. He was also an active participant in the other work of the ITPS and had an important role in the still-under-development erosion initiative of the committee. He really raised the profile of Canadian soil science within the ITPS and its parent organizations, the Global Soil Partnership and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.” Dr. Maja Krzic will be replacing David as our representative on this Panel – we wish Maja a very successful term.

Over the past few months, three virtual town hall meetings were held, to discuss topics including the establishment of professional accreditation program for soil scientists in Canada, the ongoing review of our Society's structure and governance documents, as well as issues related to the IUSS in general and activities regarding the 24WCSS.

To help inform ongoing discussions and decisions, a survey of CSSS membership was conducted during early July. This focused on issues related to our AGM, our annual conference, the use of virtual town hall meetings, as well as the structure of our website. Though the feedback has yet to be reviewed, I would like to thank all members who took part in this survey.

2024 also saw the successful establishment of the “Steve Pawluk Scholarship” in recognition of our colleague who passed away in 2022. Dr. Pawluk was former President and Fellow of the CSSS. The inaugural recipient of this award was Ehsan Chatraei Azizabadi, who was pursuing a PhD program of study at the University of Manitoba.

During this year's annual meeting of the CSSS, two members are receiving special recognition. Dr. Daniel Saurette is the 2025 recipient of the CSSS Early Career Award. Dr. Asim Biswas is being recognized as a Fellow of the CSSS. My congratulations to both of these colleagues, and to all 2025 CSSS award recipients.

The 2025 Soils For Our Future Joint Conference was hosted by the Manitoba Society of Soil Science in Winnipeg. In addition to the CSSS, this event involved the Soil Conservation Council of Canada, representing the Global Soil Security community, IUSS Division 1 “Soils in Space and Time”, as well as the International Network for Black Soils. The full conference attendance was 400 people, of whom 52 were international and 153 were students. There were also 48 one-day attendees. On behalf of the CSSS Council, I would like to express our congratulations and appreciations to Mario Tenuta (Chair), Alan Kruszel, Inoka Amarakoon, Henrique Carvalho, Cristine Morgan, Megan Westphal, Marla Riekman, Alex Koiter, David Lobb, Daniel Saurette, Alexis Gloutney, Carlie Johnston, Amanda Desrochers and Tori Maxwell for their various roles in the conference organization. At the same time, I would like to express appreciation our conference planner, Elena Gagliardi of Kelly Forgala Events – especially for the successful last minute efforts to pivot from the RBC Convention Centre to the Delta Hotel, in response to the influx of wildfire evacuees.

We look forward to the 2026 CSSS Annual Conference in Guelph, under the leadership of Dr. Adam Gillespie and his team.

Finally, I look forward to continuing to work with other CSSS Council Colleagues for the remainder of my 2025 mandate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Richard J Heck". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Richard J Heck, P.Ag.  
2025 CSSS President

## Awards Committee Report 2025

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

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

CSSS FELLOW AWARD: This honour is awarded to society members with a distinguished record of accomplishment in soil science and service to the society. There was one nomination and it will be presented at the Banquet.

CSSS EARLY CAREER AWARD: This award category recognizes professionals who have made an outstanding contribution to soil Science within five years after completing their most recent degree. There were two nominations, and only one was successful and this will be presented at the Banquet.

CSSS PEDOLOGY TRAVEL AWARD: This award supports members to participate in international meetings and workshops, specifically those related to Pedology. There was one applicant who met the criteria and was awarded \$4,333.39 to attend Eurosoil in Seville, Spain, from September 8 to 12, 2025. The recipient is:

**Dr. Solmaz Fathololoumi**, Postdoctoral Fellow at University of Guelph.

CSSS TRAVEL AWARD TO ATTEND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE: This award allows student CSSS members to broaden the scope of their work and expand their relationships with soil Science researchers outside Canada. Two applicants were awarded \$3,295.21 and \$2,321 to attend the 17<sup>èmes</sup> Journées d'Étude des Sols (JES) in Geneva, Switzerland, July 7-11, 2025 and the European Soil Science Meeting in Seville, Spain, 8-12 September 2025, respectively. The recipients are:

**Cindy Denoncourt, PhD student at Université Laval.**

**Jean-Dominic Côté, PhD student at Université Laval**

CSSS SOIL SCIENCE SOCIETY AWARD: This Award category recognizes professionals who have made a significant contribution towards promoting soil science to the public. There was one nomination, but it did not meet the criteria.

KARL C. IVARSON SCHOLARSHIP: This award provides financial support valued at \$2,000 to a student entering into the second or subsequent year of graduate studies in soil science at a recognized Canadian University. There were six applicants. The successful candidate is:

**Levi Jonathan Lundell**, MSc student at University of Saskatchewan

CSSS STUDENT TRAVEL AWARD: This award category provides financial support valued at \$700 to Canadian Students wishing to attend and present at the annual meeting. There were 13 applicants. The 12 recipients are:

- 1. Anshu Beri, PhD, University of Guelph**
- 2. Takudzwa Nawu, PhD, University of Manitoba**
- 3. Daphnée Ferland, PhD, University of Saskatchewan**
- 4. Travis Pennell, PhD, Dalhousie University**

- 5. Erica Prins, PhD, University of Alberta**
- 6. Cosmas Ugwu, PhD, University of Alberta**
- 7. Alessia Marchesan, PhD, University of Alberta**
- 8. Mojtaba Naeimi, PhD, University of Guelph**
- 9. Temitope Olufemi, MSc, University of British Columbia, Prince George**
- 10. Dillon Brian Muldoon, PhD, Trent University**
- 11. Vishvam-Porwal, MSc, University of Guelph**
- 12. Harnoordeep Sing Mann, PhD, University of Guelph**

**CSSS SOCIETY BOOK AWARD:** This award recognizes undergraduates at Canadian Universities who demonstrate excellence in Soil Science Courses. Award winners receive a printed copy of the book entitled "Digging into Canadian Soils." Recipients are nominated by their academic department. The 2025 recipients are:

- 1. Elsa Vaillancourt-Vigneault, Université de Québec à Chicoutimi**
- 2. Mia Lavoie, Université de Québec à Chicoutimi**
- 3. Ty Anaka, University of Saskatchewan**
- 4. Jansen Henaff, Université Laval**
- 5. Thomas Dupuis, Université Laval**
- 6. Aman Dhindsa, University of Waterloo**
- 7. Camilla Villa Escobar, University of Toronto Scarborough**
- 8. Paul Aboumerhi, McGill University**
- 9. Grace Stephens, University of Alberta**
- 10. Emily Robb, University of Manitoba**
- 11. Cameron Donnelly, University of British Columbia**

**CSSS HONORARY MEMBERSHIP:** This award category recognizes non-members who have rendered valuable or special service to soil science. We have not received any nominations this year.

**STUDENT PRESENTATION AWARDS:**

**58** competing for oral presentations

**39** competing for poster presentations

**STEVE PAWLUK SCHOLARSHIP:** An annual scholarship valued at \$2000 is given to support graduate students in programs focused on soil science. We have not received applications yet, and the deadline is September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

## **Soil Education Committee Report**

### **2025 CSSS Annual Meeting, Winnipeg, MB**

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

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

At 2024 at the CSSS Annual Meetings held in Vancouver, BC the Soil Education Committee convened a session on Soil Education with 6 oral and 4 poster presentations.

The Soil Education Committee held its annual lunch meeting on June 12, 2024 as part of the CSSS 2024 Annual Meetings. This lunch meeting was well attended and several ideas for future work by the Soil Education Committee was discussed. One idea was to conduct a follow-up survey of science offerings across the Canadian postsecondary institutions. The objective of this project is to compare the current status of Canadian course offerings to inventory done back in 2015. A working group of 13 of us has started working on this in October 2024 and we are now finalizing info gathering with a plan to summarize our findings in a paper to be submitted to the CJSS by the end of this calendar year.

Another initiative that was proposed at the 2024 meeting was a survey-based study to evaluate the use of the open-access textbook – Digging into Canadian Soils: An Introduction to Soil Science (released in 2021)

At this year's CSSS Annual Meeting the Soil Education Committee has returned to convening a Soil Education Session which will be held on June 23 - Innovative Approaches in Soil Science Education. The Soil Education Committee had its annual working lunch on June 21 where we discussed future initiatives of our committee.

# Pedology Committee Annual Meeting 2025

Date: July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2025 @ 12pm-1pm (Central)

Location:

In-Person: St Vital Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Delta Hotel, Winnipeg, MB

Virtual: Zoom Meeting: [[LINK](#)]

## Agenda

1. Introduction/Welcome and Attendance (co-chairs)
2. Digital Soil Mapping Working Group
  - a. National project building harmonized soil database
  - b. Development of national DSM products
  - c. Developing the Canadian Soil Spectral Library (MIR, NIR, XRF)
  - d. Develop spectral models to predict soil properties
  - e. [www.Soildataportal.ca](http://www.Soildataportal.ca)
3. Canadian System of Soil Classification 4<sup>th</sup> Edition
  - a. Expected meeting in September to finalize revisions/edits to CSSCv3
  - b. Work to incorporate in CSSCv4 by December 2025
  - c. Make available CSSCv3 (English) in Pressbooks (flip to public)
  - d. French version to be worked on as well.
4. Soil Judging Contest
  - a. Hosting a 1-day event in Winnipeg on Friday July 25<sup>th</sup>
  - b. Plan to host a 2-day event in Guelph in 2026
  - c. Explore options to develop a fund that organizations can contribute to that would support Soil Judging future events
  - d. Need to prepare for 2030 WCSS:
  - e. Should a Soil Judging Contest become a tregular event, much like a soil tour, at the annual conference? The pedology Committee feels this direction should come from the CSSS Executive/Membership, but could be facilitated by the Pedology Committee (we support the Local Organizing Committee)

Motion: That the CSSS evaluate options for providing top-up funding for 4 students attending the WCSS in Nanjing to allow them to extend their stay to participate and represent Canada in the International Soil Judging Contest.

5. Other items from the floor
  - a. WCSS: leverage soil pits for teaching and WCSS to build resources

- b. Soil of the Year: Should the Pedology Committee solicit proposals for “Soil of the Year” and award one winner at the annual conference.
  - c. IUSS: Pedology Committee members are encourage to become involved in the IUSS Divisions and Commissions. Pedology Committee will distribute information later this year to members.
- 6. National Scale DSM Products and the Role of Pedology Committee
- 7. Members were asked to review the mandate of the Pedology Committee and provide feedback on updates to reflect any changes in the needs to the services provided by the committee.
  - a. Develop Terms of reference
  - b. New/different name?
  - c. Current trend is retirement constitutes change in leadership, need more regular turnover in the leadership.

## **CSSS 2025 AGM Soil Health Committee Report**

Over the past year, the CSSS Soil Health Committee has made significant strides in advancing soil health initiatives at both national and international levels. Beginning with foundational agenda setting in September 2024, the committee deepened its collaboration with the Soil Conservation Council of Canada (SCCC), formally joining the National Soil Health Strategy (NSHS) working group. Through a series of productive meetings, the committee developed and submitted proposals for major sessions at the 2025 CSSS annual conference, initiated a coordinated response to the Senate report on soil health, and explored opportunities to update the CSSS website to better engage the public and scientific community. The committee also broadened its focus to include cross-sectoral integration—such as forestry and oil and gas—while promoting data infrastructure, international collaboration, and the development of self-assessment tools. Collectively, these efforts reflect a cohesive and strategic push toward positioning CSSS as a central partner in shaping Canada's soil health future.

Here is a **chronological summary** of the CSSS Soil Health Committee meetings from September 2024 to June 2025:

### **September 5, 2024 – CSSS Soil Health Committee Meeting #1**

- **Attendees:** Derek, Bobbi, Emmanuel, Henry, Claudia, Sandra, Nafsa
- **Topics Discussed:**
  - Website content development and education focus
  - Literature review of soil health in Canada and response to Senate report
  - Support for evidence-based soil health and modeling GHG emissions
  - Promotion of self-assessment tools
  - Planning for CSSS 2025 in Winnipeg
  - Exploring global connections and improved meeting scheduling

### **December 2024 – Joint CSSS-SCCC Meeting**

- **Purpose:** Begin collaboration on a **National Soil Health Strategy (NSHS)**
- **Presentations:**
  - **Daphnee Ferland** on Canada's soil health challenges (data gaps, independent extension, SH labs, Indigenous inclusion)
  - **Paul Smith** on progress and vision for NSHS (industry-led, cross-sectoral)
- **Key Actions and Discussions**
  - Motion passed for CSSS Soil Health Committee to become a **formal network partner** with the SCCC
  - Emphasized science support, data infrastructure, and quantification
  - Supported soil health session proposals for CSSS 2025
  - Derek MacKenzie designated to represent CSSS in NSHS working group

### **March 6, 2025 – CSSS Soil Health Committee Meeting**

- **Attendees:** Richard, Claudia, Charlotte, Matthew, Amanda

- **Key Topics:**
  - Finalizing two sessions for CSSS/GSS/IUSS 2025: a research session and an invited panel
  - Coordination with SCCC and CSA for NSHS
  - Senate report response: proposed to split effort across CSSS committees (pedology, education, SH, data)
  - Discussion on updating website and increasing member engagement (e.g., blogs, media)
  - International engagement strategies begun
  
- **Actions:**
  - Derek to coordinate cross-committee input on Senate response
  - Newsletter update planned to solicit member content

### **Spring 2025 – CSSS–SCCC Joint Planning Meeting (Undated, likely March-April)**

- **Attendees:** Susie (CRSC), Paul (SCCC), Emmanuel, Derek
- **Focus:** Coordination on 2025 CSSS sessions and NSHS alignment
- **Outcomes:**
  - Agreed to two sessions: one on Canadian research, one on international strategy
  - CSSS to assist SCCC in SH testing, database needs, and national coordination
  - Plans for a soil health workshop and field tour
  
- **Actions:**
  - Derek to lead national strategy session proposal
  - Emmanuel to lead research session proposal
  - Susie and Paul to send speaker list
  - Derek to coordinate December joint meeting

### **June 2025 – CSSS Soil Health Committee Meeting**

- **Attendees:** Derek, Adrian, Sandra, Henry, Charlotte, Claudia, Laura
- **Key Discussion Points:**
  - Update on CSSS Winnipeg lunch topics and international panel (Ireland, NZ, Australia)
  - Progress on NSHS, incorporating forestry and oil/gas sectors
  - Soil health score system and need for inclusive metrics
  - Website redesign and communication goals
  - Continued development of CSSS response to Senate report
  - Discussed Canadian alignment with SH standardization (e.g., CSA, SHI)
  
- **Actions:**
  - Laura to convene working group (Derek, Adrian, Emmanuel)

- Derek to compile annual report and handle communications (blogs, panel ads)

## 2025 Communication Committee Report

- The communications committee members in 2025 include the Western Councillor (Chair, Henry Wai Chau). Eastern Councillor (Co-Chair, Adrian Unc), Past President (Richard Farrell), a member of the Education Committee (Maja Krzic, Amanda Diochon), CJSS Editor-in-Chief (Anne Naeth), and 2 Ad hoc (Richard Farrell and Nate Basiliko) members.
- An Ad hoc front-end subcommittee was formed in 2024 to deal with communication unification through the website, social media and email to the membership. The 2025 membership for this subcommittee includes Western Councillor (Henry Chau), Social Media Manager (Susan Fisk), Admin (Nancy Zubriski), and Webmaster contractor (Shirley Ho).
- CSSS Communication Committee virtual meeting occurred: Thursday, March 27, 2025, 10:00 – 11:00 PM (MST)
  - Attendance: Henry Chau, Adrian Unc, Richard Farrell, Amanda Diochon, Nate Basiliko, Regrets: Anna Naeth, Maja Krzic
- Communications committee front-end ad hoc committee
  - Nancy, Susan, and Shirley declined to have their profiles on websites and are happy to be behind the scenes.
  - Content solicitation needed. The communication committee and membership to reach out to colleagues to contribute.
- Due to spam and spoof emails, it was decided by the committee to draft a disclaimer warning about unsolicited requests and to stay vigilant.
- Too much moderation with spamming and very little interaction with members, the forums will stay retired.
- How would CSSS deal with AI products with soil science – Soil GPT ([Soil GPT](#))  
Concerns about student cheating, if posted on the website. Will wait for more from the developer. The CSSS council has not decided on whether to promote or endorse any AI tool. Any feedback from the membership is welcome!
- Members are interested in more media on the website.
  - A curated collection of fireside chats, retired soil scientists' interviews, has been proposed.
  - A request for capable students/volunteers to edit the raw videos will be made.
  - A proposed private CSSS YouTube channel to host videos for membership.
- Membership interest in the redesign of the CSSS to increase its utility.
  - A proposal for a larger redesign of the website was submitted to the council.
  - Council approved the survey exercise to solicit ideas about how to improve the website.
- Solicitation of content from our membership
  - CSSS is looking for more content as recycling of old blog posts is occurring.
    - Abstract from thesis, layman's term from students
    - Life as a Soil Science Professional
    - CJSS perspectives or noteworthy articles
- Reimagining the roles around communications and the gaps to be filled in the new roles

- There is a need to connect with regional soil science societies.
- Some potential new roles and responsibilities for conferences, soil and arts, soil judging, science fairs and primary student liaison, early career and communication with the international soil science community
- A communications director was proposed, and a draft of roles and responsibilities will be submitted to the council.
- New roles and responsibilities have also been proposed for eastern and western councillors around more outreach to regional societies and an emphasis on meeting the needs of membership in the respective regions, and bringing forward issues to the councils.
- The CSSS website will be using csss.ca email addresses to ensure there are no issues with emails directed to incorrect recipients.
- The communications committee would like to thank the ongoing support from Nancy Zubriski (Admin), Susan Fisk (Social media manager), and Shirley Ho (Webmaster contractor).

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

## Life as a Soil Science Professional

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

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

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

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

# 24<sup>th</sup> World Congress of Soil Science Committee of the Canadian Society of Soil Science

July 17, 2025

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

Re: 2024-25 Annual Report to CSSS Annual General Meeting

Dear Ms. Nelson,

Please accept this document as the 2024-25 Annual Report of the 24WCSS Committee. This represents a synthesis of information provided in the detailed reports #9 to #15 submitted to the CSSS Council.

**A) Membership of the 24WCSS Committee, Subcommittees & Working Groups:**

1) With the rotation of Dr. Amanda Diochon off the CSSS Council, and Dr. Richard Farrell becoming the Past-President, Dr. Farrell becomes the CSSS Council Liaison to the 24WCSS Committee for 2025. Dr. Diochon has agreed to continue as a member of the Committee. In addition to the Chair (Dr. Richard Heck), the other Committee members are Dr. Jacynthe Masse (as Vice-Chair), as well as Drs. Asim Biswas, Louis-Pierre Comeau, Kari Dunfield, David Lobb, Daniel Saurette, and Joann Whalen. Dr. Christine Martineau has currently stepped down from the Committee.

2) The “24WCSS Technical Tours Subcommittee”, established in 2023, remains under the leadership of David Lobb.

3) During its November 2024 meeting, the 24WCSS Committee established a “2030 International Soil Judging Contest” Subcommittee, under the leadership of Dr. Daniel Saurette (OMAFRA), who is also a member of the recently formed IUSS International Soil Judging Contest Working Group.

4) During its February 2025 meeting, the 24WCSS Committee established a “24WCSS Event Branding” Working Group.

**B) Establishment of a Not-For-Profit to administer the 24<sup>th</sup> WCSS:**

1) During its 2024 AGM, CSSS members approved motions to create a Not-for-Profit to administer the delivery of the 24<sup>th</sup> WCSS, as well as to authorize the expenditure of up to \$10,000 for this process. Another motion was also approved by members authorizing the CSSS Council to progressively loan (as required) funds up to \$50,000 to the NfP, to cover eventual front-end expenses related to the planning and organization of the 24WCSS, considering that sponsorship and registration fees would only be realized closer to the event.

2) In September of 2024, our legal consultant, Ms. Gillian Tuck Kutarna moved from Miller Thomson LLP to Borden Ladner Gervais LLP. Following further detailed discussions with relevant personnel at BLG LLP, during the months of November and December of 2024, the CSSS Council was formally advised that creating a NfP to administer the 24<sup>th</sup> WCSS would not provide the risk mitigation that the CSSS was anticipating, and that there could actually be undesirable financial consequences in relation to the Registered Charity status of the CSSS. Accordingly, the CSSS Council, during its meeting in January 2025,

voted to forego creating the NfP, but ensure that adequate relevant insurance (D&O, Event Cancellation, etc) was in place (as required), and that an appropriate framework that would be established to permit ongoing discrimination of finances related specifically to the 24<sup>th</sup> WCSS. See further Section J below.

**C) Ratification of 24WCSS Host Status, CSSS-IUSS Memorandum of Understanding & CSSS-MTCC Licence Agreement:**

1) As per IUSS Statute and Bye-Law requirements, the Chair of the 24WCSS Committee provided an update on progress related to the 24<sup>th</sup> WCSS to the Council of the International Union of Soil Sciences – IUSS during its 2024 Inter-Congress Meeting (held in October’24 in Nanjing, China). The IUSS Council unanimously voted to ratify of our host status - this was necessary to proceed to the establishment of a Memorandum of Understanding-MOU between the CSSS and the IUSS.

2) Following the host ratification vote (Item C1) and the approval of revisions to the Statutes and Bye-Laws of the IUSS (also during the 2024 Inter-Congress Meeting), discussions began between the IUSS and the CSSS to develop an MOU regarding the 24<sup>th</sup> WCSS. This MOU was finalized on March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Notably, it includes provisions for an eventual loan of up to US \$30,000, to the CSSS, for front-end costs related to the delivery of the 24<sup>th</sup> WCSS.

3) Starting in February 2024, the CSSS and the Metro Toronto Convention Centre-MTCC began detailed discussions regarding the venue Licencing Agreement (LA) for the 24<sup>th</sup> WCSS. This LA was finalized on April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025. With the finalization of the CSSS-MTCC LA, the CSSS fulfilled this requirement to be potentially eligible for sponsorship support (up to \$315,900) though a Destination Booking Agreement (DBA) with Destination Toronto-DT.

4) In consideration of the effective increased responsibility of the CSSS, and specifically the CSSS Council, with the formalized commitments related to hosting the 24<sup>th</sup> WCSS (preceding items), the CSSS Council consulted with HUB International Insurance Brokers, during June 2025, regarding its Directors & Officers Insurance. After considering of the various commitments, it was recommended that the CSSS increase its D&O Insurance from \$1 million to \$2 million at this time and then progressively consider increasing to \$5 million (i.e., the projected budget value for the 24<sup>th</sup> WCSS) as we approach 2030.

**D) Legal Expenditures Incurred:**

1) During the past year, the cost of legal consultation expenditures incurred (with Borden Ladner Gervais LLP) totalled \$12,528. These costs were in relation to further analysis and recommendation regarding the proposed establishment of a NfP (see Section B above), as well as reviews and recommendations related to the CSSS-IUSS MOU and the CSSS-MTCC LA (see Section C above). Payment of these expenditures were approved by the CSSS Council.

**E) Conflict-of-Interest Avoidance:**

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

**F) Progress related to Technical Tours and Soil Judging Contest:**

1) As part of the 2025 ‘Soils For Our Future’ Joint Conference (involving the CSSS, Division 1 of the IUSS and the Global Soil Security community; hosted by the Manitoba Society of Soil Science and the Soil

Conservation Council of Canada) Dr. David Lobb is trialing ideas for soil tours that may be used for the Technical Tours organized for the 24<sup>th</sup> WCSS.

2) As part of the 2025 SFOF Joint Conference, Dr. Daniel Saurette, together with colleagues from Manitoba, are organizing a student soil judging contest. This is including the participation of leadership from the IUSS International Soil Judging Contest Working Group.

3) As part of the strategic vision for the development of legacies from the 24<sup>th</sup> WCSS, efforts will continue to be made in relation to exploring opportunities to secure funding to enhance our national capacity to provide field training of the next generation of Canadian soil scientists, as well as enhance public outreach. In this regard, the Chair of the 24WCSS Committee met with Dr. John Cranfield (OAC Dean, and member of the Deans of the Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine Faculties of the Canadian Universities), in June 2025, to discuss issue of securing funding support for establishment of network of 'teaching/outreach' soil profiles, which could then be used as part of 24WCSS Technical Tours.

#### **G) Articulation with Professional Conference Organizers:**

1) Over the past year, the Chair of the 24WCSS Committee has been contacted by two major Professional Conference Organizers - PCO, both based in Vancouver: 'Venue West' and 'International Conference Services'. A general update was provided to both organizations as well as orientation to our website (24wcss.org) for details. It was made clear to both companies, that an open call would be conducted.

2) Over the next few months, the 24WCSS Committee, in coordination with the CSSS Council, as well as any appropriate participation of MTCC and DT, will be launching a call for proposals from PCO companies. Tentatively, it is envisaged that the PCO would be selected and contracted in time to be able to potentially attend the 23WCSS in Nanjing, China, in June of 2026.

#### **H) Engagement of CSSS Members and other Stakeholders:**

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

2) On 11 June (for eastern Canada) and 12 June 2025 (for western Canada), virtual townhalls were held for CSSS members. Information was provided regarding the IUSS, notably the scientific structure, the current call for nominations for Division and Commission Officer positions, as well as available IUSS Awards. An update was also provided on the current structure and recent progress of the 24WCSS Committee, as well as current and upcoming activities, including branding, contracting PCO, planning for our display booth at the 23WCSS, as well as the nomination of candidates for the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> IUSS Division Vice-Chair positions.

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

#### **I) Other Upcoming Items:**

1) Over the next few months, the 24WCSS Event Branding Working Group will continue to develop and implement a strategy to engage the broader CSSS community in developing formal branding for the 24WCSS. The goal is to have any new logo established by early 2026, so that it may use in promotion of the 24<sup>th</sup> WCSS at the 23<sup>rd</sup> WCSS.

2) The 24WCSS Committee, together with the CSSS Council will continue to develop and implement a strategy to select individuals for nomination to the positions of 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Chair of the four IUSS Division, to hold office from the end of the 23<sup>rd</sup> WCSS, until the end of the 24WCSS in Toronto. This process must be completed by early 2026, so that the names can be submitted to the IUSS Electoral Committee by the end of March 2026.

3) In relation to the International Soil Judging Contest (see also Item F2), the CSSS is encouraged to consider identifying and helping to support the participation of a Canadian team (4 people plus a coach) at the 2026 International Soil Judging Contest to be held as part of the 23<sup>rd</sup> WCSS.

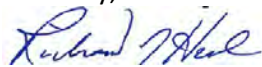
4) One standard display booth (3m x 3m) is being provided (at no cost) to promote the 24<sup>th</sup> WCSS during the 23<sup>rd</sup> WCSS. We will be working with MTCC and DT, and any other relevant stakeholders, as well as CSSS members, to develop our display over the next months. In this regarding, a registry will also be established to identify individuals who will be participating in the 23<sup>rd</sup> WCSS, with the intention of engaging them in our booth.

**J) Proposed Motions to the 2025 CSSS AGM:**

1) In lieu of the decision, by the CSSS Council, on the recommendation of legal advice, to forego the establishment of a dedicated Not-for-Profit to administer the 24<sup>th</sup> WCSS (Section B above), the following two motions are presented to the 2025 AGM of the CSSS:

- i) *“Motion that the CSSS membership rescind its motion, approved during the 2024 AGM, which authorized “the CSSS Council to progressively lend up to \$50,000, to the ‘not-for-profit’ organization responsible to realize the 24th World Congress of Soil Science on behalf of the Canadian Society of Soil Science, in the lead-up to the 24th World Congress of Soil Science in July of 2030.”*
- ii) *“Motion that the CSSS membership authorizes the 24WCSS Committee, in appropriate coordination with the CSSS Council, to progressively expend up to \$50,000 on costs related to the organization of the 24th World Congress of Soil Science in July of 2030.”*

Sincerely,



Dr. Richard J Heck, P.Ag.  
Chair, 24WCSS Committee  
[24wcscs@gmail.com](mailto:24wcscs@gmail.com)

July 17, 2025

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

Re: Rules Committee Report for 2025 CSSS Annual General Meeting

Dear Ms. Bauman,

Please accept this document as the Report of the CSSS Rules Committee for the 2025 CSSS Annual General Meeting.

**Composition of the 2025 CSSS Rules Committee:**

Richard J Heck (as 2025 CSSS President), Richard E. Farrell (as 2025 CSSS Past-President), and M. Anne Naeth (as previous CSSS Past-President)

**Motivations for Current Revisions:**

As per the *Rules and Guidelines Regarding Conduct of the Affairs of the Canadian Society of Soil Science (CSSS) Updated March 2021*, “this document shall be updated and ratified by the board at the beginning of each calendar year”.

In general, the current revisions seek to: i) verify adherence of “By-laws” and “Rules and Guidelines” to relevant governmental legislation, ii) ensure coherence between governance documents and current practice, and iii) rationalize content distribution among governance documents.

In light of the obligation of the CSSS to host the 24<sup>th</sup> World Congress of Soil Science, on behalf of the International Union of Soil Sciences, in 2030, there is a need to ensure that our governance framework has provisions to: i) provide for the establishment and effective functioning of necessary administrative structures and procedures, ii) provide for the establishment and effective functioning of necessary financial arrangements and contracting, and iii) allow for the 2030 CSSS Annual General Meeting to occur independent of the scientific gathering.

Other motivations for the current revisions include: i) improve ‘readability’ of governance documents, ii) reconsider/clarify of the roles of Council members, iii) clarify roles of business office staff, iv) clarify the framework for ‘committees’, v) improve standardization of procedures (e.g., revise/establish forms), and iv) improve framework for CSSS annual scientific gathering.

**CSSS Member Engagement:**

An announcement of the current revision initiative was provided through the President’s Message in the March 2025 CSSS Newsletter, included an invitation for initial input from members. Similarly, an update will be provided in the July 2025 edition of the CSSS Newsletter.

Two virtual townhall meetings for CSSS members (using Teams) were held on the evenings of May 14<sup>th</sup> (for Eastern Canada) and May 15<sup>th</sup> (for Western Canada) of 2025. The objective of these townhalls was to provide an overview of the current structure and governance framework of the CSSS, as well as to outline specific issues considered as part of the current revision. Opportunity was also given to

attendees to express their thoughts and opinions on proposed changes or any other aspect of the structure and governance framework of the CSSS.

An overview of the current revision will be provided during the 2025 AGM, allowing members to express their opinions and offer suggestions. A follow-up virtual townhall meeting for CSSS members is also being planned for October 2025.

***Major Proposed Changes Being Considered:***

**1) Committees, Subcommittees & Task Forces**

a) Suggestion that the term ‘Committee’ be applied to bodies focused on managing specific aspects of the business of the Society. These could be permanent (no expiry date), such as the Communications, Finance, Rules, and Awards Committees, or temporary (defined expiry date), such as the 24WCSS Committee. ‘Subcommittees’ would be responsible for managing specific subsets of a Committee’s mandate, such as the 24WCSS Technical Tours Subcommittee.

b) Suggestion that the term ‘Commission’ be applied to bodies focused on guiding and supporting specific activities of the members of the Society. These would include the Education, Pedology and Soil Health ‘Commissions’. ‘Subcommissions’ would be responsible for guiding and supporting subsets of the scope of a Commission, such as a ‘Canadian System of Soil Classification’ Subcommittee. It may also be useful to have provisions to formally establish ‘Working Groups’, as necessary, to address specific objectives of a Commission or Subcommittee.

c) Suggestion that the term ‘Task Force’ be applied to bodies established, from time-to-time, to address specific issues related to the business of the Society or activities of the Members. The duration of a ‘Task Force’ would be a year or less, but may be extended as required.

d) Suggestion that a standardized ‘Terms-of-Reference’ and reporting framework be established for Committees, Commissions, etc.

**2) CSSS Annual General Meetings**

a) Suggestion that the AGM be decoupled from the CSSS Annual technical/scientific gathering. The decoupled AGM would be held virtually, at a time determined to be most appropriate, to optimize attendance and fulfill its administrative purpose. This would allow for greater potential participation of membership, beyond those individuals who have conditions to travel to the annual technical/scientific gathering.

b) Special purpose meetings could still be held, including at the request of membership, in virtual, - in-person or hybrid modes, as may be most appropriate. This could include a special purpose meeting during the CSSS annual technical/scientific gathering.

c) Suggestion that the mandate of Council members be aligned with the AGM, rather than the current end of calendar year. Importantly, this would permit full annual reporting at the AGMs.

### **3) Committees**

a) Suggestion to review and refine, as necessary, the membership of Committees, including the roles of Council members on relevant Committees. Notably, it is recommended that the membership of the Awards Committee to allow for more continuity.

b) Suggestion to create a 'Nominations & Elections' Committee responsible for: i) coordinating/overseeing annual elections for Council positions, ii) nominations for positions of Treasurer, Secretary, etc., iii) nominations for external positions, such as FAO ITPS.

### **4) Definition of Quorum and Voting Procedures**

a) Suggestion to review and refine, as necessary, the definition of quorum for meetings (Council, AGMs, etc), considering the possibility of hybrid or purely virtual modes of attendance.

b) Suggestion to review and refine, as necessary, electronic voting procedures (synchronous/asynchronous) for elections and other resolutions.

c) Suggestion to review and refine, as necessary, the applicability of special (2/3) and ordinary (50% +1) thresholds for resolutions.

### **5) Role of Councilors**

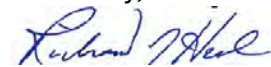
a) Suggestion to remove direct responsibilities of Eastern and Western Councilors for the Newsletter and Website, with the creation of a CSSS Communication Officer. Eastern and Western Councilors would remain on the Communications Committee, perhaps continuing to Chair on a rotating basis.

b) Suggestion that the roles of Eastern and Western Councilors would focus more on articulating with CSSS members and liaising with stakeholders in their regions. This may include role in the organization of CSSS annual scientific gatherings.

### ***Tentative Timetable for Development and Voting on 2025 Proposed Changes:***

- 1) A full draft of all proposed changes will be circulated to CSSS members by the end of September 2025.
- 2) A virtual townhall meeting of CSSS members will be held in mid-October 2025 to discuss proposed changes.
- 3) The final version of all proposed changes will be circulated to CSSS members by the beginning of November 2025.
- 4) A special business meeting of CSSS Members will be held, in virtual mode, by the end of November 2025 to allow for voting on proposed changes, as per current CSSS By-Laws and CSSS Rules & Guidelines.

Sincerely,



Dr. Richard J Heck, P.Ag.

2025 Chair of CSSS Rules Committee

**CANADIAN JOURNAL OF SOIL SCIENCE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF REPORT  
CANADIAN SOCIETY OF SOIL SCIENCE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Dr M Anne Naeth, Dr Judith Nyiraneza**

**17 July 2025**

**1. Editorial Board, Canadian Science Publishing, Reviewers**

Thank you to the Canadian Science Publishing editorial team for the Canadian Journal of Soil Science. These team members are so critical to our ongoing journal efforts and are devoted to our journal. The current team consists of Editorial Director Josephine Sciortino; Journal Development Specialist Morgan Tunzelmann; Peer Review Coordinator Laurie Scott; Production Editor Scott Bryant; Director, Integrity and Engagement Melanie Slavitch; and Editorial Outreach Specialist Jenny Crick.

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

Congratulations to our outstanding reviewers for 2024. They are Dr Keith Reid, Guelph, Ontario; Dr Mohammed Y Fattah, University of Technology, Iraq; and Dr Hongjie Zhang, Agriculture and AgriFood Canada, Swift Current, Saskatchewan. We are grateful for their consistent and expeditious delivery of comprehensive, discerning reviews to our journal submission authors.

Our Associate Editors make the Canadian Journal of Soil Science possible, and contribute significantly to its operations, development and reputation. Here is our 2025 Editorial Board.

Co-Editor-in-Chief: Dr M Anne Naeth.

Co-Editor-in-Chief: Dr Judith Nyiraneza.

Consulting Associate Editor: Dr Richard Farrell.

Associate Editors: Dr Ikechukwu Agomoh, Dr Stephen Crittenden, Dr Nicola Day, Dr Lakshman Galagedara, Dr Adam Gillespie, Dr Claudia Goyer, Dr Stephanie Grand, Dr Brandon Heung, Dr Maja Krzic, Dr Sheng Li, Dr Afua Mante, Dr Jude Odhiambo, Dr David Pelster, Dr Mervin St Luce, Dr Ben Thomas, Dr Karen Thompson, Dr Joseph Yavitt, Dr Xining Zhao.

Thank you to our outgoing Associate Editors; we have greatly benefited from their work with and dedication to CJSS. They are Dr Aimé Jean Messiga, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Agassiz, British Columbia (served 4 terms); Dr Lori Phillips, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Harrow, Ontario (served 4 terms); Dr Jim Warren, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, Environmental Management Branch, Guelph, Ontario (served 2 terms); Dr Wei Zhang, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan (served 3 terms).

We have seven Associate Editors with terms ending in December 2025 and eight with terms ending in December 2026. Let us know if you are interested in joining the Editorial Board as an Associate Editor, or if you know of someone we should consider inviting. We would greatly welcome your participation. We are currently seeking international Associate Editors, and welcome any suggestions you have.

Reviewers for all areas of our journal's research continue to be difficult to procure. Other journals all face the same issue. If you are interested in being listed as a reviewer for our journal, or if you know someone we should consider for reviews, let us know. As members of the Canadian Society of Soil Science, if we each committed to review at least one paper a year for our journal, we could speed up the review process and enhance the quality of our journal. Yes, I know have heard me say this every year since I was appointed the Editor In Chief. However, with your help this just could just be the year it happens!

## **2. Journal Metrics, Statistics**

The journal's two year impact factor is now 1.5. The five year impact factor is currently 1.6.

Our current turnaround time to decision remains at 52.6 days; up from 46.2 days in 2023 and 44.6 in 2022. We would like to reverse that increasing trend as turn around time is a major factor for journal submissions. We will continue with a larger number of Associate Editors than in previous times to facilitate this goal. Difficulty in procuring reviewers is the main reason for our high turn around time. Mean number of reviewers requested before getting the required number is currently 8.2, although some have been amazingly large.

Our total papers accepted from 2020 to 2023 are 68, 79, 70, 43 and 40, respectively. Our submissions from 2020 to 2024 were 158, 212, 125, 131 and 124, respectively. Submissions and accepts increased slightly in 2025 first quarter over 2024 by 27 % and 25 %, respectively.

Our open access publications were 42, 45, 50, 58 and 40 % in 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024, respectively. Although 2024 had a decline, the total is still overall healthy.

In 2024 we accepted 40 submissions and rejected 69. Accepts and rejects were 3 and 13 from China, 1 and 11 from Iran, 0 and 11 from India, 27 and 10 from Canada, 1 and 4 from Brazil and 4 and 2 from the United States, respectively. Morocco and Pakistan each had 2 rejected submissions. Nepal, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Czech Republic, Congo, Egypt, Cote D'Ivoire, Uganda, South Africa, Bangladesh, Cyprus, Chile, Ethiopia and Burkina Faso each had 1 submission, with all rejected. Nigeria had 2 accepts and Sri Lanka and Italy had 1 accept each.

Our most publications for 2020 to 2025 by institution are: Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada 85, University of Alberta 41, University of Saskatchewan 31, University of Guelph 28, University of Manitoba 19, McGill University 18, Universite Laval 17, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs 13, University of British Columbia 10 and Dalhousie University 9.

Article downloads have increased slightly from 2020 to 2024, at 283,176, 294,668, 297,937, 311,915 and 253,641 respectively. Total citations remain healthy from 3971 in 2020 to 3324 in 2023 and a high of 4249 in 2021.

## **3. Collections, Reviews**

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

The collection titled Conservation Tillage: Effect on Soil Properties and Crop Productivity had guest editors Dr Noura Ziadi, Dr Jeff Schoenau and Dr Tiequan Zhang. The collection of 13 papers includes recent studies on the impact of no-till and reduced tillage practices on various soil properties and crop production is now available.

Our collection titled Soils and Disasters: Towards Resilience, with lead Guest Editor Dr David Chanasyk, University of Alberta, focuses on soil impacts from naturally and anthropogenically caused disasters, including fire, floods, drought, volcanic eruption, war, deforestation, climate change, unmitigated mining and industrial urban sprawl. We are still open for submissions on topics relating soils and disasters, such as the role of soils in moderating risks, soil remediation, soil building (Anthrosols), impacts on food security and nature based climate solutions.

We are starting a new collection jointly with the Canadian Journal of Microbiology. Details to be announced very soon. Please let us know if you have interest and ideas to discuss for special collections and/or reviews as we are now scheduling for the upcoming year.

#### **4. Scope, Articles**

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

Perspectives, our new journal section, has already published 3 articles. Perspectives articles may focus on a research project or method, a general issue of importance to soil science, historical contexts or future directions. We are interested in hearing from researchers and practitioners across the field of soil science; in different career paths and stages, from early to retired, from academia to industry and government. Through Perspectives, we aim to provide a forum to foster conversations around soil science, its methods, practices and impact, to build the wider soil science community. Please send us your ideas for a Perspective article.

#### **5. New Approaches**

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

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

The co-Editors-in-Chief and journal staff are currently conducting a horizon scan of the journal to identify new topics for the journal to publish in. We will be inviting your input in this process.

#### **6. Photos**

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

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

#### **7. Actions For Improving Canadian Journal Of Soil Science**

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

The following are ongoing action plans we have for our journal. We welcome your comments on them and invite you to share any other suggestions.

- Actively encourage and seek regular manuscripts, short communications, review papers,

collections on important and timely topics and perspectives from recognized researchers in their fields, and from anyone with a good soil science article to publish.

- Incentivize Canadian Society of Soil Science members to consider the Canadian Journal of Soil Science an important journal for publishing their work.
- Promote the journal and its community to graduate students; provide author workshops by Canadian Science Publishing, eliminate page charges for some graduate student publications.
- Include international associate editors, to raise our international profile.
- Recognize annual outstanding reviewers, and select a quarterly Editor's Choice article.
- Eliminate page charges for Canadian Society of Soil Science professor emeritus, fellows and retired submitters, and encourage them to write review articles and guest edit special issues.
- Promote the journal at every opportunity including scientific meetings, webinars, society webpages and other platforms.
- Solicit information from our society members on what they would like to see in the journal to make it more appealing to them.

Respectfully submitted, M. Anne Naeth, Editor In Chief Canadian Journal of Soil Science  
July 17, 2025

## 2025 Canadian Society of Soil Science Student Representative Report

Submitted by Dillon Brian Muldoon

In addition to attending regularly scheduled Committee meetings, my primary focus as the Graduate Student Representative has been helping to plan the Graduate Student Mixer event, which takes place during the CSSS annual conference in collaboration with the local organizing committee. We would like to thank the CSSS Council for its assistance in funding this event. We currently have over 100 graduate students registered. Details of the event are provided below. Furthermore, I am in conversations with Canadian Science Publishing to provide opportunities for graduate students for career development and community building through workshops, seminars, and publishing opportunities.

### Soils for Our Future Graduate Student Mixer

- Location:  
**Hargrave Street Market Place Food Hall**  
242 Hargrave Street  
Winnipeg, MB R3C 0T8
- Date and Time:  
**Monday July 21<sup>st</sup>**  
**7:00 pm** – arrive when you're able!  
Appetizers will be served at 7:30 pm (last round 8:30 pm)
- Activities:  
**Graduate Student Mixer Bingo**  
Pick up your Bingo card during the conference at the U of M Soil Science merch table or at the mixer. Complete a Bingo and you'll be entered into a draw to win some merchandise!  
The rest of the evening is all about **mingling, connecting, and having fun!** \
- Food & Drink:  
Complementary appetizers for all attendees.  
A special soil science-themed mocktail & cocktail menu is available for purchase.  
Other food vendors at the Market will also be open for purchasing if you are still hungry!

Sincerely,



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

## 2025 Western Councillor Report

The primary activity of the Western Councillor during the period from 2024/2025 was to update the CSSS website and coordinate matters-related communications through the communications committee and social media manager.

- Requests from several members for items needing to be posted (e.g., graduate student & postdoctoral opportunities, as well as several faculty positions) were received and processed.
- Online submission of professional and student opportunities is now live.
- Photographs of the award winners were loaded to replace those from the previous year. New award winners were also posted.
  - Recipient of the 2024 CSSS Fellow Award (Dr. Diane Knight and Dr. Judith Nyiraneza)
  - Recipient of the 2024 SSSA Soil Science Industry and Professional Leadership Award (Dr. Eric Bremer)
  - Recipient of the 2024 SSSA Soil Science Research Award (Dr. Scott X. Chang)
  - Recipient of the 2024 CSSS Honorary Life Member Award (Honourable Robert Black, P. Ag. (Hon), Senator (ON))
  - Recipient of the 2024 CSSS Early Career Professional Award (Dr. Guoqi Wen)
  - Recipient of the 2024 Steve Pawluk Scholarship (Charitha Hansima)
  - Recipient of the 2024 CSSS Ivarson Soil Science Scholarship (Dillion Muldoon)
- Minutes from the 2024 AGM and meeting were uploaded to the site.
- March, June, November 2024 and March 2025 newsletters have been published.
- Call for the 2025 CSSS Award nominations was posted on the website
  - New award criteria, dates, and templates were added to the website.
- The website was updated to reflect the election of the new President-Elect (Judith Nyiraneza) and Graduate Student Representative (Dillon Brian Muldoon). The website was also updated to note Richard Farrell's transition from President to Past-president and President-elect to President for Richard J. Heck. Note: there was no change to the Western Councillor (Henry Wai Chau), Secretary (Leann Bauman), Graduate Treasurer (Preston Sorenson) and CJSS Editor-in-Chief (Anne Naeth).
- Posted thanks to our outgoing council members, Dr. Amanda Diochon as Past-President, and Dr. Blake Weiseth as Graduate Student Representative
- Posted CSSS Virtual Townhall - Structure & Governance and IUSS Virtual Town Hall for CSSS Members, the CSSS website bylines
- Personal/work email addresses are being replaced with csss.ca email addresses on the website.

- Council discussed decommissioning CSSS–X account in favour of BlueSky; however, early indications suggest this may be premature due to a large portion of the membership and followers still using X. It was decided both platforms will remain, while we promote the use of BlueSky and seek comments from the membership at the AGM.

Information regarding several conferences was uploaded to the CSSS website:

- *SOILS ROTORUA 2024: Weaving Soil Science Across Cultures & Environments, A Joint NZSSS and SSA Conference, Rotorua Energy Events Centre, Rotorua, New Zealand | December 2-5th, 2024,*
- *Alberta Soil Science Workshop, “Unlocking the Role of Soil Science to Achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals” | February 18-20, 2025*
- *Soils and Crops 2025, “Celebrating 60 years (1965-2025)” | March 4-5, 2025*
- *CSSS 2025, Soils for our Future, A Gathering of Global to Local Perspectives, Delta Winnipeg, 350 St. Mary Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada | July 20-25th, 2025*
  - *Links have been provided to the [About | Soils For Our Future 2025 Conference: A Gathering of Global to Local Perspectives](#) to streamline deadlines and updates from the conference organizers*
  - *Promotional material added to the meta slider on the main page*
  - *Major update with change of venue was posted on the website and social media*
- *ICOBTE & ICHMET 2025, Catalyzing Change for Sustainability and ESG: Bridging Academia and Industry, Korea University, Seoul, South Korea | September 22nd - 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025*
- *CANVAS 2025, Salt Lake City, Utah, United States of America | NOVEMBER 9-12, 2025*

## Social media update and Grounded In Soils blog report (June 30, 2025)

### Twitter (X) followers

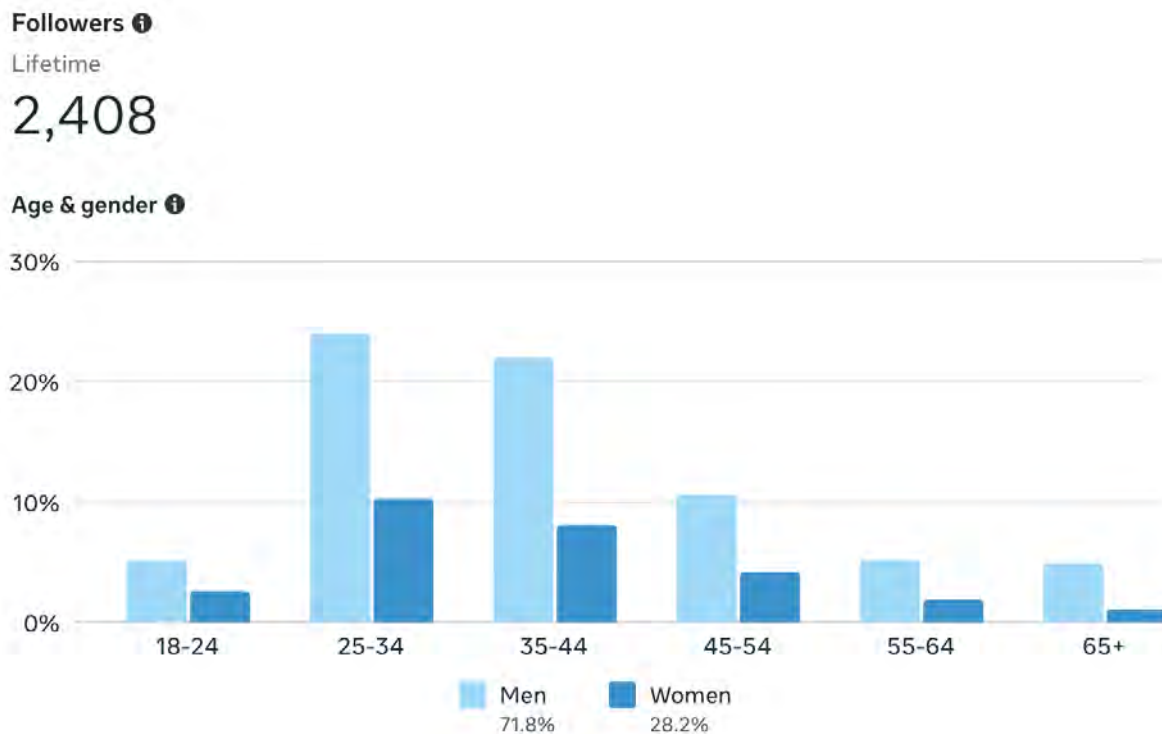
We continue to grow Twitter (X) followers, up to 2,780 current followers (up from 2,583 in March 2024)

- We continue to promote CSSS meetings as well as collaborator meetings on our social media feeds
- In March 2025, I provided information about the utility of X in light of current situations. It is still a useful tool to promote CSSS, and our members and other followers seem committed to staying there, so we should, too.

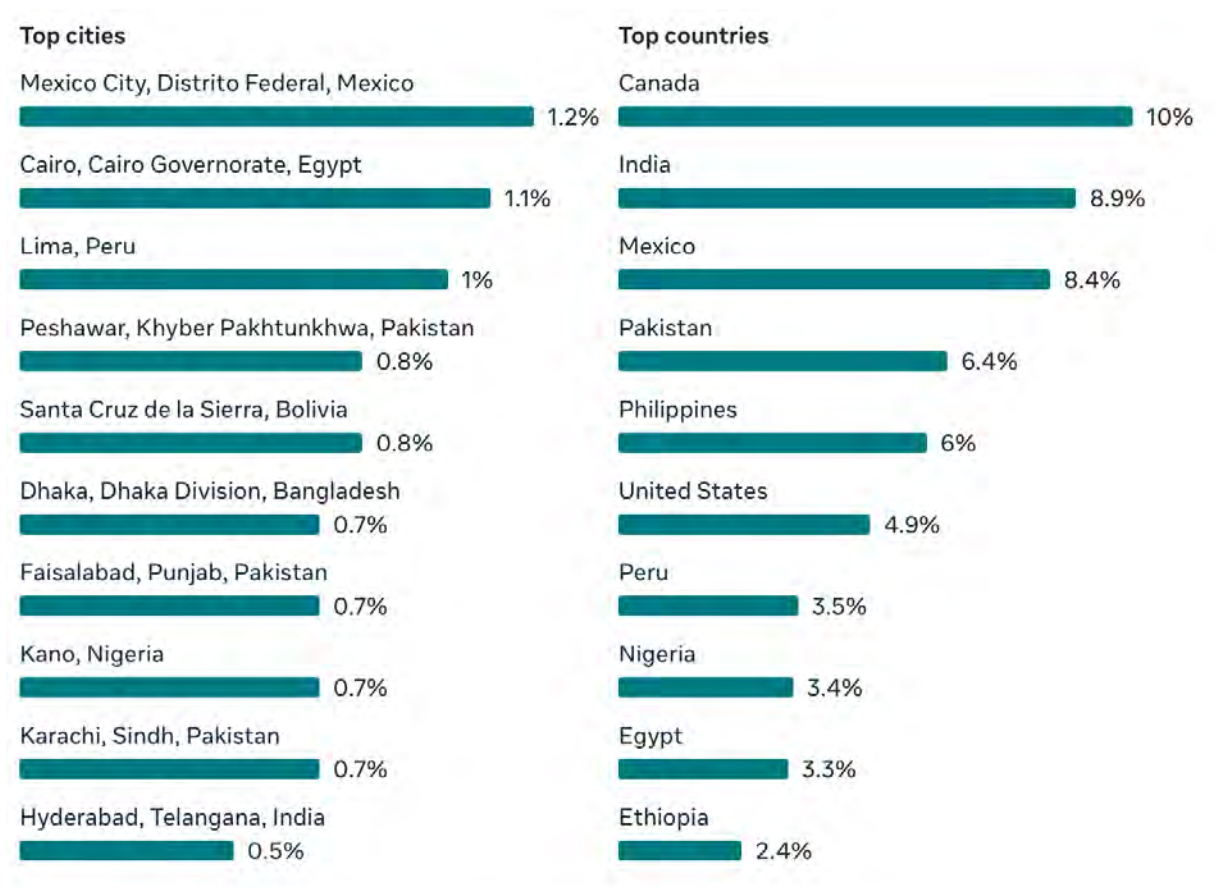
### Facebook followers

Facebook followers also grew, to 2,408 up from 1,942, in March 2024. Facebook Insights now offers free demographics - surprisingly, our Facebook followers skew young, under 44. The top countries for followers are also included. Engagement continues to be high at 5%.

### Facebook followers by age and gender



## Facebook followers by country and top city



### LinkedIn followers

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

### Bluesky followers

We made our first Bluesky post for World Soil Day, 2024, and have grown to 114 followers.

### Grounded In Soils Blog

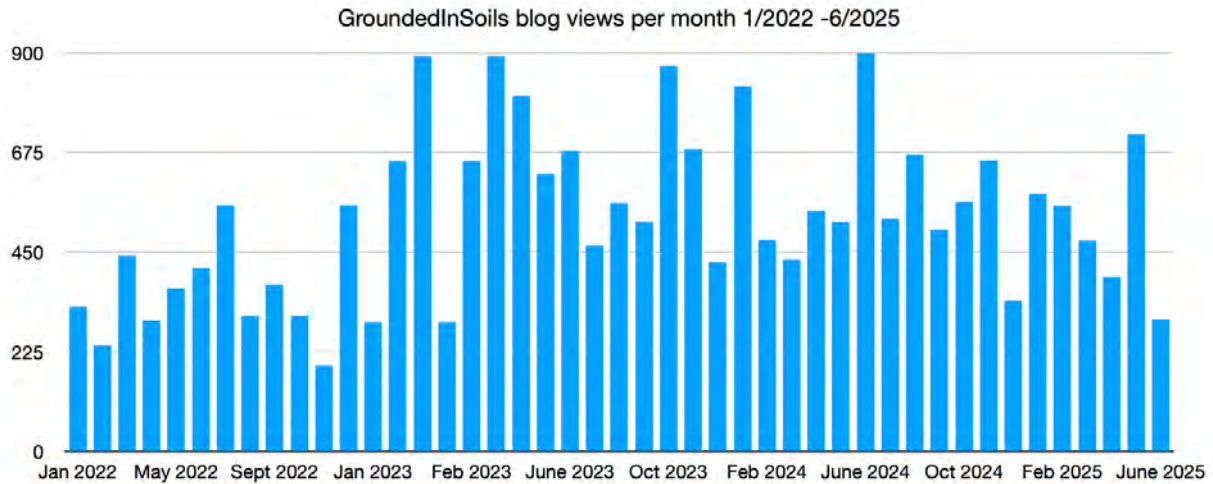
The Grounded In Soils blog is updating and reposting material from the original 2021-2024 blog posts based on the “Digging Into...” book. When a new CJSS comes out, if a paper seems like it could have public appeal, I write to the author and we work together on a blog. In addition to the blog post being promoted on social media, we include the DOI of the original CJSS paper. Any CSSS member or CJSS author is welcome to submit. We have had three of these blog posts published since March 2024:

- **Three native wetland species show promise in reclaiming mining tailings**, Dani Degenhardt, Natural Resources Canada, Canadian Forest Service, Northern Forestry Centre, Edmonton, AB, <https://groundedinsoils.wordpress.com/2024/05/18/three-nativewetland-species-show-promise-in-reclaiming-mining-tailings/>
- **Do cover crops affect soil thermal properties?** Samuel Haruna, Middle Tennessee State University, <https://groundedinsoils.wordpress.com/2025/01/18/do-cover-crops-affectsoil-thermal-properties/>
- **Conservation agriculture’s impact on soil organic carbon and total nitrogen**, Mervin St. Luce, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (Government of Canada) and the University of Saskatchewan, <https://groundedinsoils.wordpress.com/2025/02/15/conservation-agricultures-impact-on-soil-organic-carbon-and-total-nitrogen/>

It continues to be a struggle to get folks to participate in the Life as a Soil Scientist category, so help from the Council to promote this section and its helpfulness in recruiting students into the soil science pipeline is appreciated. Charitha’s in particular was read over 370 times in the two weeks after it was published, which is incredible promotion for her, her school, and soil science. It has now been read 416 times (7-16-25) and is the third most-read page on the blog from June 2024 to July 2025. I hope more members, and especially graduate student members, participate in this category of GroundedInSoils.

- Blake Weiseth, doctoral student in agronomy at the University of Saskatchewan. <https://groundedinsoils.wordpress.com/2024/08/03/life-as-a-soil-scientist-blake-weiseth/>
- Charitha Hansima, doctoral student at the University of Manitoba. <https://groundedinsoils.wordpress.com/2025/05/17/life-as-a-soil-scientist-charitha-hansima/>

Overall views continue to be cyclical (first chart), which is to be expected with any social media that is does not have paid promotion. Please also note that “organic” readers are now the top category. This is people doing Google searches, such as “how does soil form” and Google suggests our blogs. They then click on the link to our blog and read it. This is great, and expected, as the longer posts are up, and the more they are read, the more Google prioritizes them in searches. See the second chart below.



### GroundedInSoils blog referrers August 2024-July 2025

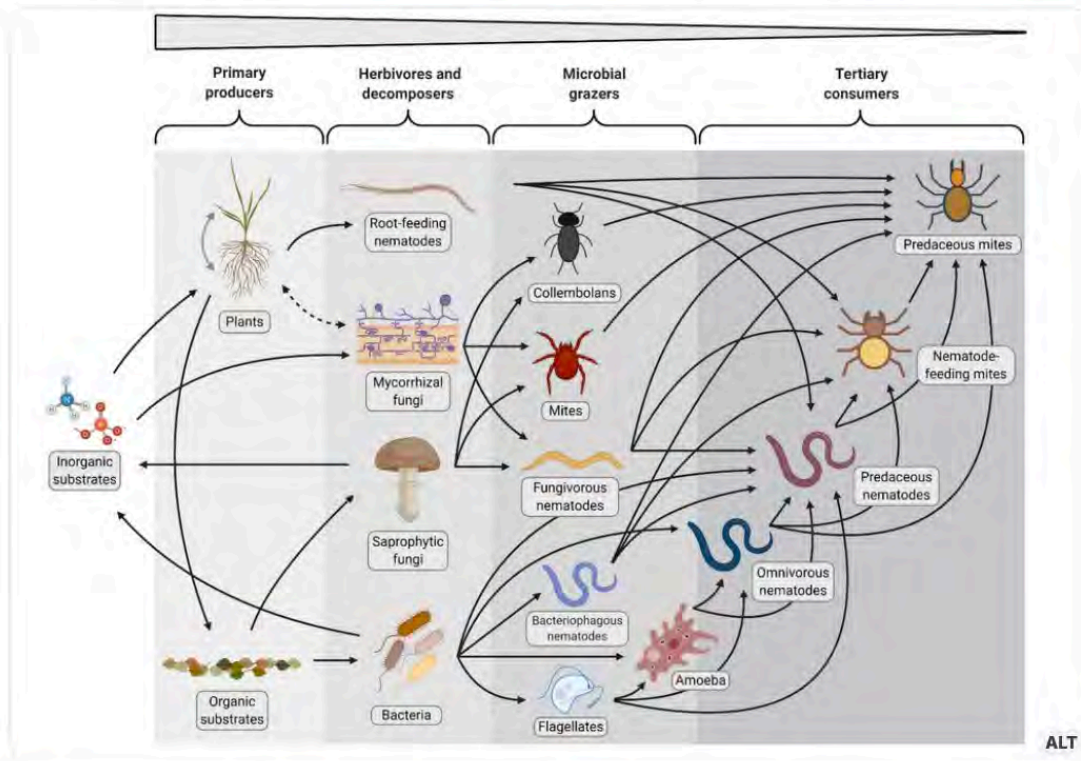
Referrers <span style="float: right;">(i)</span>	Views
Search Engines <span style="float: right;">v</span>	1,854
Facebook	738
X	421
com.google.android.googlequicksearchbox	65
fleming.desire2learn.com	59
LinkedIn <span style="float: right;">v</span>	47
go.bsky.app	22
WordPress.com Reader	17
chatgpt.com	17
bsky.app	13
<a href="#">View all</a>	

- To access, subscribe and share the blog by clicking on the buttons at the top of the CSSS website.

Henry Chau, Western Councillor



One thing you don't see when looking at soil is all the energy exchanges happening in the #soil! This is called the "soil food web." Shown: fungi that live in the soil. Read our #GroundedInSoils blog to learn more! [bit.ly/3v644Us](https://bit.ly/3v644Us)



9 23

### Social media comparison 3/26/25

This post ran on March 21 on Bluesky, Twitter and Facebook. It was liked 23 times on Bluesky, and shared 9 times. It was like 13 times on Facebook and shared 7 times. It was liked 6 times on Twitter and shared twice. However, not all posts are liked "the most" on Bluesky - it can be very random.

The Bluesky account currently has 86 followers. We are following 12 accounts:

1. Soil Association
2. The Global Soil Biodiversity Initiative
3. ASA-CSSA-SSSA (currently inactive; placeholder account only)
4. Soil Science Australia
5. Soil Organisms Journal
6. Seome Swafo (individual, CSSS member)
7. UBC Forestry
8. Regeneration Canada
9. Critical Zone News
10. Soil & Landscape Lab
11. AgriChar Research Group of University of Helsinki
12. Bluesky official

CSSS' Facebook page has 2,300 followers and Twitter has 2,735 followers.

I cannot provide how many people are referred to CSSS' professional page, or the meeting pages (or emails/other communications), but I can tell you how many are referred to the blog based on social media posts.

From Jan 1- Mar 26, 2025, these are the sources of people going to GroundedInSoils:

1. Search Engines, 2261
2. Facebook, 781
3. Twitter, 722
4. Wordpress, 87
5. Fleming Desire2Learn, 49 (usually teachers)
6. LinkedIn, 24
7. [CSSS.ca](https://www.csss.ca) (our website itself), 13
8. Bluesky, 13

Bluesky currently has no platform to schedule posts, so all posts for CSSS are done in real-time. It has no edit button either, so users might feel frustrated with it as they learn (I personally am frustrated with this feature as links sometimes break and cannot be fixed). Searching by hashtag is harder than on X (Twitter didn't invent the hashtag, but it made it popular.) But Bluesky has grown immensely over the past several months and seems dedicated to improving the platform.

Any consideration of discontinuing on X should take into account that although we do not like the owner of X, many people rely on it for communication. It can be especially difficult for those with disabilities to take the time to make and learn new platforms. It can be hard for international followers. We can increase other communications to these groups while decreasing our reliance on X and serve the communities that rely on that specific platform.

In addition, we should not only look at how many likes and shares the platform posts receive, we should be looking at how traffic flows to the [CSSS.ca](https://www.csss.ca) and meeting pages. That is important information the board should consider before quitting X. My opinion is that we should continue to post on all platforms, but I think we should promote Bluesky usage to CSSS members on other platforms and via a direct email.

## ***2025 Eastern Councillors' Report***

### **Newsletter Production**

The primary independent task undertaken was the drafting and editing of the CSSS newsletter. As of this date, we have maintained a consistent publication schedule of three issues annually, released in March, June/July, and November.

### **Job Advertisement Restructuring**

While discussions regarding the restructuring of the job advertisement led to changes in its web-based delivery, these adjustments did not impact the newsletter due to its limited and fixed publication schedule.

### **Content Sections**

The "Life as a Soil Science Professional" and the research highlight sections have been included inconsistently across issues. Efforts to standardize their presence are ongoing.

### **Council Role Restructuring**

Discussions concerning the roles of the Eastern and Western Councillors resulted in a general consensus on the following proposals:

1. The creation of a **Communications Director** position to assume the communication responsibilities currently held by the two councillors.
2. A redefinition of the councillors' roles to focus on acting as liaisons between regional soil and agriculture societies/boards and the CSSS.

These proposals are scheduled for a vote at the upcoming Annual General Meeting (AGM). The objective is to finalize and communicate the revised role descriptions prior to the next election cycle.