



SOIL CONSERVATION COUNCIL OF CANADA
CONSEIL CANADIEN DE CONSERVATION DES SOLS

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The face and voice of soil conservation in Canada

The legacy and vision continues

The Soil Conservation Council of Canada (SCCC) has a rich history as the face and voice of soil conservation in Canada. In 1987, as a follow up to his 1984 Soil at Risk Report, the late Senator Herb Sparrow founded Soil Conservation Canada (SCC).

Their focus was soil conservation with protection from wind and water erosion, from excessive tillage and from non-agricultural development. Soil Conservation Week and the Canadian Conservation Hall of Fame were introduced to bring attention to the need for soil protection. All of this continues.

Through time, SCC evolved into The Soil Conservation 'Council' of Canada (SCCC) to encourage stronger participation and more interaction by existing soil conservation groups and other stakeholders. Following this change, the "Council" engaged in new activities and challenges.

In its constant search for excellence, the Council has re-assessed its role, its operation and its priorities so it can be most effective in the present time and circumstances. There will be a shift to take greater advantage of the Council structure. A strong emphasis on collaboration and cooperation by Council members will be helpful in addressing issues of common concern. There will also be new efficiencies and opportunities as this change unfolds.

As the SCCC moves forward, its principles and priorities have been strengthened in many areas as it builds on new information, new research and discovery, and addresses soil related issues in a timely way.

- The advocacy for soil conservation will remain the central cause but will now encourage a more active role in issues related to soil management. These include soil care, soil health and the affected water, air, habitat and natural areas.
- The Council emphasizes that soil conservation is a primary contributor to sustainable agriculture. History suggests that without sustainable agriculture we do not have sustainability on a social, economic or environmental scale.
- Science is the basis of agricultural progress, therefore, it is important to partner in scientific activity.
- Increases in agricultural production should be the product of practices that improve soil health and the environment.
- Sustainable intensification of agricultural production on existing farmland is a priority because this reduces the expansion of agriculture to natural areas.
- All Canadians have a shared interest in and should participate in safe-guarding our soil because the benefits provide many environmental goods and services for the public good.



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FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

- Agricultural soil is a limited primary resource that needs protection for food production as it is coming under increasing pressure as population growth accelerates.
- The SCCC will provide the much needed national leadership role as a catalyst for cooperation and action, a forum for discussion of critical issues and a point for information exchange.

The Council continues to support the legacy and vision of Senator Sparrow while moving forward with new ideas, new vigour and new commitment.

Membership is encouraged for interested organizations, businesses, industry, government, researchers and individuals who wish to support sustainable management of our agricultural soils and the related environment. While farmers and farm groups will be core participants, society as a whole will benefit through participation and should play an active role. Members of the Council can take pride in their support of an organization that operates at the front line of the soil conservation cause. More information on SCCC and membership is available on the website: www.soilcc.ca



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