



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

Alistair MacGregor

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT - COWICHAN-MALAHAT-LANGFORD

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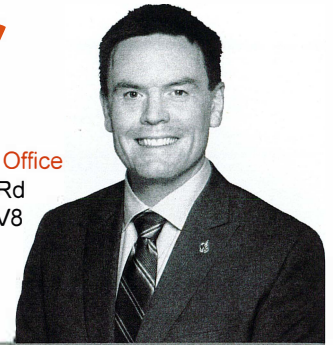
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April 26, 2021

Dear friends,

This is to let you know about an exciting Private Member's Bill I've been working on to establish a National Soil Health Strategy for Canada, setting up a federal framework to promote efforts across the country to conserve and improve the health of soil. **I formally introduced Bill C-290 in the House of Commons today.**

Soil is an essential resource to our society. Healthy soils are the foundation of sustainable food production, enhanced biodiversity and cleaner air and water for present and future generations. Healthy soils really are at the root of the entire agriculture and agri-food value chain.

We also know that restoring carbon into the soil, where it belongs, and out of the atmosphere, where it is causing havoc, is going to be an important part of the fight against climate change. Farmers are on the front lines of this fight, often among those who suffer its impacts first-hand through more frequent periods of droughts and flooding, and we need to recognize the important role they have in soil health management and carbon sequestration.

Through the Canadian Agricultural Partnership, the Government of Canada has a commitment to promoting public awareness of and improving soil health. I believe that a National Soil Health Strategy, put into force by the passage of Bill C-290, can coordinate this commitment and help us achieve this goal.

Among other things, this bill seeks to support and encourage farmers and other land users in the use of best management practices that allow for the promotion of soil health and sustainability, including training in soil health and conservation, regenerative agriculture practices, and enhancing knowledge transfer and the availability of technical expertise in the area of soil health.

The bill provides that, in developing this strategy, the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food must consult with representatives of provincial governments responsible for agriculture and agri-food, Indigenous governments and other Indigenous bodies and organizations, and

stakeholders in the agriculture and agri-food industry, including agricultural and agribusiness organizations.

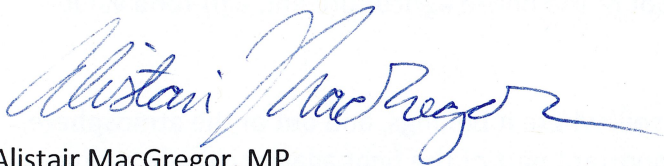
In addition, the bill will establish December 5th of each year as “National Soil Day,” and the third week of April each year as “National Soil Conservation Week.” It will also establish the office of a National Advocate for Soil Health.

I hope you will join me with excitement about this National Soil Health Strategy and that we can work together to promote this important legislative initiative to enhance and rebuild the capacity of soils in Canada, ensuring the longevity of our national food security and protecting ecosystems for generations to come.

For more information, please do not hesitate to be in touch with my Legislative Assistant, Adam Moore at adam.moore.810@parl.gc.ca.

I look forward to working together on this important initiative.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alistair MacGregor". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Alistair MacGregor, MP
Cowichan-Malahat-Langford
NDP Critic for Agriculture and Agri-Food