

# CPS • SCP News



CANADIAN PHYTOPATHOLOGICAL SOCIETY • SOCIÉTÉ CANADIENNE DE PHYTOPATHOLOGIE

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## President's Message



Maria Antonia Henriquez  
CPS-SCP President/présidente

### Dear CPS Members,

As I conclude my term as President of the Canadian Phytopathological Society (CPS), I would like to express my sincere gratitude to our members, Board of Directors, committee chairs and members and volunteers, who have contributed to another productive and successful year for our Society.

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Serving as President has been both an honour and a privilege. The accomplishments achieved during the past year reflect the collective efforts of many dedicated individuals who share a common commitment to advancing plant pathology in Canada and supporting our members across the country. We have introduced a number of new initiatives that will further strengthen our society and deliver greater value to our members.

### **Strengthening Society Governance**

One of our major accomplishments this year was the modernization and streamlining of several aspects of CPS governance. The Board reviewed and updated Society bylaws, clarified responsibilities of key positions, eliminated outdated structures, and improved committee organization to better reflect the current needs of our Society. We also increased the funding support for regional meetings.

### **Building New Opportunities for Member Engagement**

A particularly exciting achievement was the creation of the CPS Webinar Committee chaired by the CPS President with Junior and Senior Directors as members, and the launch of the CPS Webinar Series. This initiative expands opportunities for knowledge exchange beyond our annual meetings and allows us to engage members and colleagues from Canada and around the world throughout the year.

Our first webinars attracted excellent attendance and demonstrated the tremendous interest within our community. This new platform will continue to strengthen CPS as a national and international hub for plant pathology knowledge and collaboration. I would like to thank **Dr. Rudolph Fredua-Agyeman**, our Senior Director and **Dr. Liu Miao**, our Junior Director for their support and enthusiasm with the CPS Webinar Series.

We also welcomed our first CPS Social Media Manager, **Laila Fawaz**, who has begun strengthening the Society's online presence and engagement with members, students, and the broader scientific

community. We have expanded our efforts to promote and highlight articles published in the Canadian Journal of Plant Pathology through our X (formerly Twitter) account. By showcasing research from each issue, we aim to increase the visibility, reach, and impact of the journal and the valuable work of its authors.

### **Supporting Scientific Communication**

The Canadian Journal of Plant Pathology continues to be one of the Society's greatest strengths. The journal remains financially strong, submissions continue to increase, and its scientific impact remains significant. I extend my sincere appreciation to **Dr. Linda Jewell** for her exceptional leadership as Editor-in-Chief of the Canadian Journal of Plant Pathology. Her dedication ensures the continued excellence and reputation of our journal.

We also continued efforts to improve communication through our website, newsletters, social media channels, and member communications. These improvements are helping CPS better connect with current members while attracting future generations of plant pathologists. I extend my sincere appreciation to **Michael Holtz**, our Website Editor that has worked tirelessly to improve and maintain the CPS website, implement new functionalities, provide website analytics, support conference registration systems, and create new resources such as the webinar portal, the CPS and CJPP Social media platforms, updated upcoming Meetings, Workshops and Events. Also, I would like to thank **Dr. Sara Stricker**, our membership secretary, who has been instrumental in maintaining membership

records, getting new members, communications, election processes, committee updates, membership analytics, and newsletter distribution. Her dedication has significantly strengthened member engagement and Society operations.

### **Preparing for the Future**

Several important long-term initiatives were launched during the year, including:

- Initiated the development of a new CPS Strategic Plan for 2026–2030 (Chair **Dr. Dilantha Fernando**).
- Establishment of the Glenn Anderson Lecturer 2028 Ad Hoc Committee (Chair **Dr. Lone Buchwaldt**).
- Initial planning for the CPS 2027 (Chair **Dr. Syama Chatterton**), and the creation of committees for LAC and Science program for the CPS 100th Anniversary 2029 (Chair **Dr. Denis Gaudet**).
- Continued strengthening of regional society partnerships and national collaborations. These initiatives position CPS for continued success in the years ahead.

### **Financial Condition**

The Society remains in a strong financial position, providing the stability and resources needed to support our programs, pursue new opportunities, and ensure the long-term sustainability of our organization. This financial strength enables us to continue serving our members effectively while planning confidently for the future.

I would like to recognize the outstanding contributions of **Dr. Ken Conn**, our Assistant to the Treasurer and Membership Secretary. Although not a member of the Board, Ken's contributions deserve special recognition. His management of the Society's finances, conference administration, membership support, and countless operational details

behind the scenes has been critical to the success of CPS. In addition, I would like to thank **Dr. Michelle Hubbard**, our Treasurer, whose careful oversight, thoughtful recommendations, and steadfast commitment to fiscal responsibility have been invaluable. Her dedication has played an important role in maintaining the Society's strong financial position and ensuring its continued success.

### **More Acknowledgements**

I would like to express my deepest appreciation to **Dr. Tom Fetch** for providing outstanding leadership as Secretary while serving as the Society's institutional memory. His guidance has been invaluable in matters related to governance, bylaws, annual meetings, awards, and Society operations. His experience, wisdom, and unwavering commitment have benefited CPS enormously. I am especially grateful to **Dr. Stephen Strelkov**, our President-Elect, and **Dr. David Joly**, our Vice-President, for their exceptional support and leadership throughout the year. During periods when additional assistance was needed, both Steve and David stepped forward without hesitation, providing thoughtful advice, sound judgment, and a steady presence. Their willingness to take on additional responsibilities and support both the Board and me personally was greatly appreciated. Beyond their leadership roles, Steve and David have represented CPS within Plant Canada, coordinated sponsorship activities, contributed to strategic planning discussions, and supported numerous Board initiatives. Their dedication, professionalism, and commitment to the Society have been instrumental to our success. With leaders of Steve's and David's calibre helping to guide CPS, I am

confident that the Society's future is in excellent hands.

I would like to thank **Dr. Guillaume Bilodeau** for his service to CPS and for his contributions as Past President. Through his years of leadership and dedication, Guillaume has played an important role in the growth and success of the Society. We are grateful for his commitment to CPS and the strong foundation he has helped build for the future.

### Looking Ahead to Halifax 2026

I would like to offer special thanks to **Dr.**

**Shawkat Ali**, Chair of the 2026 CPS Annual Meeting in Halifax, and to all members of the Local Arrangements Committee and Scientific Program Committee. Planning a national conference requires tremendous dedication, vision, and countless hours of volunteer service. Under Shawkat's leadership, preparations for Halifax have progressed exceptionally well. The conference theme, Plant Pathology in a Changing World, is timely and highly relevant, and I am confident that the meeting will provide outstanding scientific, professional, and networking opportunities

for our members.

### Final Reflections

The achievements of this year demonstrate the strength of our Society and the remarkable commitment of our members. Together, we have strengthened governance, expanded communication and outreach, launched new professional development opportunities, supported students and early-career scientists,

advanced scientific publishing, and laid the foundation for future growth.

**“The achievements of this year demonstrate the strength of our Society and the remarkable commitment of our members.”**

Most importantly, these accomplishments reflect the generosity, professionalism, and collaborative spirit of the Canadian plant pathology community.

Thank you to every CPS member for your continued support of our Society. It has been an honour to serve as your President.

With sincere appreciation,

**Maria Antonia Henriquez**

President

Canadian Phytopathological Society



## Message de la présidente

### Chers membres de la SCP,

Alors que je termine mon mandat à titre de présidente de la Société canadienne de phytopathologie (SCP), je tiens à remercier chaleureusement nos membres, le conseil, d'administration, les présidents des comités ainsi que les membres et les volontaires qui ont contribué à une autre année productive et fructueuse pour notre société.

Être présidente a été à la fois un honneur et un privilège. Les succès de la dernière année témoignent des efforts collectifs de nombreuses personnes dévouées qui partagent un but commun, soit l'avancement de la phytopathologie au Canada et le soutien de nos membres à la grandeur du pays. Nous avons mis en place un certain nombre d'initiatives qui renforceront davantage notre société et apporteront une plus grande valeur ajoutée à nos membres. Renforcement de la gouvernance sociétale Une de nos principales réalisations de l'année a été la modernisation et la rationalisation de plusieurs aspects de la gouvernance de la SCP. Le conseil a révisé et mis à jour les règlements de la Société, clarifié les responsabilités des postes clés, éliminé les structures obsolètes et amélioré l'organisation des comités afin de mieux refléter les besoins actuels de notre société. Nous avons également accru le soutien financier pour les réunions régionales.

### Créer de nouvelles possibilités pour l'engagement des membres

La création du Comité des webinaires, présidé par le président de la SCP et formé des directeurs adjoint et principal en tant que membres, constitue une réalisation

particulièrement enthousiasmante, de même que le lancement de la série de webinaires de la SCP. Cette initiative élargit les possibilités d'échange de connaissances au-delà de nos réunions annuelles et nous permet de mobiliser nos membres et nos collègues du Canada et du monde entier, et ce, tout au long de l'année.

Nos premiers webinaires ont connu un excellent taux de participation et ont témoigné de l'immense intérêt suscité au sein de notre communauté. Cette nouvelle plateforme continuera à renforcer la SCP en tant que carrefour national et international de connaissances et de collaboration en phytopathologie. J'aimerais remercier **Rudolph Fredua-Agyeman**, notre directeur principal, et **Liu Miao**, notre directrice adjointe, pour leur soutien et leur enthousiasme concernant la série de webinaires de la SCP.

Nous avons également accueilli notre toute première responsable des médias sociaux de la SCP, **Laila Fawaz**, qui a commencé à renforcer la présence en ligne de la Société et son engagement auprès des membres, des étudiants et de la communauté scientifique au sens large. Nous avons également intensifié nos efforts pour promouvoir et mettre en valeur des articles publiés dans la Revue canadienne de phytopathologie (RCP) sur notre compte X (anciennement Twitter). En mettant en valeur les recherches de chaque numéro, nous visons à accroître la visibilité, la portée et l'influence de la Revue ainsi que la précieuse contribution de ses auteurs. Soutien à la communication scientifique La Revue canadienne de phytopathologie

continue d'être une des principales forces de la Société. La Revue demeure financièrement solide, le nombre de soumissions continue d'augmenter et sa portée scientifique demeure importante. J'exprime ma sincère gratitude à **Linda Jewell** pour son leadership exceptionnel en tant que rédactrice en chef de la Revue canadienne de phytopathologie. Son engagement assure le maintien de l'excellence et de la réputation de notre revue.

Nous avons également poursuivi nos efforts pour améliorer la communication par l'entremise de notre site Web, nos bulletins, nos réseaux sociaux et nos communications aux membres. Ces améliorations aident la SCP à mieux tisser des liens avec les membres actuels tout en attirant les prochaines générations de phytopathologistes. Je tiens à exprimer ma sincère gratitude à **Michael Holtz**, l'éditeur de notre site Web, qui a travaillé sans relâche pour améliorer et maintenir notre site, déployer de nouvelles fonctionnalités, fournir des analyses du site Web, soutenir les inscriptions aux réunions et créer de nouvelles ressources, telles que le portail des webinaires, les plateformes des médias sociaux de la SCP et de la RCP, la mise à jour des réunions à venir, des ateliers et des autres événements. Je voudrais également remercier **Sara Stricker**, notre secrétaire aux adhésions, qui a joué un rôle déterminant dans la tenue des registres de membres, le recrutement de nouveaux membres, les communications, le déroulement des élections, les mises à jour des comités, l'analyse de l'effectif et la distribution du bulletin. Son dévouement a

considérablement renforcé l'engagement des membres et le fonctionnement de la Société.

### Préparer l'avenir

Quelques initiatives à long terme ont été lancées dans le cours de l'année, y compris: Amorcer le développement d'un nouveau plan stratégique pour la période 2026-2030 (présidé par **Dilantha Fernando**);

Créer le Comité spécial de conférenciers Glenn Anderson 2028 (présidé par **Lone Buchwaldt**);

Planifier initialement la réunion de 2027 (présidé par **Syama Chatterton**) et créer le comité organisateur local ainsi que le Comité du programme scientifique pour le 100e anniversaire de la SCP en 2029 (présidé par **Denis Gaudet**);

Poursuivre le renforcement des partenariats avec les sociétés régionales et des collaborations nationales.

Ces initiatives préparent la SCP à poursuivre sur la voie du succès dans les années à venir.

### Situation financière

La Société demeure dans une excellente situation financière, fournissant la stabilité et les ressources nécessaires pour soutenir nos programmes, poursuivre de nouvelles possibilités et assurer la viabilité à long terme de notre organisation. Cette robustesse financière nous permet de continuer à servir efficacement nos membres, tout en planifiant l'avenir avec confiance.

Je tiens à souligner la contribution exceptionnelle de **Ken Conn**, notre adjoint

à la trésorière et à la secrétaire aux adhésions. Bien qu'il ne soit pas membre du conseil, les contributions de Ken méritent une mention spéciale. Sa gestion des finances de la Société, l'administration des réunions, le soutien aux membres et les innombrables détails opérationnels en coulisse ont été essentiels au succès de la SCP. En outre, je souhaiterais remercier **Michelle Hubbard**, notre trésorière, dont la supervision rigoureuse, les

requis, Steve et David se sont portés volontaires sans hésitation pour offrir des conseils judicieux, faire preuve de discernement et maintenir une présence rassurante. Leur volonté d'assumer de nouvelles responsabilités et à me soutenir, moi personnellement et le conseil, a été grandement appréciée. Au-delà de leurs rôles de leaders, Steve et David ont représenté la SCP au sein de Plant Canada, coordonné des activités de commandite,

**« Les réalisations de cette année démontrent la force de notre société et l'implication exceptionnelle de nos membres. »**

participé aux discussions sur la planification stratégique et soutenu de nombreuses

recommandations avisées et l'attachement indéfectible à la rigueur budgétaire ont été inestimables. Son engagement a joué un rôle déterminant dans le maintien de la bonne santé financière de la Société et la garantie de son succès continu.

initiatives du conseil. Leur dévouement, leur professionnalisme et leur engagement envers la Société ont été essentiels à notre succès. Avec des leaders du calibre de Steve et de David pour guider la SCP, je suis convaincue que son avenir est entre d'excellentes mains.

### **Autres remerciements**

Je tiens à exprimer ma plus profonde gratitude à **Tom Fetch** pour le leadership exceptionnel dont il a fait preuve en tant que secrétaire, tout en étant la mémoire institutionnelle de la Société. Ses conseils ont été inestimables en matière de gouvernance, de règlements, de réunions annuelles, de prix et de fonctionnement de la Société. Son expérience, sa sagesse et son engagement indéfectible ont énormément profité à la SCP. Je suis particulièrement reconnaissante envers **Stephen Strelkov**, notre président désigné, et **David Joly**, notre vice-président, pour leur soutien et leur leadership exceptionnels tout au long de l'année. Durant les périodes où une assistance additionnelle était

J'aimerais remercier **Guillaume Bilodeau** pour les services qu'il a rendus à la SCP et pour ses contributions à titre de président sortant. Au fil de ses années de leadership et de dévouement, Guillaume a joué un rôle important dans la croissance et le succès de la Société. Nous lui sommes reconnaissants pour son dévouement envers la SCP et la solide base qu'il a contribué à mettre en place pour l'avenir.

### **Regard vers l'avenir : Halifax 2026**

Je tiens à remercier tout spécialement **Shawkat Ali**, président de la réunion annuelle de la SCP qui se tiendra à Halifax, et tous les membres du comité organisateur local ainsi que du Comité du programme

scientifique. L'organisation d'une réunion annuelle exige énormément d'engagement, de vision et d'innombrables heures de travail bénévole. Sous la direction de Shawkat, les préparatifs pour la réunion de Halifax ont exceptionnellement bien progressé. Le thème de la réunion « La phytopathologie dans un monde en mutation », est opportun et tout à fait pertinent, et j'ai la certitude que cette réunion constituera une occasion exceptionnelle, tant sur le plan scientifique que professionnel, de favoriser les échanges entre nos membres.

### Remarques finales

Les réalisations de cette année démontrent la force de notre société et l'implication exceptionnelle de nos membres. Ensemble, nous avons consolidé la gouvernance, développé nos communications et nos actions sur le terrain, lancé de nouvelles

possibilités de développement professionnel, soutenu des étudiants et de jeunes scientifiques en début de carrière, fait progresser l'édition scientifique et jeté les bases d'une croissance future.

Plus importantes encore, ces réalisations reflètent la générosité, le professionnalisme et l'esprit de collaboration de la communauté canadienne de phytopathologie.

Merci à tous les membres pour votre soutien continu à notre société. Ce fut un honneur pour moi que de servir en tant que présidente.

Avec ma sincère gratitude,

**Maria Antonia Henriquez**

Présidente

Société canadienne de phytopathologie



## Society Business

### Annual Report: Canadian Plant Disease Survey

In 2025, 62 reports were published in Volume 105 of the Canadian Plant Disease Survey (CPDS) covering the 2024 crop season, up from 45 in 2023 and 2024. The greater number of submissions was due primarily to the inclusion of Saskatchewan diagnostic lab and cereal disease reports from the 2019 to 2022 seasons. Many thanks to Ali Akhavan, James Bush, and their Saskatchewan colleagues for this.

The 2025 survey included 14 Diagnostic Lab reports, 26 Cereal crop reports, 19 Oilseed, Pulse, Forage and Specialty crop reports, one potato, one berry and one elm tree report. The 2025 CPDS also included three summary reports that examined disease trends in lentils from 2012-2024, diseases caused by *Plectopharella* species in diagnostic lab reports from 2012-2024 and *Fusarium* spp. and management practices in Saskatchewan oat crops from 2017-2024. Vol. 105 was published online on Sept. 4, 2025 and can be accessed at <https://phytopath.ca/publications/canadian-plant-disease-survey-archive/>, or, <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/07060661.2025.2509388>. Vol. 106, covering

the 2025 crop season, was submitted to the publisher on May 8 and is expected to be published online in July or August 2026.

Since 2019, when we began publishing the CPDS as an annual supplement to the CJPP, each issue of the CPDS has averaged about 2,500 views per year for the first two years, gradually tapering off to 500-1000 views in subsequent years. As of May 26, 2026, the 2025 issue has had 2,407 views and the 2024 issue 5,337 views. As per the terms of a new contract agreement with Taylor and Francis starting in 2024, the CPDS has been published on a “Gold Open Access” basis, at no charge to the society.

For the last few years, with the help of Paolo Pitari, an experienced publication editor at Taylor and Francis, we have achieved a publication date in July-August. Each spring, the Oilseed and Pulse section is sent separately to users by the National Editor in April so that timely information on diseases can be shared and utilized by the industry.

### **Editorial Updates:**

- Siva Sabaratnam stepped down as Section Editor for Fruits, Berries, Nuts, Turf and Ornamentals in spring 2025 when he retired from BCMAF. I'm very happy to report that, starting with the 2025-2026 issue, Katie Goldenhar, Ontario Horticultural Pathologist at OMAFRA, has accepted the position of Section Editor. Thank you to Siva for his 6 years of service and welcome Katie!
- The other Section Editors remain the same : Manika Pradhan - Diagnostic Labs, Reem Aboukhaddour - Cereals, Syama Chatterton - Oilseed, Pulse, Forage & Specialty Crops, Dennis Van Dyk – Vegetables, and Jean Bérubé - Forestry.
- 2026 will be my 10th and final year as National Editor. If you are thinking of volunteering for this job and have any questions, please feel free to email me at [janice.elmhirst@shaw.ca](mailto:janice.elmhirst@shaw.ca) Many thanks, as always, to our authors, section editors, compiler Meghan Masson, and the hard-working production editors and typesetters at Taylor and Francis, all of whom ensure that the CPDS continues to be an important and relevant publication for plant disease management in Canada. In my time as National Editor I've learned so much from my colleagues! I've been introduced to many fascinating plant pathogens and diseases I knew nothing about. I have tremendous respect for all of the growers, researchers, consultants and agri-business people who continue to work hard every day to produce healthy, abundant crops and a thriving agricultural industry in Canada.

Respectfully submitted by: Dr. Janice Elmhirst, National Editor, Canadian Plant Disease Survey.

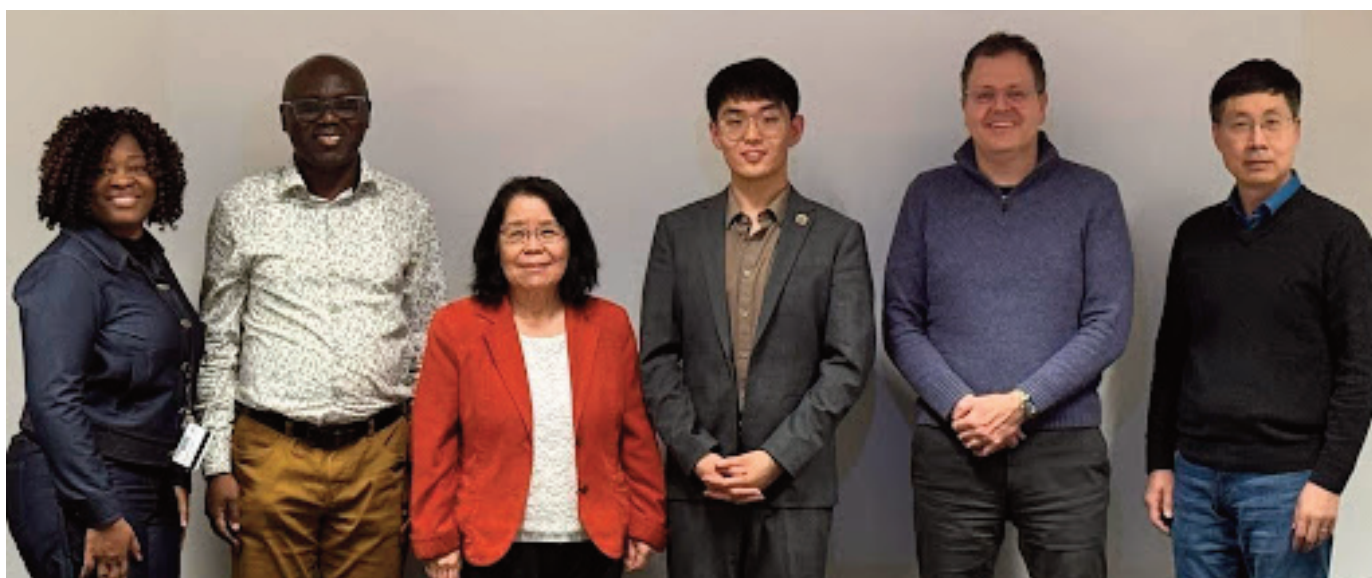


## People

### Congratulations to Xinlong Dong!

Congratulations to Xinlong Dong on the successful defense of his M.Sc. thesis at the University of Alberta on March 27, 2026. His thesis, titled “Identification of Novel Clubroot Resistance in *Brassica napus* Through Doubled Haploid Populations,” developed a highly efficient doubled haploid production method and identified a novel clubroot resistance locus, providing complementary advances for canola breeding. Xinlong was co-supervised by Drs. Stephen Strelkov and Sheau-Fang Hwang.

Originally from China, Xinlong completed his B.Sc. degree in Cell Biology at the University of Alberta in 2022. He later joined the Plant Pathology Lab as a volunteer, where he discovered his passion for clubroot research. With the support of Drs. Hwang and Strelkov, he subsequently began his M.Sc. program in Plant Science.



**Xinlong Dong** (fourth from left) with his examination committee following the successful defense of his M.Sc. thesis at the University of Alberta. From left to right: **Linda Gorim**, Chair of the Examination Committee; **Rudolph Fredua-Agyeman**, Supervisory Committee Member; **Sheau-Fang Hwang**, Co-Supervisor; **Stephen Strelkov**, Supervisor; and **Scott Chang**, University Examiner. Congratulations to Xinlong on this outstanding achievement!



## Publications

### ISPP - International Newsletter on Plant Pathology



The International Society for Plant Pathology promotes the world-wide development of plant pathology and the dissemination of knowledge about plant diseases and plant health management. News and announcements from all on any aspect of Plant Pathology are invited for the Newsletter.

**Editor: Daniel Huberli**

e-mail: [ispp.nl.editor@isppweb.org](mailto:ispp.nl.editor@isppweb.org)

Members of Associated Societies of ISPP can receive e-mail notification of Newsletter updates by joining the ISPP mail list.

<http://www.isppweb.org/newsletter.asp>

**ISPP Newsletter 56 (4) April 2026**

- Obituary of David Robert Jones, 1946-2026
- Associated Societies of ISPP are invited to present Call for bids to host the 14th International Congress of Plant Pathology, ICPP2032
- Obituary of J. I. (Ian) Cooper M.A., Ph.D. 1941-2026
- Plant Pathology, Farmers and 40 Years in Ag: Dr. Kelly Turkington's Story

- New strategy to break resistance-yield trade-off in rice by pathogen-inducible gene expression
- New Australian initiative targets soilborne broadacre diseases
- Plant diversity suppresses pests and promotes plant performance and crop production
- Crop pest responses to global changes in climate and land management
- Epigenetic switch strengthens plant immunity against downy mildew
- The 2022 Fusarium Head Blight outbreak in Ethiopia: Emerging pathogens, mixed mycotoxins, and interspecies interactions
- Current Vacancies
- Acknowledgements
- Coming Events

**ISPP Newsletter 56 (5) May 2026**

- Associated Societies of ISPP are invited to present Call for bids to host the 14th International Congress of Plant Pathology, ICPP2032
- 25 Years of plant pathology teaching — Now shared globally by the Global Plant Health Assessment project

- Obituary of Dr. Sally A. Miller (1954–2026), an international leader in sustainable plant pathogen management of vegetables
- Report on 5th ISMPP International Conference, 8- 10 April 2026
- Scientists trace crop viruses back to the last ice age
- The fast-track tree breeding method that is restoring ash to the landscape
- A bacterial nutrition strategy for plant disease control
- History of Plant Pathology in South Africa
- Fungal alliances: New research reveals co-infection dynamics in wheat diseases
- Integration of two genes: A valuable strategy for developing virusresistant tomatoes
- Intracellular accommodation of bacteria, fungi, and oomycetes by plants analyzed using transmission electron microscopy
- Current Vacancies
- Acknowledgements
- Coming Events



## Entomological Society of Canada



The *Bulletin* has been published quarterly by the Entomological Society of Canada since 1969. It provides information on the activities of the Society and its members, research and employment opportunities, matters of wider scientific importance and book reviews.

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**Editor's note:** beginning in January 2026, the Bulletin has changed its format and style. While this newsletter was previously bilingual, there are now separate English and French issues of this newsletter as reflected in this English-only table of contents. Please visit the [Entomology Society of Canada's website](#) to access the full issues of the Bulletin in English or in French. The presentation of this table of contents reflects the new stylistic choice of the ESC.



## Contact the Editors

### Linda Elizabeth Jewell, Editor

St. John's Research and Development Centre  
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada  
204 Brookfield Rd.  
St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador  
A1E 6J5

Telephone: 709-351-0361  
Email: [linda.jewell@agr.gc.ca](mailto:linda.jewell@agr.gc.ca)

### Coreen Franke, Associate Editor

Nutrien Ag Solutions  
201 - 407 Downey Road  
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan  
S7N 4L8

Telephone: 306-229-4180  
Email: [coreen.franke@nutrien.com](mailto:coreen.franke@nutrien.com)

## Submission Deadline for the September 2026 Issue of CPS-SCP News

**PLEASE NOTE:** The submission deadline for the September 2026 issue of CPS-SCP News is **August 28, 2026**. If you send photographs for publication in the CPS-SCP News, please ensure that you indicate that all individuals appearing in the photographs have given permission for their photographs to appear in the newsletter. Photographs will not be published if permission has not been obtained from the individuals involved. In addition, photographs must be accompanied by a caption, and must be of suitable quality for printing. Photos that do not meet these guidelines will not be printed. Please send photos as separate attachments rather than embedding them in Word or PDF files.

