

Agenda
CSSS Annual General Meeting
5:00 p.m. Monday June 10, 2024
University of British Columbia

Meeting location: Rm. 1005, Forest Science Centre

Started at 5:06 PM

1. Call to Order: Rich Farrell
2. Approval of agenda: Mover Barbara Cade-Menun. Seconder Diane Knight.
3. Minutes of 2023 AGM: Lee-Ann Bauman. No errors or omissions were noted. Mover Diane Knight. Seconder Angela Bedard-Haughn.
4. Business arising from 2023 minutes:
 - a) Steve Pawluk Scholarship (David Chanasyk)
 - i. David discussed the many great contributions to soil science from Steve Pawluk.
 - ii. There will be an annual scholarship of \$2,000 for students.
 - iii. Donations to the scholarship are invited and tax receipts will be provided.
 - iv. Contact David for more information at chanasyk@ualberta.ca.
 - v. The first scholarship will be awarded this year.
 - b) Soil Sampling and Methods of Analysis (Rich Farrell)
 - i. Last year at the AGM the CSSS membership decided to go open access for the methods book.
 - ii. There are two options for publishing: publish open access via CRC Press or do the work via volunteers and publish through Pressbooks.
 - iii. Rich asked if going open access and the exposure we get is worth the ~\$32,000 CAD cost of publishing through CRC Press? Rich noted that we did discuss a fundraising campaign with the CSSS council yesterday.
 - iv. Discussion: How do people want to proceed with this book, and do we still want to do this?
 1. Brandon Heung asked if we have to buy the rights for Pressbooks. Rich said that we could get the copyright for free.
 2. Nate Basiliko asked if there was any potential for sponsorship since they rely on reagents and supplies from laboratory companies. Rich stated that we are open to exploring these options.
 3. Angela Bedard-Haughn asked what reserves are. Preston said that we have a GIC with Sunova that matures in 2025 that is \$24,000. We could use that. We still need to be cognizant of how much money we spend at one time with the WCSS coming. Angela Bedard-Haughn is in favour of us pursuing it and we can look for funding options because it is a valuable reference.
 4. Barbara Cade-Menun thinks the copyrighting at AAFC, and for all federal employees, may be more difficult than last time so we should be cognizant of that in this next round.
 5. Rich Farrell noted that regardless of which route we take to publish, one of the first things required will be to make a table of contents.

- v. **Motion 2024-13:** Motioned that the Pedology travel award can be awarded to a student if no non-students apply before June 30. Motioned Dan Saurette. Seconded by Angela Bedard-Haughn.
- b) Soil Education Committee: Tom Yates
 - i. See Soil Education Committee Report.
 - ii. The Soil Education Committee is occurring on Wednesday and Tom encouraged that we all attend.
- c) Pedology Committee: Dan Saurette
 - i. See Pedology Committee Report.
 - ii. If anyone would like to become part of the Pedology Committee that would be greatly appreciated. They are thinking of changing the current practice so that we can have rotating chairs and secretaries for a specified term. Dan will talk to CSSS Council to determine how to do this.
- d) Soil Health Committee: Derek MacKenzie
 - i. There was a great turnout at Soil Health Committee today. Approximately 30 people showed up.
 - ii. See Soil Health Committee Report.
 - iii. They would like to have another graduate student on the committee from eastern Canada.
 - iv. Email Derek if you would like to join the committee at mdm7@ualberta.ca.
- e) Communications Committee: Henry Chau
 - i. See Communications Committee Report.
 - ii. Please let Henry know if you have any ideas for getting more information for social media posts.
- f) 24WCSS Committee: Richard Heck
 - i. See 24WCSS Committee Annual Report.
 - ii. Mario Tenuta asked if the MOU from IUSS will be with the 24WCSS not-for-profit (NFP). Richard said that it could be with CSSS or 24WCSS NFP as suggested by legal counsel.
 - iii. Rich noted that setting up a NFP insulates the CSSS from financial risk.
 - iv. Mario asked if the motion for the NFP should be repaid so that we will not have that cut into the profit. Rich noted that there is a 50:50 profit split so the money will ultimately come back to us. The CSSS Council would like to provide the 24WCSS NFP with the money without a loan as an act of goodwill that will show the IUSS that the CSSS supports the 24WCSS. Mario asked if it could be labelled as an expense so that it would be paid back before the split of the profit. Rich noted that the message we are trying to send regarding supporting the 24WCSS is the most important.
 - v. Barbara Cade-Menun noted that it is important for us to consider if we can afford this as a loss.
 - vi. Maria Tenuta asked if the insurance wouldn't just cover any issues if the conference fell through. Rich noted that insurance is difficult to deal with and it is significantly safer for the society if we have an NFP and insurance since insurance may not cover all losses (e.g., in the event the insurance company disputes the claim).
 - vii. Barbara Cade-Menun asked if the cost for the NFP was included in the budget that Preston discussed. Preston noted that this cost is not in the current budget.
 - viii. **Motion 2024-14:** Motioned that the CSSS membership authorizes the CSSS Council to expend funds necessary to cover the legal and administrative costs of

up to \$10,000 to establish the 'not-for-profit' organization whose primary responsibility will be to realize the 24th World Congress of Soil Science on behalf of the Canadian Society of Soil Science. Moved by Keith Reid. Seconded by Laura Van Eerd. No opposed.

- ix. **Motion 2024-15:** Motion to amend the budget for the potential \$10,000 cost for setting up the 24WCSS NFP. Moved by Angela Bedard-Haughn. Seconded by David Chanasyk. No opposed.
 - x. Barbara Cade-Menun asked if we could authorize the CSSS to provide up to a certain amount of the \$50,000 per year since we know that the future can change. Preston noted that we won't be able to project how much we will be spending each year and things won't be spent the same over the period between now and 2030. Rich noted that this motion would give flexibility to the 24WCSS NFP to spend money as needed without as many motions along the way.
 - xi. **Motion 2024-16:** Motion that the CSSS membership authorizes 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 Angela Bedard-Haughn. Seconded by Maryse Bourgault. No opposed.
8. CJSS Editor's Report: Anne Naeth
- a) See CJSS Editor's Report.
 - b) Rich is now a Consulting Editor.
 - c) Asked for colleagues to volunteer as Associate Editors and reviewers.
 - d) Anne's term at CJSS ends in December. She would like to continue with another term, if the membership is in favour.
9. Graduate Student Representative's Report: Blake Weiseth
- a) See Graduate Student Representative Report.
10. Western Councillor's report (website): Henry Chau
- a) See Western Councillor's Report.
11. Eastern Councillor's report (newsletter): Rich Farrell
- a) Adrian Unc is looking for more information for the newsletter.
 - i. He would like keynote speakers to provide a summary and photo for the newsletter.
 - ii. He would also like each session chair to provide a summary of the session for the newsletter.
12. Resolutions
- a) Resolution of Appreciation: Rich Farrell
 - i. Rich said thank you to everyone who helped organize the conference: Maja Krzic, Sandra Brown, Sue Grayston, Julie Wilson, Lewis Fausak, Jean-Thomas Cornelis, Sean Smukler, Lesley Dampier, Jeremiah DuBovis, Sahil Sahibole and Raelani Kesler.
13. New Business
- a) Appointment of financial reviewers: Preston Sorenson
 - i. Catlin Dallaire and Louis Pierre-Comeau will be financial reviewers for the 2024 fiscal year.

- b) Certified Professional Soil Scientist Program: Richard Heck
 - i. This is a program offered in the USA and could be offered in Canada but would need to update the program to reflect Canadian knowledge. Richard will provide additional information in the Newsletter.
- c) Progress on 2025 Meeting (Winnipeg): Mario Tenuta
 - i. See attached slides.
- d) Interest for the 2026 Meeting (Guelph): Richard Heck
 - i. Adam Gillespie wants to host the 2026 meeting in Guelph. Lee-Ann noted that usually conference rotates between the east and west, so membership needs to be ok with a shift in the schedule.
 - ii. **Motion 2024-17:** Motion to hold the 2026 CSSS Annual Conference at the University of Guelph. Moved by Tom Yates. Seconded by Bobbi Helgason.
- e) Joint conference with AQSSS in 2027: Rich Farrell
 - i. **Motion 2024-18:** Motioned that the CSSS is interested in holding the 2027 meeting in conjunction with the AQSSS in Québec City. Moved by Maryse Bourgault. Seconded by Adam Gillespie. No objections.

14. Business arising from the floor:

- a) Honorary member nomination: Angela Bedard-Haughn
 - i. **Motion 2024-19:** Motion to honour the Honourable Senator Black as an Honorary member at the banquet on Wednesday, June 11, 2024. Moved by Angela Bedard-Haughn. Seconded Diane Knight. No objections.
- b) Global Soil Biodiversity Conference: Nate Basiliko
 - i. Nate suggested that the CSSS think about being a sponsor for the Global Soil Biodiversity Conference in 2026 to get our name out to the broader global audience (e.g., \$5,000). We can discuss this at the AGM in 2025.

Adjournment at 7:10 PM

List of Attendees:

Name	Employer/University
Diane Knight	University of Saskatchewan
Rich Farrell	University of Saskatchewan
Richard Heck	University of Guelph
Preston Sorenson	University of Saskatchewan
Blake Weiseth	University of Saskatchewan
Amanda Diochon	Lakehead University
Anne Naeth	University of Alberta
Henry Chau	Agriculture and Agrifood Canada
Mario Tenuta	University of Manitoba
Maja Krzic	University of British Columbia
Keith Reid	Agriculture and Agrifood Canada
Sandra Yanni	Agriculture and Agrifood Canada
Barbara Cade-Menun	Agriculture and Agrifood Canada

Name	Employer/University
Tom Yates	University of Saskatchewan
Louis-Pierre Comeau	Agriculture and Agrifood Canada
Vicky Levesque	Agriculture and Agrifood Canada
Jacynthe Masse	Agriculture and Agrifood Canada
Emmanuel Mapfumo	Concordia University
David Chanasyk	University of Alberta
Derek MacKenzie	University of Alberta
Nathan Basiliko	Lakehead University
Ahmed Lasisi	Government of British Columbia
Bobbi Helgason	University of Saskatchewan
Maryse Bourgault	University of Saskatchewan
Joanne Thiessen Martens	University of Manitoba
Kent Watson	Thompson Rivers University
Allison Walters	UBC
Megan Westphal	Manitoba Agriculture
Requel de Castno Pontes	UNBC
Diogo Spinola	UNBC
Sirajum Munira	U of S
Bryce Geisel	Koch Fertilizer
Catlan Dallaire	Clifton Engineering
Nathan Storey	Carson Integrated Ltd.
Nafsa Khazaei	U of A
Aruna Srikantha Jayawardana	Ministry of Environment Sri Lanka
Tegbaru Gobezie	U of G
Claudia Goyer	AAFC
Adam Gillespie	U of G
Emmanuel Badewa	University College of the North
Sandra Brown	UBC
Angela Bedard-Haughn	U of S
Bradon Heung	Dalhousie
Derek Lynch	Dalhousie
Magaret Schmidt	SFU
Jin Zhang	Dalhousie
Frances Zvomuya	University of Manitoba

Name	Employer/University
Sean Smukler	UBC
John Kang	TRU
Laura Van Eerd	U of G
Daniel Saurette	OMAFRA/U of G
Tahmid Huq Easher	Olds College
Deepa Filatow	BC Government
Ikechukwu Agomoh	AAFC
Judith Nyiraneza	AAFC
Charlotte Norris	Natural Resources Canada
Michael Preston	UNBC
Roland Kroebel	AAFC

2024 Secretary's Report:

a) Since the last AGM (on June 27, 2023, in Truro, Nova Scotia), the council has met five times by video conferencing. The council voted on 21 motions by email and video conference.

b) Elections Report: The vacant positions for 2023-2024 were President-Elect and treasurer. Richard Heck was elected President-Elect. Preston Sorenson was appointed Treasurer. Lee-Ann Bauman continued as Secretary. Henry Chau continued as Western Councilor. Anne Naeth has continued as CJSS Editor-in-Chief. Blake Weiseth continued as the Graduate Student Representative.

For 2024, positions open on the council will be President-Elect and Graduate Student Representative. Please consider running for a council position, and please vote.

c) Outgoing council members, Asim Biswas (former Past-President) and Diane Knight (former Treasurer) 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 June 10, 2024, CSSS Council is:

Past-President	Amanda Diochon
President	Rich Farrell
President-elect	Richard Heck
Secretary	Lee-Ann Bauman
Treasurer	Preston Sorenson
Graduate Student Representative	Blake Weiseth
Eastern Councilor	Adrian Unc
Western Councilor	Henry Chau
CJSS Editor-in-Chief	Anne Naeth

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OA Champion, Dr. Chuck Crumly Chuck.Crumly@taylorandfrancis.com

Canadian Society of Soil Science Treasurer's Report for 2023

Submitted by Preston Sorenson, Treasurer

The 2023 financial files were reviewed by CSSS members Catlan Dallaire and Jeremy Kiss. The reviews are very helpful and appreciated – thank you!

2022 In Review

The performance of the financial markets in 2023 improved compared to 2022. Our long-term investments with CIBC Wood Gundy increased by \$38,874.95 Jan 1 2023 to Dec 31 2023. No investment strategy changes were made over the course of the year.

Day to day banking and short-term investments are conducted through Sunova Credit Union which was acquired by ACCESS credit union in July 2022. A short-term GIC matured in June 2023 and monies reinvested in a 24-month term GIC (4.55%) which will mature in June 2025.

Balance Sheet – Table 1

Total assets at December 31 2022 were \$540,467.89 – an increase of \$7,576.15 from December 31, 2022. The increase represents the improved financial market in 2023 compared to 2022.

Income Statement – Table 2

Our long-term investment increase was \$38,874.95. Sunova accounts generated \$1,582.53 from interest. Total 'memberships' received for 2022 was \$8,543.02. Profits from the CSSS annual meeting were not received in 2023. The payback from the 2023 meeting will be realized in 2024. The total payback amount received in April 2024 was \$18,239, after accounting for the \$10,000 loan represents a surplus of \$8,239.00. Remaining revenue is from royalties from Taylor and Francis publications and two historic trust funds.

Expenses reflect the day to day functioning of the society including our contract with Nancy Zubriski our office manager, office expenses, liability insurance for board members, and income tax preparation. We maintain an annual membership with the International Union of Soil Science (IUSS) which is based on membership numbers. We are not charged for student registrations or retired members. Other major expenses were the communication and social media contract cost (ca. \$ 12,000). Remaining expenses were associated with student awards (\$14,750).

Budget for 2023 – Table 3

Our budget for 2024 includes assumes that the planned expenses and investment returns continue as was the case in 2023. An end of year balance for 2024 is projected to be \$547,211, a projected increase of \$6,743.36. This estimate is conservative as the repayment from the CSSS meeting in Truro was not processed into the account for 2023, and will be realized in 2024.

Table 1. Balance Sheet FOR December 31, 2023

BALANCE SHEET Dec 31 2023

CIBC Wood Gundy Cash	\$	80,200
CIBC Wood Gundy Equities	\$	232,384
CIBC Wood Gundy Income	\$	-
CIBC Wood Gundy Mutual (Cash equ)	\$	160,227
<i>CIBC Wood Gundy Total Assets</i>	\$	472,811
Sunova Credit Union Petty Cash	\$	500
Sunova Credit Union Chequing	\$	17,912
Sunova Credit Union Common Shares	\$	1,000
Sunova Credit Union Savings	\$	18,618
Sunova Credit Union Surplus Shares	\$	908
Sunova Credit Union Term Investment	\$	28,719
<i>Sunova Credit Union Total Assets</i>	\$	67,657
TOTAL ASSETS	\$	540,468
LIABILITIES	\$	-
EQUITY		
Retained earnings - previous year	\$	532,891.74
current earning/loss	\$	7,576.15
Total Equity	\$	540,467.89

Table 2. Income Statement FOR December 31, 2023

ASSETS		
CIBC Wood Gundy (Cash) 711-08052	\$	249.54
CIBC Wood Gundy Income Investments 711-08052	\$	-
CIBC Wood Gundy Equities 711-08052	\$	-
CIBC Wood Gundy Mutual Funds 711-08052	\$	160,226.95
	subtotal old account	\$ 160,476.49
CIBC Wood Gundy (Cash)	\$	12,426.50
CIBC Wood Gundy (Equities)	\$	232,383.97
CIBC Wood Gundy (Fixed Income)	\$	67,524.23
	subtotal new account	\$ 312,334.70
CIBC Wood Gundy Total Assets	\$	472,811.19
<hr/>		
Sunova Credit Union Petty Cash	\$	500.00
Sunova credit Union Chequing CNC #1	\$	17,911.77
Sunova Credit Union Common Shares	\$	1,000.00
Sunova Credit Union Savings SSUP#1	\$	18,618.08
Sunova Credit Union Surplus Shares	\$	907.75
Credit Union Term F29 #5	\$	28,719.10
Total Sunova Assets	\$	67,656.70
TOTAL ASSETS	\$	540,467.89
<hr/>		
NET INCOME (Change in Assets)	\$	11,099.45
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REVENUE		
Interest from Term Deposit	\$	-
Change in Wood Gundy Investments	\$	12,038.90
Interest from Sunova SSUP #1	\$	52.82
Dividends from Sunova Surplus Shares	\$	-
Total Investment revenue, interest and dividends	\$	12,091.72
Membership & Journal online	\$	-
Bundle membership received	\$	-
Total membership revenue	\$	-
Conference revenue (Conf Rev)	\$	3,650.19
Conference loan repayment	\$	-
Canadian Science Publishers (CSP Rev)	\$	-
CSP Subscriptions (CSP Subs)	\$	-

Royalties	\$	-
Donations	\$	-
BNY trust	\$	-
CNH Capital Canada	\$	-
Total other revenue	\$	3,650.19

TOTAL REVENUE **\$** **15,741.91**

EXPENSES

General travel expenses (Trav Exp)	\$	-
Office contract/expenses (Office Exp)	\$	(2,315.25)
Other operating expenses	\$	-
Website	\$	-
Social Media	\$	-
eBook	\$	-
Insurance	\$	-
Government of Canada Annual Return (Tax return)	\$	-
Government of Canada Incorporation Fee (GC fee)	\$	-
Bank Service fees (Bank fee)	\$	-
AGM/Student Reception (AGM)	\$	-
Conference fees to host organization (Conf fees host)	\$	-
Conference expenses (Conf Exp)	\$	-
CSP Journal Subscriptions (CSP subscrip)	\$	-
CSA Bundle membership (CSA bundle)	\$	-
IUSS dues	\$	-
CSSS Publication assistance fund - up to 10 x 1500 per year	\$	-
Total Operational Expenses	\$	(2,315.25)

C.F. Bentley Award (oral) \$500; \$300; \$200 (Bentley Award)	\$	-
President's Award (poster) \$500; \$300; \$200 (President Award)	\$	-
CSSS Student Travel Award (Annual mtg: max 12 awards) (CSSS travel)	\$	-
CSSS-CJSS Student Travel Award (international: max 2)	\$	-
CSSS Pedology Travel Award (max 4000) non-student member	\$	-
CSSS Student Book Awards	\$	-
N American Forest Conf (\$1000 every 5 years)	\$	-
Student photo contest	\$	-
Special Trust Fund Projects	\$	-
Total Awards	\$	-

World Soil Science Congress **\$** **-**

TOTAL EXPENSES **\$** **(2,315.25)**

NET INCOME (Revenue – Expenses)	\$	13,426.66
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Table 3. Budget for 2024

Canadian Society of Soil Science Financials	30-Dec-23	31-Jan-24	28-Feb-24	31-Mar-24	30-Apr-24	31-May-24	30-Jun-24	31-Jul-24	31-Aug-24	30-Sep-24	31-Oct-24	30-Nov-24	31-Dec-24	Final	
Income															
Assets	\$ 540,467.89	\$ 553,894.55	\$ 576,329.51	\$ 571,932.22	\$ 580,174.77	\$ 570,241.30	\$ 556,681.57	\$ 551,666.37	\$ 550,415.43	\$ 543,515.96	\$ 533,068.89	\$ 529,441.37	\$ 533,784.59	\$ 540,467.89	Initial
Revenue	\$ 15,741.91	\$ 22,434.96	\$ (1,057.47)	\$ 8,242.55	\$ 2,205.38	\$ (8,924.63)	\$ 9,979.87	\$ 4,635.73	\$ (30.40)	\$ (9,929.07)	\$ (2,627.13)	\$ 19,460.02	\$ 15,741.91	\$ 75,873.63	Revenue
Total	\$ 556,209.80	\$ 576,329.51	\$ 575,272.04	\$ 580,174.77	\$ 582,380.15	\$ 561,316.67	\$ 566,661.44	\$ 556,302.10	\$ 550,385.03	\$ 533,586.89	\$ 530,441.76	\$ 548,901.39	\$ 549,526.50		
Expenses															
Operational	\$ (2,315.25)	\$ -	\$ (3,339.82)	\$ -	\$ (12,138.85)	\$ (4,635.10)	\$ (5,095.07)	\$ (2,386.67)	\$ (5,669.07)	\$ (518.00)	\$ (850.39)	\$ (15,116.80)	\$ (2,315.25)	\$ (54,380.27)	
Awards	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (9,900.00)	\$ (3,500.00)	\$ (1,200.00)	\$ -	\$ (150.00)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (14,750.00)	
World Soil Congress	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (129.92)	\$ -	\$ (4,351.49)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (4,481.41)	
Total	\$ (2,315.25)	\$ -	\$ (3,339.82)	\$ -	\$ (12,138.85)	\$ (4,635.10)	\$ (14,995.07)	\$ (5,886.67)	\$ (6,869.07)	\$ (518.00)	\$ (1,000.39)	\$ (15,116.80)	\$ (2,315.25)	\$ (69,130.27)	Expenses
Balance	\$ 553,894.55	\$ 576,329.51	\$ 571,932.22	\$ 580,174.77	\$ 570,241.30	\$ 556,681.57	\$ 551,666.37	\$ 550,415.43	\$ 543,515.96	\$ 533,068.89	\$ 529,441.37	\$ 533,784.59	\$ 547,211.25	\$ 547,211.25	Estimated EOY Balance
	5	1	2	7	0	7	7	3	6	9	7	9	5	\$ 6,743.36	EOY Increase

President's Report 2023-24

The society continues to be active and involved in soil science nationally and internationally.

There are 372 active members (324 last year) including 159 students (40 with bundled memberships). There are 135 regular members, 36 Fellows, 19 emeritus and 23 early career members. This is a 15% increase over last year and is the highest that membership has been in more than ten years. A personal thank you to Nancy Zubriski in the business office for her support and prompt responses.

Membership is well represented at the meeting. There are 270 registrants, with significant student representation (45%) and 68 oral presentations and 47 poster presentations by students, which is about 10–15% fewer than last year—but still about 26% (oral presentations) and 80% (poster presentations) more than in 2022. I'd say we are out of our COVID funk now! A special thank you to President-Elect, Richard Heck, for organizing the judging of these presentations and to our judges for being generous with your time.

There will be a first-ever (for CSSS) 3-minute thesis competition at the Grad Student mixer on Tuesday, June 11th.

Plans continue to evolve in preparation for the 24th World Congress of Soil Science to be held in Toronto in 2030. The organizing committee is chaired by Richard Heck and Jacynthe Masse. A big thank you to all members and contributors to these efforts. Please consider becoming involved in the planning for the Congress as we move closer to the date. In January we signed a Destination Booking Agreement with Destination Toronto for the IUSS World Congress of Soil Science in 2030.

The Standing Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry released its report on the state of soil health in Canada (*Critical Ground: Why Soil is Essential to Canada's Economic, Human, and Social Health*) on June 7, 2024. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many members of the CSSS who appeared before the Senate Committee to provide expert information and opinion on the importance of soil to all Canadians. On behalf of the CSSS, I would like to acknowledge and thank Senator Rob Black for his tireless work as a champion of the nation's soils.

Rich attended the 2023 meeting of the *Soil Science Society of America* in St. Louis, MO (October 29–November 1, 2023) and met with the SSSA President (Dr. Michael Thompson) where we had a brief discussion about potential joint initiatives (e.g., joint webinars).

Richard Heck attended the IUSS Centennial Celebration and Congress on May 19–21, 2024 where he represented the CSSS at a meeting organized by *Soil Science Australia* to discuss developing an international accreditation/certification in soil science. Richard will report on this during the AGM.

Work on an open access version of the Canadian System of Soil Classification continues (see report of the Pedology Committee).

The *Canadian Society of Soil Science* has assumed the role of trustee to manage and administer the Karl C. Ivarson Soil Science Scholarship Trust. The first recipient of the scholarship under this agreement was Dillon Muldoon, a PhD candidate at Trent University. Congratulations Dillon!

The *Steve Pawluk Scholarship Trust* has now received enough donations to begin disbursing the scholarship. David Chanasyk will brief the membership at the AGM.

Rich has continued discussions with the CRC Press/Taylor and Francis Group regarding a new edition of the methods book. Options for the new edition will be presented at the AGM so the membership can decide on how to proceed; i.e., (i) traditional print book published by CRC Press; (ii) open access eBook published by CRC Press; or (iii) self-published OA eBook.

Isabelle Royer (President of the Association québécoise de spécialistes en sciences du sol [AQSSS]) contacted Rich about holding a joint CSSS-AQSSS meeting in Montreal in 2027. This will be a topic of discussion at the AGM.



June 09, 2024

Lee-Ann Bauman, Secretary,
2024 CSSS Council

Dear Lee-Ann:

Please accept, and circulate to members of the 2024 CSSS Council, this letter prepared on behalf of the 2024 CSSS Awards Committee, as a report on its activities up to the 2024 CSSS Annual Meeting and AGM. The order of discussion of awards is based on that of the CSSS website.

2024 CSSS Awards Committee Membership:

As a reminder, the composition of the 2024 CSSS Awards committee includes Dr. Fran Walley (Professor Emeritus, University of Saskatchewan), Dr. Asim Biswas (Professor, University of Guelph) and myself (as Chair).

2024 CSSS Fellow Award:

Two (2) nominations were received by the April 1st, 2024, deadline. These nominations were vetted by the Awards Committee, and the names of both nominees were then submitted for approval by the CSSS Council. Both having been approved, these awards will be announced/presented (both recipients to attend) during the Awards Banquet on Wednesday June 12th, 2024:

Dr. Judith Nyiraneza, Research Scientist at AAFC- Charlottetown Research and Development Centre, nominated by Dr. Noura Ziadi, FCSSS, Research Scientist at AAFC-Quebec Research and Development Centre.

Dr. Diane Knight, Professor Emeritus of Soil Science at the University of Guelph, nominated by Dr. Daniel Pennock, FCSSS, Professor Emeritus of Soil Science at the University of Saskatchewan.

CSSS Honorary Membership Award:

No nominations were received by the April 1st, 2024, deadline.

2024 CSSS Early Career Award:

One (1) nomination was received by the April 1st, 2024, deadline and according to the published requirements. This nomination was vetted by the Awards Committee, and the name of the nominee was then submitted for approval by the CSSS Council. Having been approved, this award will be announced (unfortunately, the recipient will not be able to attend) during the Awards Banquet on Wednesday June 12th, 2024:

Dr. Gouqi Wen, Research Assistant at the AAFC Ottawa Research and Development Centre, nominated by Dr. Noura Ziadi (AAFC-Quebec Research and Development Centre).

CSSS Soil Science for Society Award:



No nominations were received by the April 1st, 2024, deadline.

Karl C. Ivarson Soil Science Scholarship:

This scholarship was created by Dr. Karl C. Ivarson through a gift to then Agricultural Institute of Canada Foundation, which eventually became the Canadian Foundation for Food and Agricultural Education. In 2024, the administration of this scholarship passed to the CSSS, and a single \$2000 award was advertised. By the April 15th, 2024, deadline, four (4) valid applications (2 MSc and 2 PhD) were received. These applications were vetted by the Awards Committee, and the name of one (1) applicant was then submitted for approval by the CSSS Council. Having been approved, this award will be recognised (recipient to attend) during the Awards Banquet on Wednesday June 12th, 2024:

Dillon Brian Muldoon, PhD student at Trent University.

CSSS-CJSS Student Travel Awards for International Soil Science Meetings:

In 2024, \$8000 was provisionally allocated for these awards. Three potential submission deadlines were published: March 15th, June 15th, or September 15th; with award confirmations to be made by March 31st, June 30th and September 30th. Three (3) valid applications (2 MSc and 1 PhD) were received. These applications were vetted by the Awards Committee, and the names of all three (3) applicants were then submitted for approval by the CSSS Council – all were approved:

Beatrice Delarosbil, an M.Sc. student at Université Laval, to attend the 9th International Symposium on Soil Organic Matter in Morocco, during May 2024 (\$2240 approved).

Brière Michaël, an M.Sc. student at Université Laval, to attend the IUSS Centennial Celebration and Congress in Italy, during May 2024 (\$2370 approved).

Julianah Adediji, a Ph.D. student at Queen's University, to attend the 22nd Annual Meeting of the International Humic Substances Society in Italy, during August 2024 (\$3617 approved)

2024 CSSS Student Travel Award to Annual Meeting:

In 2024, twelve (12) awards of \$700 were announced. Twenty-seven (27) applications were received by the April 1st, 2024, deadline, of which six (6) applicants were reported (by Nancy Zubriski) to NOT have active CSSS student memberships, and one (1) had recently been awarded a 2024 CSSS International Travel Award (so not eligible). As such, twenty (20) possible valid applications were considered. These applications were vetted by the Awards Committee, and the names of all twelve (12) applicants were then submitted for approval by the CSSS Council – all have been approved:

Abhijeet Pathy, PhD student, University of Alberta (oral presentation)

Cobus Stals, PhD student, University of Saskatchewan (oral presentation)

Matt Ball, PhD student, University of Alberta (oral presentation)

Matthew Kyriakides, PhD student, University of Victoria (poster presentation)

Rida Sabirova, PhD student, University of Manitoba (oral presentation)

Alejandro Quezada, MSc student, Dalhousie University (oral presentation)

Andrea Cline, MSc student, University of Saskatchewan (oral presentation)

Charlie Little, MSc student, Dalhousie University (oral presentation)



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Rachael Harman-Denhoed, MSc student, McGill University (oral presentation)
Ruchini Sovis, MSc student, University of Winnipeg (oral presentation)
Shreemi Prabhakaran, MSc student, Dalhousie University (oral presentation)
Stuart Downie, MSc student, Dalhousie University (oral presentation)

Student Presentation Awards:

In 2024, registrants for the CSSS Annual Meeting were asked (during the registration process) to indicate their willingness to serve as student presentation judges, and (if willing) to indicate their preference for oral, poster or either type. This was successful, and it is suggested that a similar strategy be used in future years.

C.F. Bentley Award (Oral Presentations):

During the 2024 CSSS Annual Meeting, at UBC in Vancouver, BC, sixty-eight (68) students are competing for this award. Thirty (30) judges have been allocated to evaluate these presentations, with each judge considering about seven (7) oral presentations and each oral presentation to be judged by at least three (3) judges.

President's Award (Poster Presentations):

During the 2024 CSSS Annual Meeting, at UBC in Vancouver, BC, forty-six (46) students are competing for this award, across three (3) sessions. Seventeen (17) judges have been allocated to evaluate these presentations, with each judge considering about fifteen (15) posters presentations and each poster presentation to be judged by at least five (5) judges.

CSSS Student Book Awards:

Candidates are nominated for this award by their academic department, based on their own criteria.

Invitations sent to contacts at: University of Northern British Columbia, University of British Columbia, University of Alberta, University of Lethbridge, University of Saskatchewan, University of Manitoba, University of Winnipeg, Lakehead University, Laurentian University, University of Waterloo, University of Guelph, Trent University, University of Toronto, McGill University, Université du Québec à Chicoutimi, Université Laval, Dalhousie University and Memorial University of Newfoundland:

michael.preston@unbc.ca <michael.preston@unbc.ca>; krzic, maja (maja.krzic@ubc.ca) <maja.krzic@ubc.ca>; anaeth@ualberta.ca <anaeth@ualberta.ca>; craig.coburn@uleth.ca <craig.coburn@uleth.ca>; colin.laroque@usask.ca <colin.laroque@usask.ca>; Francis Zvomuya <francis.zvomuya@umanitoba.ca>; [Brian.Amiro@umanitoba.ca]; Darshani Kumaragamage <d.kumaragamage@uwinnipeg.ca>; Amanda Diochon <adiochon@lakeheadu.ca>; gspiers <gspiers@laurentian.ca>; Oelbermann, Maren (moelbermann@uwaterloo.ca) <moelbermann@uwaterloo.ca>; John Lauzon <lauzonj@uoguelph.ca>; ceimers@trentu.ca <ceimers@trentu.ca>; victoria.nimmo@mail.utoronto.ca <victoria.nimmo@mail.utoronto.ca>; Marney Isaac <marney.isaac@utoronto.ca>; Whalen, Dr., Joann (joann.whalen@mcgill.ca) <joann.whalen@mcgill.ca>; [cynthia.kallenbach@mcgill.ca]; maxime.pare@uqac.ca



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<maxime.pare@uqac.ca>; steeve.pepin@fsaa.ulaval.ca <steeve.pepin@fsaa.ulaval.ca>;
Brandon.Heung@dal.ca <Brandon.Heung@dal.ca>; Unc, Adrian<aunc@mun.ca>

Nine (9) nominees were received to date:

Mollie Rae-Anne Brown, Environmental Studies and Sciences, The University of Winnipeg

Cissy Zhang, Applied Biology Program, University of British Columbia, Vancouver

Alexandra Bélanger, Sols et génie agroalimentaire, Université Laval

Mackenzie Hobbs, School of Natural Sciences, Laurentian University

*Roxanne Rosario, Department of Physical and Environmental Sciences, University of Toronto
Scarborough*

Megan Deschenes, Département des sciences fondamentales, UQAC

Rae-Anne Martin, University of Alberta, Department of Renewable Resources

Kanishk Kulhari, Department of Soil Science, University of Manitoba

Camille Fallu, Natural Resource Sciences, McGill University

These students will receive a print copy of *Digging Into Canadian Soils: An Introduction to Soil Science*, published by the CSSS.

CSSS Pedology Award:

To date, no application has been received.

Sincerely,

Dr. Richard J Heck, P.Ag.

President Elect & Chair of Awards Committee, Canadian Society of Soil Science

Cc: Dr. Fran Wally, Dr. Asim Biswas

Soil Education Committee Report 2023-24 CSSS Annual Meetings University of British Columbia

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.

In 2023 at the CSSS Annual Meetings held in Truro, NS the Soil Education Committee did not convene a session on Soil Education and instead provided a report: Comments and Updates on Soil Science Education in Canada as part of the Special Session: Preparing the Next Generation of Canadian Field Soil Scientists, held on June 28th, 2024.

The Soil Education Committee held its annual lunch meeting on June 27th as part of the CSSS 2023 Annual Meetings. This lunch meeting was well attended and several ideas for future work by the Soil Education Committee was discussed. One idea that was followed up on by a sub-group of the committee was a national survey on soil health education. The objective of this survey was to describe the status of Canadian postsecondary soil science courses and evaluate the understanding and interest among Canadian instructors in soil health. An invitation to complete the survey was sent to members of the CSSS as of May 2023. The results and conclusions from this survey were published in the Canadian Journal of Soil Science Vol 104, Number 2, June 2024.

<https://doi.org/10.1139/cjss-2024-0002>

For the CSSS Annual Meetings 2024 the Soil Education Committee has returned to convening a Soil Education Session which was held on Monday June 10th : Innovative Approaches in Teaching and Learning in Natural Resources Sciences. The Soil Education Committee will also hold its annual working lunch on June 12th.

Pedology Committee Annual Report 2024

Co-chairs: Angela Bedard-Haughn (academia)

Daniel Saurette (government)

Secretary: Brandon Heung (academia)

1. Annual meeting occurred June 10, 2024.
 - a. Largest turnout (~40-50) in many years!!
 - b. Agenda attached below

2. Canadian System of Soil Classification:
 - a. Since securing copyright in 2023, we have uploaded and formatted the base CSSC book English version (v3 with minor enhancements) to Pressbooks through Dalhousie University.
 - i. English - <https://caul-cbua.pressbooks.pub/cssc>
 - ii. French - <https://caul-cbua.pressbooks.pub/sccs>
 - b. Currently still “Private” but will be public this year.
 - c. French version to begin uploading and formatting in August/September
 - d. Funding secured by B. Heung through the Open Educational Resources (OER) grant program at Dalhousie enabled the Pedology Committee to provide small stipends for the development of the online book.
 - e. Artwork was also updated, including the figures, and some photos. We hope to update more photos in the future.
 - f. Next steps are to finalize additional technical content (major revisions) and incorporate into the CSSC manual. Target completion is 2025.
 - g. Thank you to Raphael Deragon and Lewis Fausak for their assistance with this project. And to Rich Farrell for consultations on Pressbooks.

3. Image Library:
 - a. sent out a Google Form to members asking for soil profile images, landform images, and parent material images (<https://forms.gle/Mk7eh6KLMRX3ewVx8>).
 - b. Will continue to incorporate new submissions and will look for a mechanism to make the photos available to CSSS members.
 - c. Images were requested to update those in the CSSCv3 book (as a start).

4. At the Pedology Committee Annual Meeting, we discussed a more formal approach to rotating chairs of the Pedology Committee. Will need to consult with

council on the process since previously we were a subcommittee and chairs have not changed since becoming a formal Committee.

5. International Engagement:

- a. Richard Heck provided an update on international engagement/events now and leading into the 2030 IUSS meeting in Toronto.
- b. Pedology Committee will need to develop plans for being engaged in soil tours and soil judging over the next couple years in preparation for the event.

Pedology Committee Annual Meeting 2024

Date: June 10th, 2024 @ 12pm-1pm (Pacific)

Location:

In-Person: MCML 154, H.R. MacMillan Building, UBC

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

Agenda

1. Introduction/Welcome and Attendance (co-chairs) – 5 mins
2. Digital Soil Mapping Update (B. Heung) – 10 mins
3. Canadian System of Soil Classification 4th Edition (D. Saurette) – 10 mins
4. Image Library – 5 mins
5. International Updates (R. Heck) – 10 mins
 - a. IUSS Updates
 - i. Division 1 Meeting, Winnipeg 2025
 - ii. International Soil Judging
 - iii. World Soil of the Year
 - b. 24th WCSS Updates
 - c. Certified Professional Scientist
6. Other items from the floor
7. Discussion

2024 Soil Health Committee AGM Report

The Soil Health sub-committee of the CSSS was established at the council meeting of 2023. In the fall of 2023 we put out a call for new members and currently have 13 active members including the CSSS president and one student member from western Canada. We decided to meet quarterly and have met 3 times since the last AGM (Oct. 2023, Jan. 2024, and April 2024). In the October meeting Derek MacKenzie was chosen to serve as chair. We also submitted a proposal for a Soil Health session at this year's conference, which is being led by Emmanuel Mapfumo. At the January and April meetings we proposed a number of committee initiatives which included updating the SHC webspace on the CSSS webpage to include a soil health blog, and links to soil health resources. We are working on a list of soil extension agents by province. We engaged with the Soil Conservation Council of Canada on soil health. Many of our members gave testimony to the Canadian Senatorial Committee for Agriculture and Forests' report of the state of soil health in Canada and look forward to seeing that report released. Finally, we will engage with the membership at our lunch discussion about future SHC objectives, including a SH method's chapter, a white paper on public perception of soil health, and international engagement on soil health.

Please find the meeting minutes attached as an appendix.

CSSS - Soil Health Committee Agenda and Minutes for Meeting Oct. 26, 2023

Present: Derek, Charlotte, Bobbi, Claudia, Emmanuel, Henry

Regrets: Amanda, David

Agenda:

1. Executive structure
2. Soil Health Session at CSSS-UBC
3. Other

Discussion:

1. Executive structure
 - a. CSSS president (Rich) and past president (Amanda)
 - b. Chair (Derek)
 - c. Secretary

Derek to chair with support from group, still need somebody to volunteer for secretary

Need to loop Rich Farrel into this meeting as current CSSS president

2. Soil Health Session at CSSS-UBC, session proposals DUE Nov. 30th
 - a. Organizers/Topics – fold session together as needed
 - i. Soil Health session – Emmanuel (first draft), follow up with Derek
 - ii. Microbiome session – Bobbi
 - iii. Forest Soils sessions - Charlotte

Charlotte - comment on SSSA sessions organized by division (forest soils, etc), CSSS organized to have standing session, Pedology, Education, Soil Health, something to consider with executive

3. Other
 - a. Newsletter items – any members want to join
 - i. Reach out to members, on or off
 - ii. Tap specific people or not, yes, but general invite to
 - b. Earlier meeting for eastern time, at least one hour, Quarterly invite
 - c. Presence on Web-site? Reach out to Western Councillor to discuss

ACTION Items:

Emmanuel – Draft soil health session for CSSS-UBC

Bobbi/Charlotte – Discuss sessions as needed for alignment

Derek – newsletter item for committee recruitment

Derek – ask working group members who would like to stay on

Derek and Henry – work on web-site presence with

Derek – fix meeting time and move to quarterly

CSSS Soil Health Committee Agenda and Minutes for January 2024 Meeting

Present: Emmanuel, Derek, Amanda, Bobbi, Adrian, Aruna, Amana, Rich, Charlotte, Henry

Regrets: Claudia, Laura

Agenda

1. New Members/Introductions
2. Review Action items
3. CSSS conference Soil Health session proposal accepted
4. In-person committee meeting at AGM
5. State of Soil Health education in Canada article in review
6. Soil Health committee web-site up on CSSS
7. Goals for 2024
8. Other
 - a. Soil Health Testing
 - b. Network Resource
 - c. K-12 education in conjunction with education committee

Discussion

1. Done
2. Done
3. Soil health session merged, but both are listed on the web-site, need to reach out to conference organizers, keynote and volunteers? Depends who submits and how much time we get. Will we pay for invited speakers registration fees? Session topic missing - balance soil health with food production. Soil health content on field tours? Cross advertising?
4. Good way for students to get engaged, so yes, discuss with Maja, determine discussions
5. Review article in review, interest in uptake, need for shared resources, data for courses, hands-on learning opportunities, post-secondary only, next step soil health education K-12 review and content?
6. Webpage for SH committee up on CSSS web-site, review, additions, reference to Chapter 14 in Soil E-book, discuss collaboration with organizations that we may link to, ex. Regen AG working groups, soil health extension, other agencies, committee members reach out to specific provincial organizations, but not endorsing for-profit organizations
7. Goals – set these at the AGM in order to capture the memberships perspective, some of the ‘other’ discussion here can be presented
8. Soil Health Testing – no commercial lab in Canada provides soil health data, how will this change with Senate Report. Appetite for an organization to become the expert/authority on soil health.
Network Resources -

Action Items

1. Charlotte – discuss farm tour and soil health with UBC folks
2. Everyone review the webpage, make suggestions for content
3. Emmanuel/Derek – discuss program changes with Maja, soil health session merge

Longer-term Action Items

1. Committee Members – provincially specific list of contacts for soil health extension (ex. Research associations, research institutes), produce a resource for networking
 - a. Derek – AB
 - b. Laura – ON
 - c. Kate – SK
 - d. QC?
 - e. Maritimes?
 - f. MB?
 - g. Charlotte – BC

CSSS Soil Health Committee Meeting

April 25, 2024

AGENDA

1. National Soil Health Strategy update
2. CSSS annual meeting session on Soil Health
3. Committee objectives for this year
4. Discussion topics for the Soil Health Committee in-person lunch at the annual meeting
5. Other

MINUTES

1. National Soil Health Strategy update
 - The quick update is that we have now concluded 9 Stakeholder Engagements where we received input from over 60 stakeholder organizations. The input we received indicated strong support for continued work on the strategy, confirmed the four main pillars in our background paper (attached) are moving us in the right direction, and a significant volume of specific advice on research, extension, additional stakeholder that need to be heard and on how we approach the general public on the benefits of healthy soils.
 - We are currently working on the report from the Engagement Sessions and expect to have that ready for distribution in late May.
 - This is something that we should continue to pursue this work with SCCC.
 - They want to work with CSSS on development of what Soil Health means and how to quantify.
 - Derek and Rich – move on this before the annual meeting to discuss at in person.
 - FAO - International Soil Health framework with evaluation tools, push back from GSP members, ITSP meeting still want to move forward. Canada should have a role in this.
 - CSA – looking at soil health, asking for information, consultants, monetization, scary
 - Agrifood Index webinar May 7th – can anybody attend? <https://www.agrifoodindex.ca/>
 - Nature Conservancy – Brian McConkey (?), soil health index
2. CSSS annual meeting session on Soil Health
 - Session is set, abstracts received, being vetted
 - Not a lot of presentations submitted (7 oral, 4 posters)
 - Putting two sessions into to one may have made it a bit confusing, too much overlap? Maybe too many sessions altogether, 220 abstracts into 22 sessions is only 10 each, maybe less next year? (recommendation to next years organizers)
3. Committee objectives for this year
 - Better understanding and separation of good science versus noise on soil health
 - Web-site – connect to community to support good science on soil health, web-links, bring this to membership at lunch meeting
 - Web-site blog – more connection of this sub-committee with the communication sub-committee
 - New methods book – is there a chapter on soil health or is it in the other chapters, but earmarked for soil health, e-book can be custom built. David felt like it would be better to have soil health methods earmarked in chapters as there are many potential indicators.
 - Chapter on interpretation of soil health, scoring factors, how do we integrate all of these parameters, Charlotte – separate book!

- Adrian – start to integrate crop science with this, all about fluxes, but we don't measure fluxes, we measure a point in time

- 4. Discussion topics for the Soil Health Committee in-person lunch at the annual meeting
 - Lunch meeting set for June 11.
 - Ask membership to participate through the conference app to help inform committee directions in future, give options. ACTION – Derek look into this.
 - Ask for input on soil health chapter in methods book.
 - Opinions on international collaboration, organize meeting for next year

- 5. Other
 - Review paper on history of soil health
 - Global Soil Partnership – at the meeting in Winnipeg in 2025, start thinking about how to stimulate international partnerships on soil health
 - Open discussion of what soil health is with international partners
 - Soil health field day? Workshop on soil health, morning demonstration, afternoon talks, Glen Lee site in Winnipeg?

Attendees:

Charlotte
Adrian
Derek
Kate
Henry
Rich
Emmanuel
Jenny
Nafsa
Claudia

Regrets:

Amanda
Bobbie

2024 Communication Committee Report

- The communications committee members in 2024 include the Western Councillor (Chair, Henry Wai Chau), Eastern Councillor (Co-Chair, Adrian Unc), Past President (Amanda Diochon), a member of the Education Committee (Maja Krzic), CJSS Editor-in-Chief (Anne Naeth), and 2 Ad hoc (Richard Farrell and Nate Basiliko) members.
- Council has approved the terms of reference for the communications committee in 2023 and they have been posted on the website.
- An Adhoc front-end-subcommittee was formed in 2024 to deal with communication unification through website, social media and email to memberships. The 2024 membership for this subcommittee includes Western Councillor (Henry Chau), Social Media Manager (Susan Fisk), and Nancy Zubriski.
- The recent email spamming to members in 2023/2024 originated from a spoof email address. Subsequent accounts where the spam emails originated from, registered on the forums were deleted. No further spam emails were detected but the communication committee remains vigilant. Any concerns can be raised with the communication committee.
- Council has approved the soil education and communication forums have been removed from the website due to the ongoing spamming from anonymous subscribers and limited use from members.
- An inquiry about additional note-worthy content for the blog and social media from the social media manager has resulted in a proposed strategic canvassing campaign to be administered by the communication committee to membership in 2024.
- As a not-for-profit organization, what is the stance of CSSS when dealing with controversial issues? It was determined the committee will convene to discuss on a case-by-case basis, and bring any recommendation forward to the council in relation to communication which may affect our members and the wider soil science community.
- The communications committee would like to thank the ongoing support from Nancy Zubriski (Admin), Susan Fisk (Social media manager), and Shirly Ho (Webmaster contractor).

Henry Chau, Western Councillor (Chair)



24th World Congress of Soil Science Committee of the Canadian Society of Soil Science

June 6, 2024

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

Re: 2023-24 Annual Report to CSSS Council

Dear Ms. Nelson,

Please accept this document as the 2023-24 Annual Report of the 24WCSS Committee. This represents a synthesis of information provided in detailed reports #2 to #8, submitted to the CSSS Council.

A) Membership of the 24WCSS Committee:

1) On the recommendation of the Vice-Chair, Dr. Christine Martineau (NRCan-Canadian Forest Service, Quebec City, Quebec) joined the 24WCSS Committee in July 2023. With the rotation of Dr. Asim Biswas off the CSSS Council, and Dr. Amanda Diochon becoming the Past-President, Dr. Diochon becomes the CSSS Council Liaison to the 24WCSS Committee for 2024. Dr. Biswas has agreed to continue as a member of the Committee. In addition to the Chair (Dr. Richard Heck), the other Committee members remain as Dr. Jacynthe Masse (as Vice-Chair), Daniel Saurette, as well as Drs. David Lobb, Kari Dunfield, Joann Whalen and Louis-Pierre Comeau.

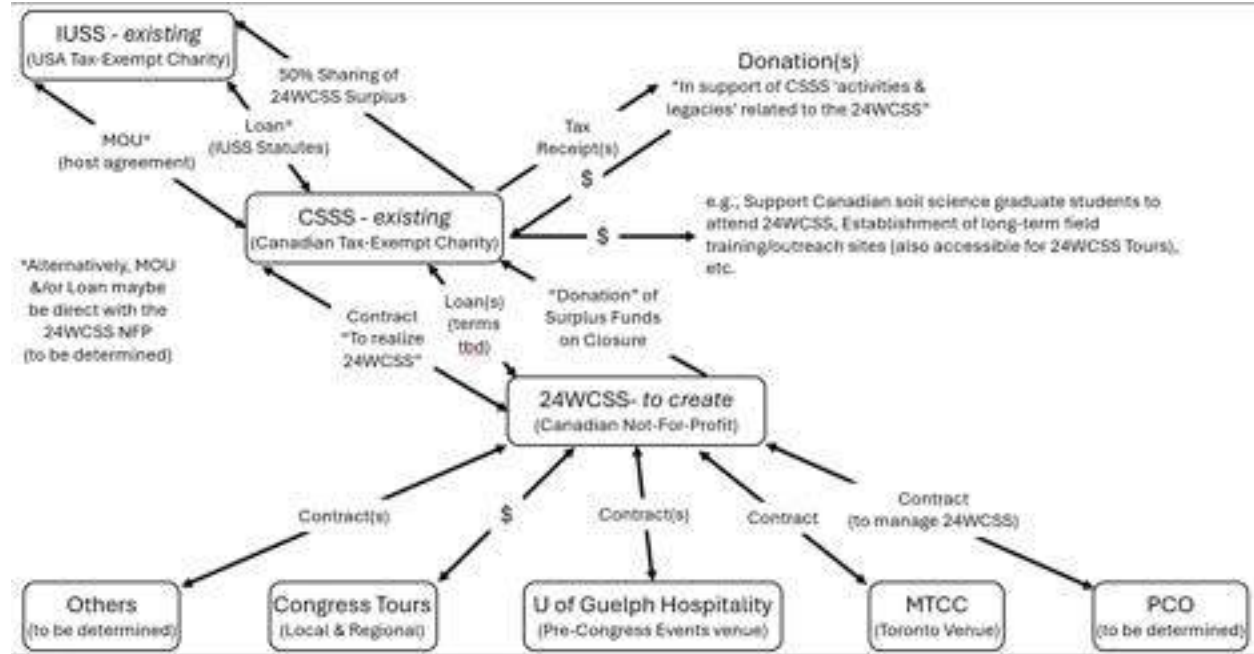
2) During its September 2023 meeting, the 24WCSS Committee established the “24WCSS Technical Tours Subcommittee” under the leadership of David Lobb. Louis-Pierre Comeau has also joined.

B) Establishment of an Independent (of CSSS) Not-For-Profit to realise the 24WCSS:

1) Based on a review of the ‘Legacy’ documents regarding the 22WCSS, provided by Dr. Bruce Lascelles and Ms. Christine Berrill of the British Society of Soil Science (In January 2023), the 24WCSS decided to explore the possibility of establishing an independent (from the CSSS) entity to realize the 24WCSS. The main justifications included: reduction of risk to the CSSS, separation of the accounting and other business reporting from the CSSS, as well as a dedicated decision making and administrative structure. In July of 2023, the Chair spoke with Dr. Derek Litchi (U of Calgary), of the Canadian Remote Sensing Society, who is organizing the 2026 International Society of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing Congress, in Toronto (their Society chose NOT to create a ‘Not-For-Profit’ (NfP) entity to realize the Congress on behalf of the Society). In September of 2023, the 24WCSS Committee met (virtually) with Dr. Bruce Lascelles (Past-President of BSSS) & Sarah Gary (Executive Officer of BSSS). The focus of the discussion with the BSSS representative, was to learn from their experience in hosting the 22WCSS in Glasgow in 2022, specifically on why the BSSS chose to establish a NfP (two years in advance) to deliver the 22WCSS.

2) With the agreement of the CSSS Council, it was decided that a working group (comprised of Richard Heck, Jacynthe Mass and Louis-Pierre Comeau, from the 24WCSS Committee, as well as Rich Farrell, Preston Sorenson and Asim Biswas from the CSSS Council) would meet with Ms. Gillian Tuck Kutarna of Thomson Miller LLP for an initial consultation (at no cost) on the legal and administrative issues related to creating an independent NfP to realize the 24WCSS.

3) During March and April of 2024, the working group (Richard Heck, Jacynthe Masse and Louis-Pierre Comeau, as well as Rich Farrell, Preston Sorenson, Amanda Diochon) engaged (through a one-hour virtual meeting and subsequent email communications with Ms. Kutarna of Thomson Miller LLP. Relevant governance documents (e.g. statutes, by-laws, letters patent) of the IUSS and CSSS, as well as a copy of the final 24WCSS bid document were provided, for reference, to Ms. Kutarna. A major question was whether to establish a 'charity' (which would cost more to set-up and administer) or a 'regular' Not-For-Profit. Ultimately, it was decided that, since the CSSS already has 'charity' status, it could handle any donations made 'in support of the CSSS activities and legacies related to the 24WCSS'. A draft vision of the potential functional relationships are as follows:



4) The cost for legal consultation of Thomson Miller LLP totalled \$2478.66 for 4.10 hours of time.

5) An overview of the proposal to establish an independent NfP to realize the 24WCSS will be presented to at the 2024 AGM of the CSSS during its annual meeting in Vancouver in June. At this time two motions will be presented: 1) to authorize the establishment of the 24WCSS NfP, including associated costs (estimated to be between \$5000 and \$1000), and 2) to authorize the CSSS to lend, to the new 24WCSS NFP, up to \$50,000, as required in lead-up to the 2030 event.

C) Pending Agreements:

1) As per the IUSS Statutes and By-Laws, an update presentation of planning for the 24WCSS, which will include a revised projected budget (with the help of Venue West, as was done for the bid), will be presented by the Chair during the 2024 IUSS InterCongress Meeting in Nanjing (October). Following 'ratification' by the IUSS Council, an MOU can be signed with the IUSS. In this regard, during the second half of 2024, attention will be given to drafting the MOU, taking into consideration the potential establishment of a 24WCSS NfP. In this regard, the Chair has been articulating with Dr. Edoardo Costantini (President, IUSS).

2) Once the MOU with the IUSS is signed, a licencing agreement, for the Metro Toronto Convention Centre, will need to be signed. A draft copy of such a licencing agreement has already been received and

will be refined during the remainder of 2024, again taking into consideration the potential establishment of a 24WCSS NfP.

D) Engaging Partner Contacts:

1) During its November 2023 regular virtual meeting, the whole 24WCSS had the opportunity to meet with Ms. Angela Jefferies (Sales Director, Canada & International Association) with Destination Toronto. Discussion included: moving forward (eventual appointment of 'Conference Service Manager'; opportunities for promotion, signage & branding; considerations regarding visas, such as registering with Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada.

2) Mr. Rahul Shah of MTCC left his position at end of September. Ms. Hejira Simm-Donaghey (Senior Account Manager, Metro Toronto Convention Centre), will be the new account manager for the 24WCSS.

E) Stakeholder Articulations:

1) Over the course of this past year, the Chair has articulated with: Mr. Terry Kingsmill, Executive Director of the Science Teachers Association of Ontario in September 2023; Ms. Iris Meck, who is the current Conference Director for the 'Advancing Women in Agriculture Conference' in September 2023; Dr. Amber Anderson (Iowa State University), who is coordinating the 2024 National Soil Judging Contest in December 2023; Ms. Jill Weaver (Director of Partnership, New Acre Project of ALUS) in January 2024; Ms. Meghan MacDougall, Program Director, Conservation, of the Weston Family Foundation in January 2024.

F) Special Technical Session at the 2024 CSSS Annual Meeting:

1) In order to begin engaging colleagues from across Canada on the issue of developing soil tours for the 24WCSS, the Chair, together with David Lobb, Daniel Saurette and Jacynthe Masse as co-convenors, organized a technical session during the 2024 CSSS Annual Meeting, held at UBC in Vancouver, entitled "*Soil Tours of Canada - Leveraging our Legacy Sites for the 24WCSS and Beyond*":

In-field characterizations of soils, using traditional techniques and emerging technologies, remain fundamental to understanding soil functionality, and the impact of evolving environmental conditions and management practices. We must endeavour to continue evolving our ability to effectively capacitate future generations of soil scientists and practitioners with appropriate field techniques, and to provide opportunities to experience Canadian soils. Following from the 2023 session "Preparing the Next Generation of Canadian Field Soil Scientists", and to support the vision expressed in our bid to host the 24WCSS "All material developed for the tours, as well as audio-visual materials captured during the tours, will be curated, and made available through appropriate platforms (e.g., YouTube, Vimeo), for ongoing education purposes.", this proposed session's descriptor is:

"As part of the CSSS bid to host the 24WCSS, in 2030, it was proposed that we would approach the need to develop congress tours, from the perspective of enhancing our national capacity to provide field training for the next generation of Canadian soil scientists, practitioners and enthusiasts. As a reference, various sites selected and characterized for the regional tours of the 1978 WCSS, have since served for other activities. Over the decades, much effort has also gone into the organization of soil tours across Canada, by various organizations, including universities and colleges, for meeting and field-based courses. This session will provide the opportunity to 'take stock' of field sites across Canada, and to discuss how these can serve as a starting point as we progress towards the 24WCSS and beyond."

2) Direct invitations were sent to representatives of the Pacific Regional Society of Soil Science, the Alberta Soil Science Workshop, SaskSoil, the Manitoba Society of Soil Science, the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association, the Association québécoise de spécialistes en sciences du sol, as well as to Brandon Heung and David Burton (i.e., the new Atlantic soil science association).

3) The session has been scheduled for Monday, June 10th from 10:00 am to 11:30 am:

Time	Speaker	Title
10:00 am	DuBovis, J.	Embracing diversity: showcasing British Columbia's heterogeneous soils and landscapes using soil identification training initiatives
10:15 am	Heck, R.	Soil Tours of the 11th Congress of the International Society of Soil Science and their Legacy
10:30 am	Westphal, M.	Straight From Canada's Heart: A Voyage through Manitoba Soil Science Society's Annual Field Tours and Reflective Insights
10:45 am	Masse, J.	Quebec field tour
11:00 am	Heung, B.	A tour of the soils of Nova Scotia's Annapolis Valley: Capturing and disseminating the 2023 CSSS Soil Tour
11:15 am	Daly, E.	The Alberta Soils Tour – 60 year of popularizing soil science
11:30 am	Collective Discussion	Evolving Soil Tours in Canada

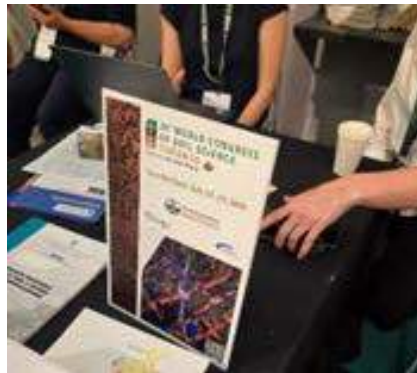
G) Engagement of CSSS Membership:

1) The 24WCSS Committee has begun discussions regarding the issue of developing the definitive branding for the 24WCSS. This will be highlighted during the oral report of the Chair at the 2024 CSSS AGM.

2) The Chair has initiated a column in the March 2024 CSSS Newsletter, entitled “Canada in the IUSS - Towards 24th WCSS and Beyond”. The stated objective of this column, is “To help better acquaint CSSS members with the IUSS, and progressively engage them in this once-in-a-career opportunity, I will endeavor to make regular contributions to the CSSS Newsletter.”

H) Promotional Activities:

1) To promote the 24WCSS during the 2024 IUSS Centennial Celebration and Congress, a portrait-sized poster was prepared and displayed on the main tables of the IUSS stand during the period of the event.



Sincerely,

Dr. Richard J Heck, P.Ag.

Chair, 24WCSS Committee

24wcscs@gmail.com cell: 519-546-9032

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

Dr M Anne Naeth

June 10, 2024

1. Editorial Board, Canadian Science Publishing, Reviewers

The support, professionalism and expertise provided by the Canadian Science Publishing staff are highly appreciated. Thank you to the editorial team for CJSS: 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. The team is highly engaged in helping us to grow our journal in a very competitive world.

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 2023: Dr Jocelyn Lavallee, Environmental Defense Fund, New York; Dr Darshani Kumaragamage, University of Winnipeg, Manitoba; and Dr Martin Chantigny, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Quebec. We are grateful for their consistent and expeditious delivery of comprehensive, discerning reviews to the authors of our journal submissions.

Our Associate Editors make the Canadian Journal of Soil Science possible, and contribute significantly to its operations, development and reputation.

Here is our 2024 Editorial Board.

Editor-in-Chief: Dr M Anne Naeth.

Consulting Associate Editor: Dr Richard Farrell.

Associate Editors: Drs Ikechukwu Agomoh, Stephen Crittenden, Nicola Day, Lakshman Galagedara, Claudia Goyer, Stephanie Grand, Brandon Heung, Maja Krzic, Sheng Li, Aimé Jean Messiga, Jude Odhiambo, David Pelster, Lori Phillips, Mervin St Luce, Ben Thomas, Karen Thompson, Jim Warren, Joseph Yavitt, Wei Zhang, Xining Zhao.

Thank you to our outgoing Associate Editors: Drs Jean-Philippe Bellenger, University of Sherbrooke, four terms; Asim Biswas, University of Guelph, three terms; Henry Chau, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Lethbridge, one term; Fereidoun Rezanezhad, University of Waterloo, two terms; Mozghan Sepehri, Shiraz University, one term; and Mohammad Valipour, Metropolitan State University of Denver, two terms. We have greatly benefited from their work and dedication with CJSS.

We have five Associate Editors with terms ending in December 2024, and six with terms ending in December 2025. Let me know if you are interested in joining the Editorial Board as an Associate Editor, or if you know of someone we should consider inviting. I would greatly welcome your participation.

Reviewers for all areas of our research continue to be difficult to procure. If you are interested in being listed as a reviewer for our journal, or if you know someone we should consider for reviews, let me 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. Let's make this the year we all commit to this.

2. Journal Metrics, Statistics

The journal's two year impact factor remains at 1.7; up from recent years. The five year impact factor is currently 1.8, down slightly from last year at 1.989. Although journal impact factor is just one of many metrics to of importance for a journal, we are happy to see these numbers.

Our current turnaround time to first decision is 52.6 days; up from 46.2 days in 2023 and 44.6 in 2022. I would like to see that increasing trend reversed as turn around time is a major factor for journal submissions so we need to improve on that number to be competitive. Many top journals have much lower turnaround times. We will continue with a larger number of Associate Editors than in previous times to facilitate this goal. Reviewers continue to be difficult to procure and this is the main reason for our high turn around time. Mean number of reviewers requested before getting the required number is currently 7 to 9, although some have been amazingly large.

Our total papers accepted from 2019 to 2023 are 54, 68, 79, 70 and 43, respectively. Our submissions from 2019 to 2023 were 159, 158, 212, 125 and 131 respectively; to date in 2024 they are lower than normal at just over 50. Our current acceptance rate is 42%. Acceptances for 2019 to 2023 were 34, 43, 37, 56 and 33 %, respectively.

Our open access publications have increased considerably. From 26, 44, 47 and 50 % in 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022, respectively, to 61 in 2023.

Our highest number of publications from 2019 to 2023 by institution are: Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada 93, University of Alberta 50, University of Guelph 26, University of Saskatchewan 25, University of Manitoba 21, McGill University 17, University of Montreal 14, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs 12, University of British Columbia 11 and University of Winnipeg 10.

Our CJSS article downloads have increased slightly from 2019 to 2023, at 287,818; 283,176; 294,668; 297,937; and 311,915, respectively. Total citations have remained healthy from 3240 in 2019 to 3638 in 2022 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 improvements in citations and impact factors. CJSS strongly supports collections by offering reduced charges of \$30 per page and \$250 for open access.

We just completed our collection on Conservation Tillage: Effect on Soil Properties and Crop Productivity. Thank you to our Guest Editors: Drs Noura Ziadi, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada; Jeff Schoenau, University of Saskatchewan; and Tiequan Zhang, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.

We recently launched an exciting new collection titled Soils and Disasters: Towards Resilience. Thank you to Dr David Chanasyk, University of Alberta, our Lead Guest Editor. Naturally and anthropogenically caused disasters, including fire, flooding, drought, volcanic eruption, climate change, unmitigated mining, warfare, deforestation, and industrial urban sprawl, can have tremendous impacts on our soils. How we understand and address these impacts is critical to the functioning of our planet. This collection is expected to be a global focus on soils and their resilience to disasters. Papers could focus on various topics relating to soils and disasters, including the role of soils in moderating risks, soil remediation, soil building (Anthroposols), impacts on food security, and nature based climate solutions, to name a few. We welcome your participation, ideas and submissions to make this a great collection.

Future collections are needed and are being recruited, including one on soil bioremediation or remediation, potentially jointly with the Canadian Journal of Microbiology. We are currently seeking authors to commit to reviews on timely topics. Please let me know if you have interest and ideas to discuss for special collections and/or reviews as we should soon be 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.

We are happy to announce that Perspectives, a new section for topics of importance in all facets of the soil science discipline, has been launched. 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.

Thank you to Dr Melissa Arcand, University of Saskatchewan, for our first Perspectives article: miyo wîcêhtowin “good relations”: reckoning with the relationship between Indigenous Peoples and soil science in Canada. We are happy to lead off this new initiative with such a timely and important topic.

Other potential perspectives are being sought and I encourage you to get in touch with me with your ideas and commitments.

5. 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 graduate student competition for photo submissions. The competition has yielded some very good cover photos in the past. The CSSS provides cash prizes for our winners and they get featured in the journal and the CSSS newsletter. One journal cover a year will be 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.

6. Actions For Improving Canadian Journal Of Soil Science

As we have discussed in previous annual reports, we are working to enhance our journal's reputation. To do this we need to attract excellent quality research papers and to attract them we need good journal metrics, particularly turn around time and impact factor. A bit of a circular process, but doable with the help of our 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 some ongoing action plans we have for our journal.

Work proactively 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 research publication.

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 a number of graduate student publications.

Include international associate editors, to raise our international profile.

Recognize deserving contributors with an Editor's Choice article in each issue, and annual outstanding reviewers.

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
June 6, 2024

2024 Canadian Society of Soil Science Student Representative Report

Submitted by Blake Weiseth

Beyond attending regularly-scheduled Committee meetings, my primary focus as Graduate Student Representative has been on planning of the Graduate Student mixer event taking place during the CSSS annual conference. The CSSS student members wish to extend their gratitude towards Nutrien both for their support of the graduate student mixer event and for sponsoring two students to attend the CSSS annual conference. Details of the event are provided below:

Graduate Student Mixer Event with “Lightning Round” Research Presentations

What: Come meet and re-connect with fellow grad students in this informal mixer event. For the evening’s entertainment, students will share their research in a 3-minute “Lightning Round” oral presentation competition. There will be a maximum of 10 participants in this competition, so be sure to sign up early! To register for the “Lightning Round” competition, please submit a presentation title via email to blake.weiseth@gmail.com.

When: Tuesday, June 11th, 7-9 PM, PT

Where: GSS Loft
Room 4202-6133 University Blvd
Vancouver, BC
V6T 1Z1

Cost: Free

Attire: Business Casual

Light refreshments will be provided. Please kindly RSVP via email to blake.weiseth@gmail.com before May 28, 2024.

Promotion of the event was achieved via email blast sent to current CSSS student members, Students were asked to RSVP by pre-registering for the event. As of May 31, 2024, 35 people had pre-registered.

Respectfully submitted by,

Blake Weiseth

Graduate Student Representative- CSSS

2024 Western Councillor Report

The primary activity of the Western Councillor during the period from 2023/2024 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.
- A link for the French version of “Digging Into Canadian Soils” has been updated on the website.
- Photographs of the award winners were loaded to replace those from the previous year. New award winners were also posted.
 - Recipient of the 2023 CSSS Fellow Award (Mr. Leonard Leskiw and Dr. Tiequan Zhang)
 - Recipient of the 2023 ASA-CSSA-SSSA Mentoring Award Dr. Diane Knight
 - Recipient of the 2023 SSSA Soil Science Applied Research Award (Dr. Scott X. Chang)
 - Recipient of the 2023 Auguste-Scott Award of AQSSS (Dr. Noura Ziadi)
 - Recipient of the 2023 SSSA Fellow Award (Dr. Maja Krzic)
 - Recipient of the 2023 CSSS Early Career Professional Award (Dr. Xinli Chen)
 - Recipient of the 2023 Steacie Prize (Dr. Asim Biswas)
- Minutes from the 2023 AGM and meeting were uploaded to the site.
- March, June, November 2023 and March 2024 newsletters have been published.
- New awards criteria, dates, and templates were added to the website.
 - The CSSS awards committee will now administer CSSS Ivarson Scholarship.
- Discussion forums (Communication, Soil Education) have been removed from the website due to spamming.
- A link has been added to the website for the 24th World Congress of Soil Science, Soils in a Warmer World, 2030, Toronto, Canada.
- The website was updated to reflect the election of the new President-elect (Richard J. Heck) and treasurer (Preston Sorenson). The website was also updated to note Amanda Diochon's transition from President to Past-president and President-elect to President for Richard Farrell. Note: there was no change to the Western Councillor (Henry Wai Chau), Secretary (Leann Bauman), Graduate Student Representative (Blake Weiseth) and CJSS Editor-in-Chief (Anne Naeth).
- Soil health committee page and terms of reference have been added to the website with a call for volunteers to serve on the committee.
- Promotion TV episode (CSSS members (and past presidents) Nate Basiliko and Amanda Diochon join host Taviss in an episode of TVOKids “Secrets of the Forests” on Monday, May 20th at 5:50PM on TVOKids YouTube Channel. Their 15-minute episode is titled “It’s Alive.”)

Information regarding several conferences was uploaded to the CSSS website:

- *Manitoba Soil Science Society Annual General Meeting, Soil Science Education and Extension | February 1 & 2, 2024*

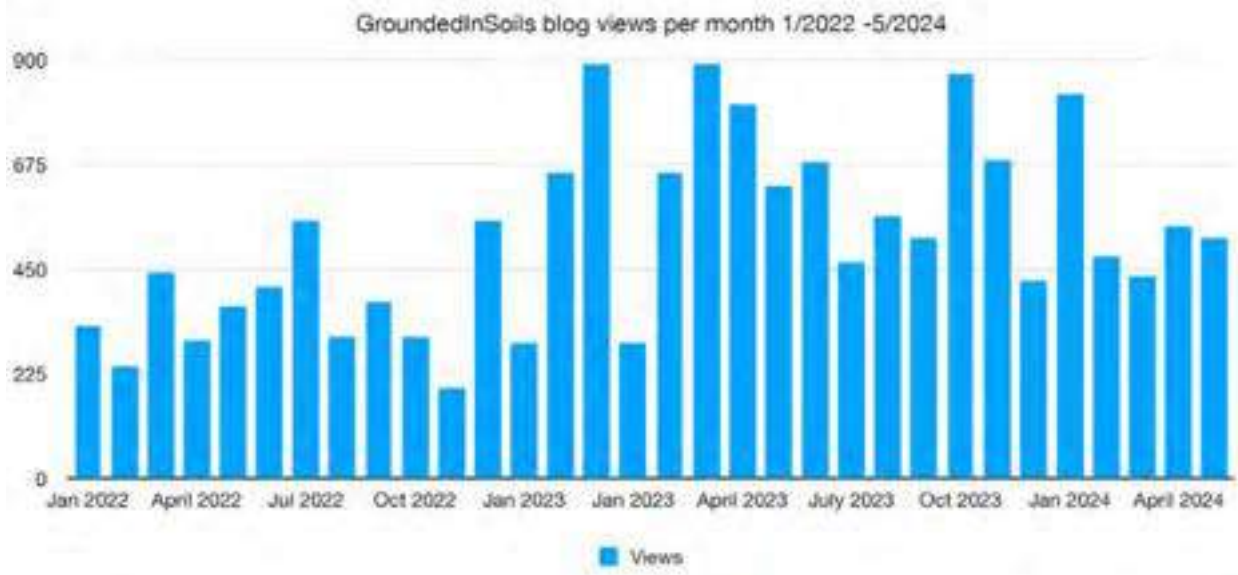
- *Alberta Soil Science Workshop, “Soil Response to Extreme Events” | February 20-22, 2024*
- *Soils and Crops 2024, From Breeding to Bin: Climate-smart crops for future food security | March 5-6, 2024*
- *CSSS 2024, SOIL FUNCTIONS FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS, UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA, VANCOUVER | JUNE 9-13, 2024*
 - *Links have been provided to the <https://csss2024.landfood.ubc.ca/> to streamline deadlines and updates from the conference organizers*
 - *Promotional material added to the meta slider on the main page*
- *SSSA 2024 SUMMER, COMMON GROUND: SOILS BEYOND BORDERS, SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO | JUNE 9-13, 2024*
- *2024 ASA, CSSA, SSSA INTERNATIONAL ANNUAL MEETING, AI INNOVATIONS FOR A CHANGING CLIMATE, SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS | NOVEMBER 10-13, 2024*

Social media update

- **Grounded in Soils Blog update**

GroundedInSoils blog views per month 2023-2024

Month	Views	
Jan 2023	292	
Feb 2023	656	
Mar 2023	891	
April 2023	802	
May 2023	626	
Jun 2023	678	
Jul 2023	464	
Aug 2023	561	
Sept 2023	517	
Oct 2023	870	
Nov 2023	683	2023 TOTAL
Dec 2023	427	7,467
Jan 2024	824	
Feb 2024	478	
Mar 2024	433	
April 2024	542	
May 2024	517	



- **Twitter followers (6/1/24)**

- 2626 (up from ~2300 last year)

- **Facebook followers (6/1/24)**

- 2,000 (up from ~1200 last year)

- Posts with photos of soil and/or soil scientists receive the most engagement
- More original blogs by members, more involvement from members sending photos for a library, etc. are needed.
- To access, subscribe and share the blog, by clicking on the buttons on the top of the CSSS



website.

Henry Chau, Western Councillor



Canada's 
Winnipeg - Manitoba
Welcomes the World

Soils For Our Future

*A Gathering of Global to Local Perspectives
July 20-25, 2025 • Winnipeg, Canada*

*International Joint Meeting of the Global Soil Security
Organization, Canadian Society of Soil Science, International
Union of Soil Sciences Division 1-Soils in Space and Time,
and the Manitoba Soil Science Society*

International Joint Meeting of



Canadian Society of Soil Science
Société Canadienne de la Science du Sol



International Union of Soil Sciences
Division 1
Soils in Space and Time

over 700 attendees expected from around the world

hosted by



Theme

**A Gathering of Global to Local Perspectives
in Soil Sustainability and Health for a Better Future**

Program Offerings



Winnipeg Convention Centre in Downtown Winnipeg

Workshops

1-day workshops
technical, cultural and fun



3 Days of Technical Sessions

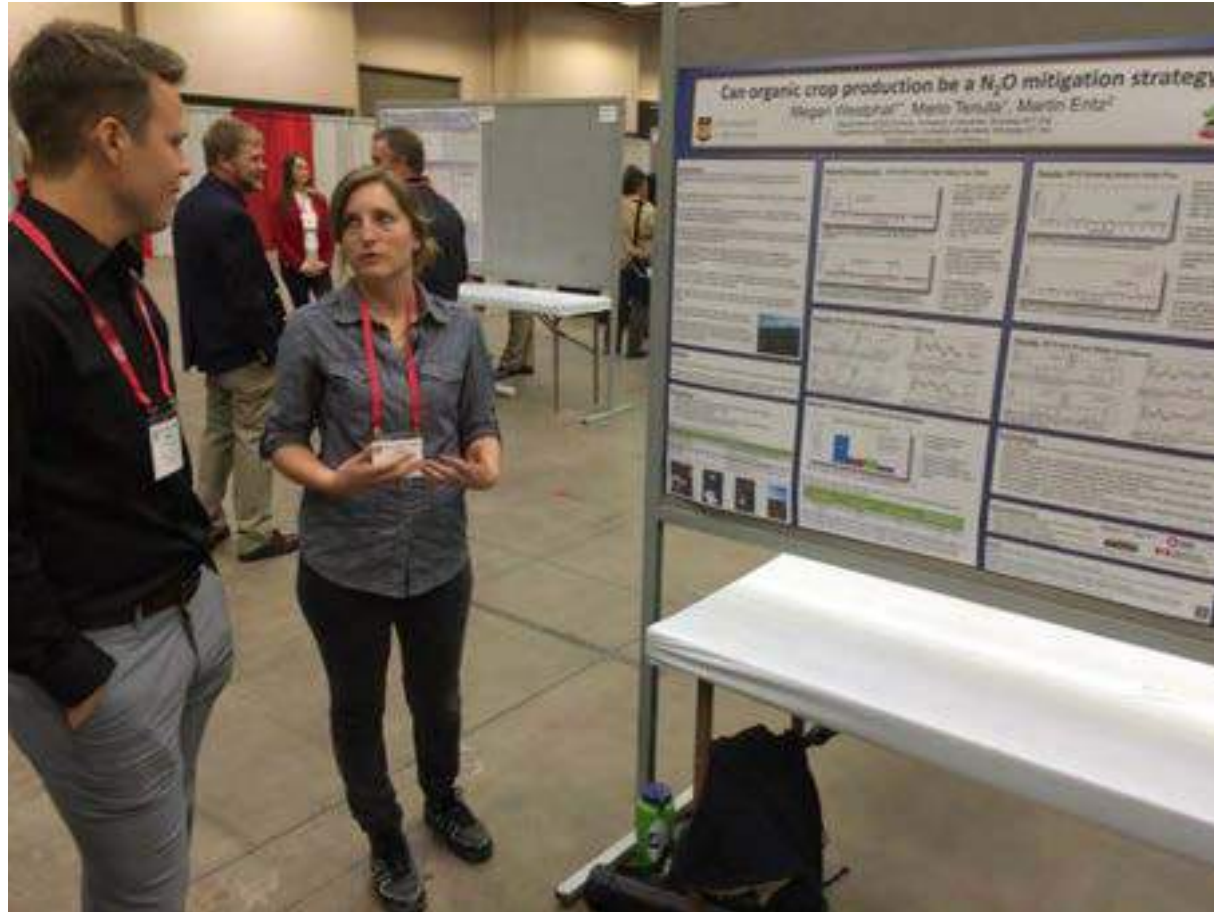


Joint Plenaries Each Day

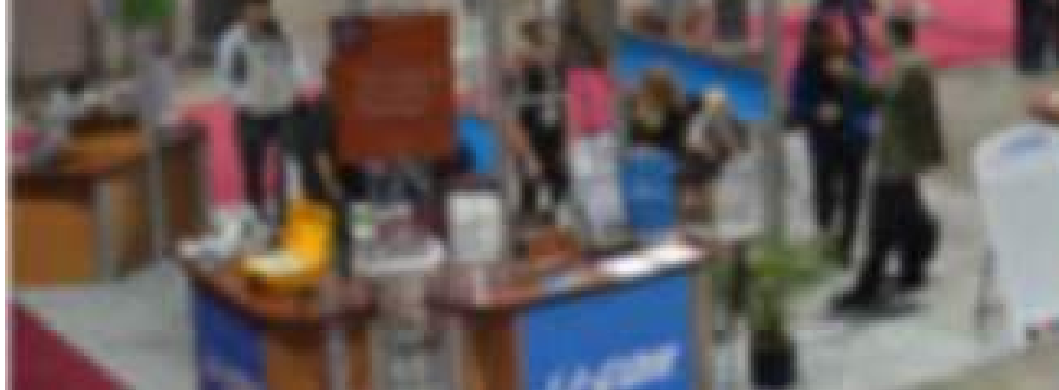


Large Poster Room

Continuously displayed, session every day, snacks and drinks



Tradeshow



Banquets

Banquets for each group held on different evenings



Conference Hotels

affordable and close





1 & 2 Day Tour Options



Multi-day *Soils on Ice* Tour

Other Offerings

Reduced rate registration for non-OECD and student participants

Sponsorship and Partnering Packages available

Tradeshow and Exhibit Packages available

Many attractions within walking distance of the conference

Wide selection of hotels - budget to luxury within walking distance

Many restaurants within walking distance of the conference

Flash Your Badge – restaurant discount pass

Attractions and cultural experience tour bookings

Accompanying persons available

Soils For Our Future

*A Gathering of Global to Local Perspectives
July 20-25, 2025 • Winnipeg, Canada*

International Joint Meeting of the Global Soil Security Organization, Canadian Society of Soil Science, International Union of Soil Sciences Division 1-Soils in Space and Time, and the Manitoba Soil Science Society

Contact SFOF2025@umanitoba.ca

Mario Tenuta, Chair, mario.tenuta@umanitoba.ca

Megan Westphal, Treasurer, megan.westphal@gov.mb.ca

hosted by



Canada's 
Winnipeg - Manitoba
Welcomes the World



THE 4TH GLOBAL SOIL BIODIVERSITY CONFERENCE

Victoria, Canada
12-15 April 2026

The 4th Global Soil Biodiversity Conference | Victoria, BC, Canada
April 12th - 15th, 2026



**SPONSORSHIP AND EXHIBITOR
PROSPECTUS**



THE 4TH GLOBAL SOIL BIODIVERSITY CONFERENCE

Victoria, Canada
12-15 April 2026

IN LOVING MEMORY OF DR. DIANA WALL



We are deeply saddened by the passing of Dr. Diana Wall, founder and Scientific Chair of the Global Soil Biodiversity Initiative (GSBI). A staunch champion for soil biodiversity science, Diana founded GSBI as a grassroots organization in 2011 together with Wim van der Putten, Richard Bardgett, Johan Six, and Luca Montanarella to connect scientists and inform policy, education, and the public on soil biodiversity. As the leader of GSBI, Diana prioritized the inclusion of scientists from underrepresented groups, the global South, and early career researchers, and advocated for their access to resources. There are very few scientists who have reached out with the intensity and breadth across their field as she did. Diana Wall placed soil biodiversity on the map.

Diana was tireless in her efforts to build up the GSBI and bring soil biodiversity onto the international policy stage. By 2012 she had secured funding from Colorado State University (CSU), hired an Executive Director, organized an international workshop, was invited to speak at the RIO+20 Convention, and initiated work on the Global Soil Biodiversity Atlas (published in 2016). Over the last decade, Diana encouraged the production of the first Global Soil Biodiversity Assessment (2020), secured GSBI participation in the UN's Convention on Biological Diversity-COP14 and international monitoring efforts such as the Soil Biodiversity Observation Network (SoilBON) and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) Global Soil Biodiversity Observatory (GLOSOP). She spearheaded the creation of the international Global Soil Biodiversity Conferences (Dijon, Nanjing, and Dublin), and during Covid produced 'GSBI Speaks' a series of online webinars to keep the global soil biodiversity community connected.

The 4th Global Soil Biodiversity Conference in 2026 in Victoria, Canada will celebrate both Diana's achievements and her spirit of community and collaboration. We hope you can join us.



THE 4TH GLOBAL SOIL BIODIVERSITY CONFERENCE

Victoria, Canada
12-15 April 2026

WELCOME FROM THE HOSTS

The Local Organizing Committee on behalf of the Global Soil Biodiversity Initiative (GSBI), and supported by the Biological Survey of Canada, takes pleasure in inviting you to participate in the **4th Global Soil Biodiversity Conference** held in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada from April 12th to April 15th, 2026.

The Global Soil Biodiversity Initiative (GSBI) was established to promote expert knowledge on soil biodiversity and to link this into environmental policy and sustainable land management with the aim of protecting and enhancing ecosystems services. The Global Soil Biodiversity Conferences organized under the auspices of the GSBI are now considered to be the premier global Conferences dealing with soil biodiversity. The 4th edition of the Global Soil Biodiversity Conference (GSB 2026) will bring together researchers, policy analysts, students, and practicing farmers to discuss soil biodiversity with the goals of informing the public, promoting this information into environmental policy, and overall creating a platform for the current and future sustainability of soils.

The Local Organizing Committee is preparing an exciting scientific program and is offering to partners, sponsors and exhibitors to enjoy the exceptional setting of the Victoria Conference Centre (**Victoria Conference Centre | Tourism Victoria**). Join us in making this extraordinary Conference a milestone event in soil biodiversity research!

We look forward to seeing you in Victoria, Canada for this exciting scientific and social event!
Sincerely,



Dr. Zoë Lindo
University of Western Ontario
GSB 2026 Conference Co-Chair



Dr. Carlos Barreto
Algoma University
GSB 2026 Conference Co-Chair



Dr. Leena Vilonen
Global Soil Biodiversity Initiative
Executive Director



THE 4TH GLOBAL SOIL BIODIVERSITY CONFERENCE

Victoria, Canada
12-15 April 2026

WHY SPONSOR/EXHIBIT?

We appreciate that the 4th Global Soil Biodiversity Conference would not be possible without the involvement and support of our important industry partners.

- Become a valued Sponsor or Exhibitor at GSB 2026 and participate in the premier international event for the global soil biodiversity community
- Gain significant brand exposure to over 700 key customers
- Receive maximum exposure through the combined exhibition, refreshment and poster area
- Increase awareness and exposure of your organization via a variety of marketing media
- Develop business connections and strengthen relationships through face-to-face engagement
- Exhibit and generate new leads, develop your brand or launch a new product through the exhibition
- Maximize your time and resources by showcasing your organization to a relevant and influential audience in an environment away from the competition of everyday distractions
- Ensure your organization stays abreast of current developments and research in the field and use this information to stay ahead of the market
- See how your contribution directly influences the industry by participating in this important and exciting event



LOCATION

Victoria, Canada, is a true one-of-a-kind land on the Pacific coast. Surrounded by water and full of adventure, Victoria finds itself nestled between the tranquil waters of the Salish Sea and the mighty rainforests of Vancouver Island. Discover boutique hotels, outdoor activities, world-class attractions, and fresh farm-to-table dining that's measured on a scale of metres, not miles. Annually, approximately 4 million people visit Victoria to experience some of the best that Canada has to offer. We would like to take this opportunity to invite you to come to Canada, to come to British Columbia, and especially to come to Victoria and see for yourself why people from all around the world choose to visit and, in some cases, stay.



VENUE

GSB 2026 will be hosted at the Victoria Conference Centre (VCC). A stunning homage to the cultures and traditions that make Victoria a great place to connect, VCC is the city's largest Conference facility with 77,000 square feet of meeting space, 21 multi-purpose meeting rooms, a large exhibit hall and 400-seat lecture theatre.

VCC is an ideal place to host eco-friendly meetings with a great effort to reduce their environmental impact, from energy efficiency to water conservation and waste management. The VCC is Carbon Neutral and Biosphere Certified. Located in the downtown core of Victoria and within walking distance from shops, restaurants, hotels, and attractions, VCC provides the perfect location for what will be a truly amazing Conference.



THE 4TH GLOBAL SOIL BIODIVERSITY CONFERENCE

Victoria, Canada
12-15 April 2026

ABOUT THE GSBI

The GSBI was formed in 2011 by founders Drs. Richard Bardgett, Luca Montanarella, Johan Six, Wim van der Putten and Diana Wall, with the goal of uniting scientists across disciplines (soil ecology, soil science, biogeochemistry, agroecology, policy) to convey soil biodiversity research to policy and land managers for global sustainability of ecosystem services. The GSBI looks to link science and policy through the application of rapidly expanding knowledge of soil biodiversity. As the first step, the GSBI hosted an open meeting in London, in March 2012, following the Planet Under Pressure Conference. Attendees, from 13 countries (across 5 continents), agreed on the urgency to disseminate current knowledge of soil biodiversity to both policy and land management sectors. From this meeting the GSBI White Paper was produced, describing a global goal for managing soil biodiversity for ecosystem services, and the scientific challenges, including harmonization of methods, required to bring soil biodiversity into policy.

The GSBI has since attended Rio+20 Earth Summit 2012, hosted numerous events, workshops, and webinars, supported the launch of a Soil Biodiversity Observation Network (SoilBON), and contributed to several global policy reports related to soil biodiversity working closely with partners such as the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (UN-FAO), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), and the European Commission.

A grassroots scientific collaboration now with nearly 4,000 members from 134 countries, the GSBI was designed to create a global collaboration of scientists, all with the goals of informing the public, promoting this information into environmental policy, and overall creating a platform for the current and future sustainability of soils. The GSBI has hosted three previous Conferences in Dijon, France (2014), Nanjing, China (2017) and Dublin, Ireland (2023) each with 700-1000 delegates attending. The 4th Global Soil Biodiversity Conference in Victoria, Canada, will serve as a pivotal platform for international collaboration and knowledge exchange. As we convene to delve into the intricate ecosystems beneath our feet, the Conference aims to unite researchers, policymakers, and practitioners from diverse backgrounds and geographies. Join us in Victoria as we chart a course towards a more resilient and biodiverse future for our planet.



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SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Prices in Canadian Dollars <i>5% GST will be applied to registration/booth value</i>	Platinum <i>2 Available</i>	Gold <i>4 Available</i>	Silver <i>Unlimited</i>	Bronze <i>Unlimited</i>
	\$15,000	\$12,000	\$8,000	\$5,000
Logo with link on sponsors page of Conference website and Mobile App	✓	✓	✓	✓
Logo displayed on homepage of the Conference website	✓	✓		
Opportunity to introduce and thank a plenary speaker	✓			
Complimentary full Conference registrations	4	3	2	1
Complimentary exhibit space (10'x10')	✓	✓		
Priority in selecting exhibit location and sponsoring additional items	1 st Priority	2 nd Priority	3 rd Priority	4 th Priority
Verbal recognition of your organization during the opening ceremony	✓	✓	✓	
Company logo and acknowledgement on Sponsor signage	✓	✓	✓	✓
Complimentary tote bag insert (to be provided by sponsor)	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ad in the Digital Conference Program Book	1 Page	1/2 Page	1/4 Page	Logo
60-second video ad to be played during session breaks	✓	✓		
Logo on footers of marketing emails sent by the Conference	✓	✓	✓	

Please note: Marketing obligations will be fulfilled once payment has been received in full.



THE 4TH GLOBAL SOIL BIODIVERSITY CONFERENCE

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ADDITIONAL SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Prices in Canadian Dollars

Social Event Opportunities

Gala Dinner Sponsor - \$5,000

Exclusive Opportunity

The Gala Dinner will be the perfect opportunity for networking. Align your brand with one of the great evenings of the Conference bringing everyone together for a night of dinner and fun! Tickets for this event are not included in attendee registration. As the Gala Dinner Sponsor of GSB 2026 you will benefit from the following entitlements:

- Logo printed on dinner menus
- Signage at the entrance to the Gala Dinner (additional branding can be done at Sponsor's expense – e.g, napkins, coasters)
- Acknowledgement from the Conference Chair
- 2 tickets to the Gala Dinner
- Company logo with link on the sponsor page of the Conference website and mobile app acknowledging this sponsorship

Welcome Reception Sponsor - \$5,000

Exclusive Opportunity

The Welcome Reception is included in all full delegate Conference registrations. Sponsorship provides you with brand visibility as well as acknowledgment in speeches. As the Welcome Reception Sponsor of GSB 2026 you will benefit from the following entitlements:

- Signage at the entrance to the Welcome Reception (additional branding can be done at Sponsor's expense)
- Acknowledgement from the Conference Chair
- Company logo with link on the sponsor page of the Conference website and mobile app acknowledging this sponsorship



THE 4TH GLOBAL SOIL BIODIVERSITY CONFERENCE

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Educational Opportunities

Lunch Symposium/Workshop Sponsor - \$7,000

Multiple Opportunities

There is an opportunity to organize a “lunch and learn” on each day of the Conference for up to 1 hour for a limited number of conference attendees. GSB will provide the room and basic AV such as lectern, microphone, projector, and screen. Speaker honorariums, food and beverage and any additional AV requirements are paid by the Sponsor. The topic and speaker(s) must be submitted for approval to the GSB Conference Committee. The Sponsor takes on the development of the program and organization of the session. The Sponsor will receive recognition and promotion in the program, on the website, and through signage.

Poster Session Sponsor - \$3,000

2 Opportunities

One of the busiest and most popular areas at the Conference, the poster session is an ideal opportunity to promote your brand. As a Poster Session Sponsor of GSB 2026 you will benefit from the following entitlements:

- Signage will be displayed featuring the Sponsor’s logo
- Opportunity for the Sponsor to purchase snacks and drinks from the in-house caterer for attendees of the poster session
- Company logo with link on the sponsor page of the Conference website and mobile app acknowledging this sponsorship

Conference Poster Awards Sponsor - \$2,000

Multiple Opportunities

Support excellence and invest in the future! As one of our GSB 2026 Awards Sponsors, you will receive branding and recognition at the Student Poster Awards, as well as your company logo with link on the sponsor page of the Conference website and mobile app acknowledging this sponsorship.

Conference Talk Awards Sponsor - \$2,000

Multiple Opportunities

Support excellence and invest in the future! As one of our GSB 2026 Awards Sponsors, you will receive branding and recognition at the Student Talk Awards, as well as your company logo with link on the sponsor page of the Conference website and mobile app acknowledging this sponsorship.

Student Travel Awards Sponsor - \$2,000

Multiple Opportunities

Sponsor travel and registration for a selected group of students. Company logo with link on the sponsor page of the Conference website and mobile app acknowledging this sponsorship.



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Catering Opportunities

Water Stations - \$4,000

Exclusive Opportunity

Water stations are placed in convenient locations providing participants with complimentary access to fresh drinking water. As the Water Stations Sponsor of GSB 2026 you will benefit from the following entitlements:

- Sponsor logo displayed at all water stations
- Company logo with link on the sponsor page of the Conference website and mobile app acknowledging this sponsorship

Coffee Break Sponsor - \$2,500

Multiple Opportunities

Align your brand with the daily catering of delicious morning and afternoon breaks served to all participants. As a Coffee Break Sponsor of GSB 2026 you will benefit from the following entitlements:

- Signage for each catering station will be displayed featuring the Sponsor's logo
- Company logo with link on the sponsor page of the Conference website and mobile app acknowledging this sponsorship

Advertising Opportunities

Charging Station Sponsor - \$6,000 CAD

Exclusive Opportunity

Facilitate the opportunity for participants to be able to charge their devices to ensure they can remain in communication throughout the Conference.

- Company logo displayed on the charging station that will be placed in a high-traffic area
- Opportunity to place company literature (ex. flyers, brochures) at the charging station (to be provided by the Sponsor)
- Company logo with link on the sponsor page of the Conference website and mobile app acknowledging this sponsorship



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Mobile App Sponsor - \$5,000

Exclusive Opportunity

Place your brand in every attendee's hand by exclusively sponsoring the Conference mobile app!

- Logo on the splash screen of the mobile app
- Company logo with link on the sponsor page of the Conference website and mobile app acknowledging this sponsorship

Wi-Fi Sponsor - \$5,000

Exclusive Opportunity

Be the exclusive Sponsor of the GSB 2026 Wi-Fi available in the common areas and session rooms of the Victoria Conference Centre.

- Customized Wi-Fi login password
- Company logo with link on the sponsor page of the Conference website and mobile app acknowledging this sponsorship

Supporter Spotlight Ad - \$2,500

Multiple Opportunities

Ad at the bottom of ONE (1) of our pages on the Conference Website. Pages where we can place the Ad are: Speakers, Program, FAQ and Registration. Ad to be designed by the sponsor as per specifications provided and can include:

- Company Name
- 150 Words
- Video - 2 min. max
- URL Link

Digital Program Book Ad

Full Page - \$2,000

Half Page - \$1,200

Ad to be designed by the sponsor as per specifications provided and can include:

- 75 Words
- 1 Image
- 2 Hyperlinks

Email Ad - \$1,500

A one-time ad to be included in one (1) of our marketing emails going to potential attendees. Ad to be designed by the sponsor as per specifications provided and can include:

- 75 Words
- 1 Image
- 2 Hyperlinks



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Further Opportunities

Lanyards - \$6,000

Exclusive Opportunity

Your organization's logo and the GSB 2026 logo prominently displayed around every attendee's neck! Sponsor to provide logo - Conference organizers produce the lanyards.

Delegate Bags - \$6,000

Exclusive Opportunity

Your logo and the GSB 2026 logo on the re-usable bag given to all Conference delegates. These eco-friendly satchels are provided by the organizers and designed to be used after the Conference to further promote branding. Sponsor to provide logo - Conference organizers select and produce the bags.

Pads and Pens - \$3,000

Exclusive Opportunity

Include your logo on pads and pens provided to all Conference delegates. Eco-friendly pads and pens are to be paid for and shipped to the venue by the Sponsor on top of sponsorship price. Final design to be approved by the organizer.

Water Bottles - \$3,000

Exclusive Opportunity

Sponsorship is sought to provide water bottles for every registered delegate to be given out in the Registration area. The bottle is the perfect travel and work companion after the Conference and can be filled at the various water stations throughout the venue. Opportunity to provide water bottles that can be branded with your company logo along with the GSB 2026 logo. Sponsor to pay sponsorship price, production and shipping to the venue. Final design to be approved by the committee. In keeping with the goal of making this Conference as green as possible, the bottles are not to be made of plastic.

Volunteer T-Shirts - \$3,000

Exclusive Opportunity

All front-line volunteer staff at the Conference will wear specially designed and easily recognizable shirts with the GSB 2026 logo and the Sponsor's logo. Sponsor to provide their logo - organizers will produce the T-shirts.

EXHIBITOR OPPORTUNITIES

The GSB 2026 exhibition has been designed to provide a strong value proposition for all exhibitors.

Located in the Victoria Conference Centre, in the same area as the plenary sessions, the Exhibit Hall will be fully integrated into the Conference program with great opportunities for networking.

Exhibition Booth

Prices are in Canadian Dollars and subject to GST 5%

\$3,000

10' x 10' draped booth or equivalent space only for a custom-built stand.

Included in the cost of exhibiting is one (1) exhibition booth which will include the following:

- 8' high draped back wall
- 3' high draped side walls
- 2 chairs
- One 6' x 2' skirted table
- 1 waste basket
- 1 standard power outlet
- Booth ID sign printed with company name

Registration

- Two (2) complimentary exhibitor registrations per booth. All additional exhibitor badges will cost \$400 plus tax each.

The exhibitor badge provides:

- Full access to the exhibition area and to your company's own sponsored sessions (if applicable)
- Access to the Welcome Reception and Coffee breaks

Company promotion

- Company name and booth number (when allocated) on Exhibitor page of the Conference website
- Company name and acknowledgement in the designated Exhibitor section of the Conference mobile app
- Company logo and acknowledgement on Sponsor/Exhibitor signage in the exhibition area

Note: Any extra services / furniture must be arranged by the exhibitor and will be charged directly by the facility or show decorator.

Logistics

Exhibitor move-in and move-out dates as well as detailed shipping instructions and more will be communicated to all exhibitors in the exhibitor manual closer to the Conference start.



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CONTACT INFORMATION

Please contact the Conference Secretariat if you wish to book a sponsorship package or exhibit space, if you require a customized sponsorship package or have any other queries.

GSB 2026 Secretariat

c/o Venue West Conference Services Ltd.

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Dr. Diana Wall in Antarctica