



SOIL CONSERVATION COUNCIL OF CANADA CONSEIL CANADIEN DE CONSERVATION DES SOLS

*The face and voice of soil conservation in Canada
Le visage et la voix de la conservation des sols au Canada*

A call to action for Canada's soils

In 1984, the Standing Senate Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries, and Forestry published "Soil at Risk — Canada's Eroding Future." Led by Senator Herbert Sparrow (who later formed the Soil Conservation Council of Canada), it's still heralded as one of the Senate's best and most widely distributed reports.

The report sparked a renewed focus on soil conservation, but that was 36 years ago, and a lot has changed. Climate change, evolving production practices, new crops and a growing global population place increasing pressure on soil health. We still look to soil to produce most of our food, to clean our air and water, to help in the fight against climate change and to support biodiversity. If we want soil to continue providing these services, we need to take better care of it.

National action is needed to make soil health a priority. There is no other option!

As the pre-eminent national organization representing soil health, SCCC would like:

- Increased emphasis on research and applied science to drive appropriate actions and investments in production practices that ensure the sustainability of Canadian soils and increase our understanding of the economic impacts of soil degradation.
- Increased quality, quantity and access to soil health and conservation information available to producers and agricultural professionals. Training and knowledge transfer will enable action on the ground.
- More collaboration with public- and private-sector leaders and decision-makers on future investments in policy, research incentives and programming to support the development and implementation of soil conservation practices.
- Raised awareness of the role soil plays in the well-being of Canadians, emphasizing that



healthy soil is as important as healthy air and water.

- Leadership and collaboration to gather the vast reserves of scientific research, knowledge and expertise to support soil health. The leadership, enthusiasm and foresight established by Senator Sparrow need to be rekindled.

Ontario Senator Rob Black proposed one initiative at the SCCC Summit on Canadian Soil Health in Winnipeg last October. He recommended that the Standing Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry commission a new study on soil health which would engage researchers, scientists, agronomists,



The Honourable Rob Black, Senator (Ontario).

National Soil Conservation Week is an opportunity for you to email or write your support for Senator Rob Black's proposal for a new study on soil health in Canada.

farmers and agricultural organizations to deliver a comprehensive list of achievable recommendations to maintain and improve Canada's soils.

The SCCC sees this as a timely and much-needed step. Senator Black has our full support for a renewed Senate study on soil health. National Soil Conservation Week is an appropriate time to learn more about Senator Black's proposal and to consider voicing your support. You can do that by email (robert.black@sen.parl.gc) or regular mail: The Honourable Rob Black, Senator (Ontario), The Senate of Canada, Room 131 East Block, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A4.

**NATIONAL SOIL CONSERVATION WEEK
SUNDAY, APRIL 19 TO SATURDAY APRIL 25, 2020**

Start talking | Soil Your Undies | Become a member | Support our soil
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