



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*

Is Canadian soil becoming a big deal?



You may not have noticed, but Canada's soils are definitely becoming a big deal. Soil is where you make your living. It sustains our rural communities. It grows our food. It even cleans our air and water and supports biodiversity.

Canadians are becoming aware of the contribution soil makes to our lives and are starting to advocate for its continued health. Farmers and ranchers do their part to sustain our soil resource, and more and more Canadians are taking note of this important stewardship.

It's not just those in agriculture who care. Students and youth organizations are getting involved through various education programs and hands-on opportunities to learn about soils. Government and industry leaders are also recognizing the role they can play in supporting our soils.

National Soil Conservation Week (NSCW) takes place this year from Sunday, April 18 to Saturday April 24. It's a great opportunity to keep building momentum and to produce positive actions for soil health across the country.

This year during NSCW, we have a job for you. Here are a few things you can do on behalf of Canada's soils:

1. **TELL SOMEONE WHY SOIL IS IMPORTANT TO YOU.** Support our soil and share with your family, neighbours, social networks, and heck, anyone who will listen, why you rely on healthy soil every day – not just during the third week of April. Help them get involved whether they run a big farm or have a backyard garden.
2. **SOIL YOUR UNDIES.** This is a great introduction to soils as a living thing. This simple experiment can be done anywhere there is soil. The results of the Soil Your Undies process will awaken you to all the life that lives below us. Get

yourself a pair of white, cotton undies and a marker and get digging. After a few months, dig them up and share your soil experiment experience with us online using **#SoilYourUndies**. More details are found at **soilcc.ca**.

3. **SENATE STUDY ON CANADIAN SOIL HEALTH.** Senator Rob Black has continued to move his initiative in the Senate of Canada to launch a major study to update our understanding of the state of Canada's soil resources. He announced this at our Summit on Canadian Soil Health in October 2019. Progress has been hindered by issues arising from the COVID-19 pandemic, but at last report, there was growing interest and appetite within the Senate to move forward. This will be an important step in setting the course for future efforts to sustain our precious soil resources in Canada.

4. **SOIL HEALTH REPORT CARD.** SCCC is working with Drs. Mario Tenuta and David Lobb at the University of Manitoba and other soil experts to produce an annual Soil Health Report Card that tracks successes and challenges with the state of Canadian soils. This informal windshield assessment is intended to help build awareness of the state of our soils and to encourage research and adoption of improved soil health practices. Drs. Tenuta and Lobb are working with us to get more soil experts involved in the report to keep it fresh and increase its accuracy over time. We are pleased to add this to our NSCW efforts.

National Soil Conservation Week is a great time to make people think and care about soil, but it doesn't need to stop there. The Soil Conservation Council of Canada cares about soil and is active year-round, but our strength only comes from our membership. Together, we can improve soil health, we can bring the benefits of soil to all Canadians and we can strengthen our role as a world leader in soil conservation.

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