

CPS • SCP *News*



CANADIAN PHYTOPATHOLOGICAL SOCIETY • SOCIÉTÉ CANADIENNE DE PHYTOPATHOLOGIE

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President's Message



Stephen Strelkov
CPS-SCP President/président

It is a great honor to serve as the 96th President of the Canadian Phytopathological Society. I have been a member of the CPS since 1997, when I first joined as a Master's student. Since that time, I have served the Society in various roles, including on the Awards and various other committees, as Editor-in-Chief of the Canadian Journal of Plant Pathology, and most recently in the Presidential Stream as Vice-President and then President Elect.

I am somewhat nervous as I begin my

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presidential tenure, given the big shoes to fill following the contributions of my predecessors, including **Dr. Maria Antonia Henriquez**, who completed her term in June. It is reassuring, however, that Maria Antonia remains on the CPS Board of Directors as Past-President, and I can continue to rely on her and the other CPS Board Members for their support and guidance during my tenure. I am therefore pleased to introduce the 2026-2027 CPS Board of Directors:

President: Stephen Strelkov (University of Alberta)

President-Elect: David Joly (Université de Moncton)

Vice-President: Reem Aboukhaddour (Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Lethbridge)

Past-President: Maria Antonia Henriquez (Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Morden)

Secretary: Tom Fetch (Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, retired)

Treasurer: Michelle Hubbard (Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Swift Current)

Membership Secretary: Sara Stricker (Guelph Turfgrass Institute)

Senior Director-at-Large: Miao (Mindy) Liu (Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Ottawa)

Junior Director-at-Large: Amy Fang Shi (Ontario Ginseng Growers Association)

CJPP Editor-in-Chief: Linda Jewell (Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, St. John's)

Website Editor: Michael Holtz (Western Crop Innovations)

Dr. Ken Conn continues in his role as Assistant to the Treasurer and Membership Secretary. I would also like to thank and

acknowledge those who have recently stepped down from the Board, including our outgoing Junior Director-at-Large, **Dr. Rudolph Fredua-Agyeman** and Past-President **Dr. Guillaume Bilodeau**.

I would also like to express my gratitude to **Dr. Janice Elmhirst** for her leadership and hard work as the National Editor of the Canadian Plant Disease Survey. Janice is stepping down after 10 years in this role, and the Society is currently in the process of finding a replacement for this important position.

A little about me

For those of you who do not know me very well, I wanted to provide a brief introduction to my background. I was born in Argentina and immigrated to Canada with my family at the age of nine. I obtained a B.Sc. from the University of Alberta in 1993. Although it was not my area of focus at the time, I took a few courses in botany and became increasingly interested in plant biology. To explore this area further, I enrolled in a one-term Pre-Master's program at the University of Manitoba, where I took several courses in mycology and plant pathology with **Drs. James Reid and David Punter**. I was hooked on these topics and decided to pursue a Master's degree in Plant Science with **Dr. Lakhdar Lamari**, also at the University of Manitoba, working on tan spot disease of wheat.

I found tan spot, and plant pathology in general, incredibly interesting. Following completion of my Master's degree in 1997, I enrolled in a PhD program, continuing to work on tan spot under Lakhdar's supervision. I completed my PhD in 2002 and subsequently worked as an NSERC

Visiting Fellow in **Dr. Sylvie Cloutier's** laboratory at the AAFC Cereal Research Centre in Winnipeg on a leaf rust-related project. In 2003, I joined the University of Alberta as a faculty member following **Dr. Jalpa Tewari's** retirement.

Only weeks after I started at the University, clubroot was identified in several canola fields in the Edmonton region, and the disease subsequently became one of my major areas of research. Nonetheless, I have continued to work on tan spot alongside clubroot, as well as occasionally on other diseases, over the past 23 years. In addition to the excellent mentorship and guidance I received early in my career from Drs. Reid, Lamari, Tewari, and many others, I have had the privilege of working with wonderful collaborators in academia, government, industry, and grower organizations. I have also greatly enjoyed teaching and mentoring many graduate students, postdoctoral researchers, and other early-career personnel.

Indeed, the supportive and collegial nature of the CPS has been one of the main reasons I became involved in the Society, and I hope to contribute to its continued growth and development.

Looking ahead

As I begin my term as President, I am fortunate to do so at a time when the Society has much to celebrate and several exciting initiatives underway. I would first like to

thank **Dr. Shawkat Ali** and the entire Local Arrangements Committee for organizing the very successful 2026 Annual Meeting of the Canadian Phytopathological Society, held June 14-18 in Halifax, Nova Scotia. In Halifax, the Society recognized several of our colleagues with some of our highest honours. Those honoured included **Dr. Mary Ruth McDonald**, who was named a CPS Fellow; **Dr. Kelly Turkington**, recipient

of the Achievements in Plant Disease Management Award; **Dr. Simon Shamoun**, who received the Career

Recognition Award; and **Dr. Afsaneh Sedaghatkish**, who won the Outstanding Young Scientist Award. Congratulations to all these very worthy recipients!

I am also pleased to acknowledge **Dr. Syama Chatterton** and her colleagues for the hard work they are doing to organize our next meeting, which will be held June 6-10, 2027, in Lethbridge, Alberta, jointly with the Canadian Society of Agronomy. We look forward to further updates on the program and registration in the near future.

The Society remains in excellent financial condition, and we continue to pursue several initiatives aimed at strengthening CPS and supporting the broader plant pathology community. **Dr. Dilantha Fernando** and the Strategic Planning Committee have been developing a new Strategic Plan for the Society, and Dilantha provided an update on their progress in Halifax. The Board will be seeking input from

“The CPS has a long history of bringing together researchers, students, professionals, industry representatives, and others with a shared interest in plant health.”

members as the plan is further developed and finalized.

We are also exploring opportunities to collaborate with the Prairie Crop Disease Monitoring Network, an important source of in-season disease risk information and practical disease-scouting resources for producers. Building on the strong foundation established by **Dr. Kelly Turkington**, we hope to explore ways that CPS can help maintain and expand these valuable resources.

Another new initiative is the establishment of a Graduate Student Engagement Committee, with the Junior Director serving as a liaison to the CPS Board. We hope this will provide additional opportunities for graduate students to become involved in Society activities and contribute to the future

direction of CPS. The Board has also begun discussions about the 2028 Annual Meeting and is exploring opportunities to strengthen CPS's international connections and engagement with the broader plant pathology community.

I look forward to working with the Board and, most importantly, with our members over the coming year. The CPS has a long history of bringing together researchers, students, professionals, industry representatives, and others with a shared interest in plant health. I hope that we can build on this strong foundation, continue to foster the collegiality that has always been a hallmark of our Society, and ensure that CPS remains a vibrant and relevant organization for the next generation of plant pathologists.



Message du président

C'est pour moi un grand honneur que de servir à titre de 96^e président de la Société canadienne de phytopathologie. Je suis membre de la SCP depuis 1997 alors que je m'y suis joint comme étudiant de deuxième cycle. Depuis, j'ai occupé diverses fonctions dans la Société, y compris sur le Comité des prix et d'autres comités, à titre de rédacteur en chef de la Revue canadienne de phytopathologie et, plus récemment, au sein du parcours présidentiel en tant que vice-président, puis

de président élu.

Je suis quelque peu nerveux alors que je commence mon mandat présidentiel, étant donné les grands défis à relever à la suite des réalisations de mes prédécesseurs, y compris **Maria Antonia Henriquez** qui a achevé son mandat en juin. C'est toutefois rassurant de savoir que Maria Antonia demeure sur le conseil de la SCP en tant que présidente sortante. Ainsi, je peux continuer à compter sur elle et sur les autres

membres du conseil de la SCP pour leur soutien et leurs conseils durant mon mandat. C'est avec plaisir que je vous présente les membres du conseil pour 2026-2027 :

Président : Stephen Strelkov (Université de l'Alberta)

Président désigné : David Joly (Université de Moncton)

Vice-présidente : Reem Aboukhaddour (AAC Lethbridge)

Présidente sortante : Maria Antonia Henriquez (AAC Morden)

Secrétaire : Tom Fetch (AAC, retraité)

Trésorière : Michelle Hubbard (AAC Swift Current)

Secrétaire aux adhésions : Sara Stricker (Institut de recherche sur les gazons de Guelph)

Directrice principale et membre du conseil : Miao (Mindy) Liu (AAC Ottawa)

Directrice adjointe : Amy Fang Shi (Association des producteurs de ginseng de l'Ontario)

Rédactrice en chef de la RCP : Linda Jewell (AAC St. John's)

Édimestre : Michael Holtz (Western Crop Innovations)

Ken Conn continue d'exercer ses fonctions à titre d'adjoint à la trésorière et à la secrétaire aux adhésions. Je souhaite également exprimer ma gratitude et rendre hommage aux personnes qui ont récemment quitté leurs fonctions sur le conseil, y compris notre directeur adjoint, **Rudolph Fredua-Agyeman**, et notre président sortant, **Guillaume Billodeau**.

Je tiens également à exprimer ma gratitude envers **Janice Elmhirst** pour son sens du leadership et son engagement soutenu en tant que rédactrice en chef nationale de

l'Enquête phytosanitaire nationale. Janice quitte ses fonctions après 10 années à ce poste, et la Société est actuellement à la recherche d'un remplaçant pour remplir cette importante position.

Un peu sur moi

Pour ceux d'entre vous qui ne me connaissent pas très bien, j'aimerais fournir une brève introduction de mon parcours. Je suis né en Argentine et immigré au Canada avec ma famille quand j'avais neuf ans. En 1993, j'ai obtenu un baccalauréat de l'Université de l'Alberta. Bien qu'à l'époque ce n'était pas mon domaine d'activité, j'ai suivi quelques cours de botanique et je me suis intéressé de plus en plus à la biologie végétale. Pour explorer davantage ce domaine, je me suis inscrit à un programme de prémaîtrise d'un trimestre à l'Université du Manitoba, où j'ai suivi divers cours en mycologie et phytopathologie avec **James Reid** et **David Punter**. J'étais fasciné par ces sujets et j'ai décidé d'obtenir un diplôme de deuxième cycle en biologie végétale avec **Lakhdar Lamari**, également à l'Université du Manitoba, travaillant sur la tache helminthosporienne du blé.

J'ai trouvé la tache helminthosporienne, et la phytopathologie en général, des plus passionnantes. En 1997, après avoir achevé ma maîtrise, je me suis inscrit à un programme de doctorat, tout en continuant à travailler sur la tache helminthosporienne sous la supervision de Lakhdar. J'ai terminé mon doctorat en 2002 et, subséquemment, j'ai travaillé à titre de boursier de séjour de recherche du CRSNG dans le laboratoire de **Sylvie Cloutier** du Centre de recherche sur les céréales d'AAC à Winnipeg sur un projet relatif à la rouille des feuilles. En 2003, je me suis joint l'Université de l'Alberta comme

membre du corps professoral à la suite du départ à la retraite de **Jalpa Tewari**.

Seulement quelques semaines après avoir commencé à l'université, la hernie a été identifiée dans plusieurs champs de canola de la région d'Edmonton et, par la suite, la maladie est devenue l'un de mes principaux domaines de recherche. Néanmoins, j'ai continué de travailler sur la tache helminthosporienne, parallèlement à la hernie et, occasionnellement, sur d'autres maladies au cours des 23 dernières années. En plus de l'excellent mentorat et des excellents conseils que j'ai reçus de MM. Reid, Lamari, Tewari et de bien d'autres, et ce, tôt dans ma carrière, j'ai eu le privilège de travailler avec de formidables collaborateurs dans les milieux universitaires, gouvernementaux, industriels et des organisations de producteurs. J'ai également eu un grand plaisir à enseigner à de nombreux étudiants de cycles supérieurs et à guider plusieurs chercheurs postdoctoraux et d'autres membres du personnel en début de carrière. Effectivement, la nature solidaire et collégiale de la SCP est une des principales raisons pour lesquelles je me suis impliqué dans la Société, et j'espère contribuer à sa croissance et à son développement continus.

En se tournant vers l'avenir

Comme je commence mon mandat à titre de président, je suis chanceux de le faire à une époque où la Société a beaucoup à célébrer et plusieurs initiatives passionnantes en cours. Je voudrais d'abord remercier **Shawkat Ali** et tout le comité local organisateur d'avoir élaboré la très réussie réunion annuelle de 2026 et la Société canadienne de phytopathologie qui

s'est tenue à Halifax, en Nouvelle-Écosse, du 14 au 18 juin. À Halifax, la Société a décerné certaines de ses plus hautes distinctions à plusieurs de nos collègues. Parmi les personnes honorées figuraient **Mary Ruth McDonald**, qui a été nommée membre émérite de la SCP, **Kelly Turkington**, lauréat du prix pour réalisations en gestion des maladies des plantes, **Simon Shamoun**, qui a reçu le prix pour l'ensemble de sa carrière, et **Afsaneh Sedaghatkish**, qui a remporté le prix du jeune scientifique émérite. Félicitations à tous ces lauréats très méritants!

Je suis également ravi de saluer **Syama Chatterton** et ses collègues pour le travail acharné qu'ils déploient pour organiser notre prochaine réunion qui se tiendra à Lethbridge, en Alberta, le 6 au 10 juin 2027, de concert avec la Société canadienne d'agronomie. Nous attendons avec impatience de plus amples renseignements concernant le programme et les inscriptions dans un proche avenir.

La Société demeure en excellente santé financière, et nous poursuivons le déploiement de plusieurs initiatives destinées à consolider la SCP et à soutenir la communauté élargie de la phytopathologie. **Dilantha Fernando** et le Comité de planification stratégique ont élaboré un nouveau plan stratégique pour la Société, et Dilantha a fourni une mise à jour sur leurs progrès à Halifax. Le conseil consultera les membres au fur et à mesure que le plan sera développé et finalisé.

Nous explorons également les possibilités de collaborer avec le Réseau de surveillance des maladies des cultures dans les Prairies, une source importante

d'information sur les risques de maladies en cours de saison et de dépistage pratique des maladies pour les

producteurs. En nous appuyant sur les bases solides établies par **Kelly Turkington**, nous espérons explorer des moyens par lesquels la SCP pourra aider à maintenir et à développer ces précieuses ressources.

Une autre nouvelle initiative est la création d'un comité d'immobilisation des étudiants des cycles supérieurs, le directeur adjoint assurant la liaison avec le conseil d'administration de la SCP. Nous espérons que cela offrira des occasions supplémentaires aux étudiants des cycles supérieurs de s'impliquer dans les activités de la Société et de contribuer à l'orientation future de la SCP. Le conseil a également amorcé des discussions sur la réunion

« La SCP a une longue tradition de rassemblement de chercheurs, d'étudiants, de professionnels et de représentants de l'industrie, et d'autres personnes partageant un intérêt pour la santé des plantes. »

annuelle de 2028 et explore des possibilités pour renforcer les connexions internationales de la SCP ainsi que son

engagement avec la communauté élargie de la phytopathologie.

Je me réjouis de travailler avec le conseil et, par-dessus tout, avec nos membres au fil de l'année qui vient. La SCP a une longue tradition de rassemblement de chercheurs, d'étudiants, de professionnels et de représentants de l'industrie, et d'autres personnes partageant un intérêt pour la santé des plantes. J'espère que nous pourrons nous appuyer sur cette base solide, continuer à favoriser la collégialité qui a toujours fait la réputation de notre société et nous assurer que la SCP demeure une organisation dynamique et pertinente pour la prochaine génération de phytopathologistes.



Society Business

Minutes from the 97th Annual Meeting of Members Canadian Phytopathological Society/ La Société canadienne de phytopathologie

Canadian Phytopathological Society / La Société Canadienne de Phytopathologie
Agenda for the 97h Annual Meeting of Members / Agenda Assemblée Générale
Annuelle

12:15 AM - 2:00 PM, June 15, 2026 (Monday) Imperial Ballroom

1. Welcome remarks from the President / **Maria Antonia Henriquez**: Meeting started at 12:35
2. Determination of quorum / **Tom Fetch**: Quorum met, about 50 members
3. Moment of silence for deceased CPS members / **Sara Stricker** No members reported
4. Approval of the agenda / **Maria Antonia Henriquez**: Moved by Maria, Ana Badea 2nd, carried
5. Approval of the minutes from the 96 AMOM (2025) / **Tom Fetch**: Moved by Tom, Tanya Copley 2nd, carried
6. President's report / **Maria Antonia Henriquez**: Thanked all Board members, asked to come to the stage, thanked people for attending CPS2026, reported on Board meeting highlights for 2025-2026, introduced Laila for social networking, CJPP highlights, committee members, closing comments on future growth of CPS
7. Treasurer's report / **Michelle Hubbard, Kenneth Conn**:
Financial statement and auditor's report for 2025-2026 Ken presented the financial statements to the members; total value is \$1.15M. Motion to approve report by Bruce Gossen, Gary Peng 2nd, carried
Appointment of auditors for 2026 Moved to appoint BDO Canada as auditors for 2026-2027 by Ken Conn, David Joly 2nd, carried
8. Report from the Financial Advisory Committee / **Gary Peng, Kenneth Conn**: Gary indicated CPS is good financial position, future 5-yr plan, look at priority issues in new Strategic Plan.
9. Membership Secretary's Report / **Sara Stricker**: Sara presented member stats, 315 members, lower than previous years, reminder that students need to be members to get awards, recruitment at 12% currently, expand CPS Associate members, meeting location also influences numbers, developing new email address for sending email, solicited feedback to improve usage.
10. Canadian Journal of Plant Pathology's Report / **Linda Jewell**: Linda presented CJPP

stats, Awards: Section Editor **Sabine Banniza**; Associate Editor **Mamadou Lamine Fall**; Student Manuscript **Emilee Storfie**.

11. Website's Report / **Michael Holtz**: Michael reported on CPS website changes, feedback form on website for comments.

12. Bylaw changes / **Tom Fetch**: Tom Fetch presented bylaw change recommendations from the Board. Motion by Tom Fetch to have members approve bylaw change recommendations as presented, Tanya Copley 2nd, carried.

- 13. Nomination of new members for Standing and Subject-Matter Committees / **Maria Antonia Henriquez**:
- Awards Committee: **James Tucker**
- Nominating Committee: **Coreen Franke**
- Financial Advisory Committee: **Rishi Burlakoti**
- Webinar Committee: **Stephen Strelkov, Mindy Liu, Amy Fang Shi**
- CPS Student Engagement Committee: **Laila Fawaz**

14. Ratification of new members to the BOD / **Maria Antonia Henriquez**:

- Vice President: **Reem Aboukhaddour**
- Junior Director: **Amy Fang Shi**

15. Installation of Stephen Strelkov as the incoming President / **Maria Antonia Henriquez**

16. The President's plaque to Maria Antonia Henriquez and incoming President's remarks / **Stephen Strelkov**: Stephen presented plaque to Maria, looking forward to serving for the next year as CPS President

17. Other business/ **Stephen Strelkov**:

- Update CPS Strategic Plan for 2026–2030/ **Dilantha Fernando**: Dilantha presented slideshow on Strategic Plan 2026-2030, committee members, Overview, future possible changes and vision, advance plant pathology in Canada, promotion of early career research. Priorities: strengthen plant health workforce, position CPS as Canada's voice for plant health, address climate resilience and digital plant health science, Build a Canadian plant health intelligence network, Strengthen CPS publications, professional development and knowledge mobilization, build sustainable partnerships and organisational capacity, expand international collaboration and global leadership, leverage the CPS centennial as a catalyst for renewal and growth. To support the implementation of the SP (several examples). CPS can leverage many tools established in 100 year history, risks to successful implementation (volunteers needed, others).
- Comment by Kelly Turkington about AAFC travel policies, only 9 AAFC people here in Halifax, society needs to partner with other societies to send clear message to AAFC management. Send to Minister office.

18. Adjournment / **Stephen Strelkov**: at 1:55PM ADT by Andrea.



Appendix - CPS Financial Statements for Year End Dec. 31, 2025 /Auditor 's Report

Canadian Phytopathological Society Inc. Statement of Financial Position										
December 31	General Fund	BSPA Fund	GAL Fund	GSTA Fund	ORA Fund	OYSA Fund	GBIS Fund	JYGSS Fund	2025 Total	2024 Total
Assets										
Current										
Cash	\$ 178,788	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 178,788	\$ 84,683
Investments (Note 2)	-	21,231	10,442	20,624	11,793	9,191	11,052	23,842	108,175	104,039
Accounts receivable	44,194	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	44,194	26,855
HST rebate recoverable	11,283	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11,283	12,843
Prepaid expenses	15,463	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15,463	21,025
	249,728	21,231	10,442	20,624	11,793	9,191	11,052	23,842	357,903	249,445
Investments (Note 2)	491,767	66,308	32,610	64,411	36,831	28,706	34,517	74,461	829,611	935,372
	\$ 741,495	\$ 87,539	\$ 43,052	\$ 85,035	\$ 48,624	\$ 37,897	\$ 45,569	\$ 98,303	\$ 1,187,514	\$ 1,184,817
Liabilities and Net Assets										
Current										
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 23,261	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 23,261	\$ 22,871
Deferred revenue	12,820	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12,820	95,780
	36,081	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	36,081	118,651
Net Assets										
General Fund	705,414	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	705,414	621,481
Restricted Funds	-	87,539	43,052	85,035	48,624	37,897	45,569	98,303	446,019	444,685
	705,414	87,539	43,052	85,035	48,624	37,897	45,569	98,303	1,151,433	1,066,166
	\$ 741,495	\$ 87,539	\$ 43,052	\$ 85,035	\$ 48,624	\$ 37,897	\$ 45,569	\$ 98,303	\$ 1,187,514	\$ 1,184,817

Statement of Financial Position (p. 4, 2025 Auditor's Report)

Canadian Phytopathological Society Inc.
Statement of Operations and Changes in Fund Balances

	2025							2024	
	General Fund	BSPA Fund	GAL Fund	GSTA Fund	ORA Fund	OYSA Fund	GBIS Fund	JYGSS Fund	Total
For the year ended December 31									
Revenue									
Annual national meeting	\$ 172,469	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 172,469
CJPP (Schedule 1)	90,254	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	90,254
Information products (Schedule 2)	87,336	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	87,336
Investment income (Note 2)	22,484	2,378	1,168	2,308	1,320	1,029	1,238	2,670	34,595
Membership dues	22,225	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	22,225
Donations	-	620	-	2,890	-	-	-	50	3,560
Regional meetings	3,091	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,091
	397,859	2,998	1,168	5,198	1,320	1,029	1,238	2,720	413,530
Expenses									
Annual national meeting	183,779	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	183,779
Assistant to CPS Treasurer	27,316	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	27,316
National office and general	23,779	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	23,779
Professional fees	23,363	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	23,363
Travel	20,721	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20,721
National awards	2,125	3,400	-	3,000	-	3,437	-	4,500	16,462
Information products (Schedule 2)	14,774	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14,774
Regional meetings	9,048	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9,048
Newsletter and website	5,175	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,175
Regional awards	2,115	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,115
CJPP (Schedule 1)	1,500	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,500
Regional office and general	231	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	231
	313,926	3,400	-	3,000	-	3,437	-	4,500	328,263
Excess/(deficiency) of revenues over expenses	\$ 83,933	\$ (402)	\$ 1,168	\$ 2,198	\$ 1,320	\$ (2,408)	\$ 1,238	\$ (1,780)	\$ 85,267
Fund balances - Beginning of year	621,481	87,941	41,884	82,837	47,304	40,305	44,331	100,083	1,036,383
Fund Balances - End of year	\$ 705,414	\$ 87,539	\$ 43,052	\$ 85,035	\$ 48,624	\$ 37,897	\$ 45,569	\$ 98,303	\$ 1,151,433

Statement of Operations and Changes in Fund Balances (p. 5, 2025 Auditor's Report)

Canadian Phytopathological Society Inc.
Schedule 1
Canadian Journal of Plant Pathology

For the year ended December 31	2025	2024
Revenue		
Royalties	\$ 56,474	\$ 36,950
Author page charges	21,280	21,826
Publisher support	12,500	12,500
	<u>90,254</u>	<u>71,276</u>
Expenditures		
Editor office supplies	1,500	450
Editing and publishing	-	3,988
	<u>1,500</u>	<u>4,438</u>
	<u>\$ 88,754</u>	<u>\$ 66,838</u>

**Canadian Journal of Plant Pathology Revenue (p. 12, 2025
Auditor's Report)**

Canadian Phytopathological Society Inc.
Schedule 2
Information Products

For the year ended December 31	2025	2024
Revenue		
GEN DFCC Sponsorship	\$ 81,000	\$ -
DFCC sales	6,336	-
	<u>87,336</u>	<u>-</u>
Expenditures		
DFCC costs	13,749	97
CPDS costs	1,025	1,148
	<u>14,774</u>	<u>1,245</u>
	<u>\$ 72,562</u>	<u>\$ (1,245)</u>

Information Products Revenue (p. 13, 2025 Auditor's Report)



Ébauche du compte rendu de la 96e réunion annuelle des membres de la Société canadienne de phytopathologie/ Canadian Phytopathological Society

Canadian Phytopathological Society, Agenda for the 97h Annual Meeting of Members, 12:15 AM - 2:00 PM, June 15, 2026 (Monday) Imperial Ballroom / Société canadienne de phytopathologie, ordre du jour de la 97e assemblée annuelle des membres, 15 juin 2026 (lundi), de 12 h 15 à 14 h, à l'Imperial Ballroom

1. Mot de bienvenue de la présidente / **Maria Antonia Henriquez** : Début de l'assemblée à 12 h 35
2. Établissement du quorum / **Tom Fetch** : le quorum a été atteint, environ 50 membres
3. Moment de silence à la mémoire des membres de la SCP décédés / **Sara Stricker** : aucun membre mentionné
4. Approbation de l'ordre du jour / **Maria Antonia Henriquez** : proposée par Maria, appuyée par Ana Badea, adoptée
5. Approbation du compte rendu de la 96e AGA (2025) / **Tom Fetch** : proposée par Tom, appuyée par Tanya Copley, adoptée
6. Rapport de la présidente / **Maria Antonia Henriquez** : Remerciements à tous les membres du conseil à qui elle a demandé de monter sur la scène, remerciements à tous les membres d'assister à la réunion de la SCP de 2026, présentation des faits saillants des activités du conseil pour 2025-2026, présentation de Laila au réseautage social, des faits saillants de la RCP, des membres des comités, remarques finales sur la croissance de la SCP
7. Rapport de la trésorière / **Michelle Hubbard, Ken Conn** :
État financier et rapport de l'auditeur pour 2025-2026. Ken a présenté aux membres les états financiers, valeur totale : 1,15 M\$. Motion pour approuver le rapport par Bruce Gossen, appuyée par Gary Peng, adoptée

Nomination de l'auditeur pour 2026; utilisation des services de BDO Canada pour 2026-2027 proposée par Ken Conn, appuyée par David Joly, adoptée
8. Rapport du Comité consultatif des finances / **Gary Peng, Kenneth Conn** : Gary a indiqué que la SCP est en bon état financier; futur plan quinquennal; il a abordé les enjeux prioritaires du nouveau plan stratégique.
9. Rapport de la secrétaire aux adhésions / **Sara Stricker** : Sara a présenté les statistiques relatives aux membres, 315 membres, nombre plus faible que l'année précédente. Elle a rappelé que les étudiants doivent être membres pour être admissibles aux prix, le taux de recrutement actuel est de 12 %, accroître le nombre de membres associés de la SCP, le lieu

de la réunion a également une influence sur le taux de participation, créer une nouvelle adresse de courriel pour l'envoi de courriels, commentaires sollicités pour améliorer l'utilisation.

10. Rapport sur la Revue canadienne de phytologie / **Linda Jewell**: Linda a présenté les statistiques de la RCP, prix : Chargée de rubrique, Sabine Banniza; Rédacteur associé, Mamadou Lamine Fall; Manuscrit d'étudiant, Emilee Storfie

11. Rapport du site Web / **Michael Holtz** : Michael a fait état des modifications apportées au site Web, formulaire de commentaires sur le site Web.

12. Modifications apportées aux règlements / **Tom Fetch** : Tom a présenté les recommandations du conseil pour les modifications aux règlements. Motion proposée par Tom pour faire approuver par les membres les propositions de modification des règlements présentées, appuyée par Tanya Copley, approuvée.

13. Nomination de nouveaux membres au sein des comités permanents et thématiques / **Maria Antonia Henriquez** :

- Comité de prix : **James Tucker**
- Comité des nominations : **Coreen Franke**
- Comité consultatif des finances : **Rishi Burlakoti**
- Comité des webinaires : **Stephen Strelkov, Mindy Liu, Amy Fang Shi**
- Comité de participation étudiante de la SCP : **Laila Fawaz**

- 14. Ratification de l'adhésion des nouveaux membres du conseil / **Maria Antonia Henriquez**
- Vice-présidente : **Reem Aboukhaddour**
- Directrice adjointe : **Amy Fang Shi**

15. Installation de Stephen Strelkov à titre de président désigné / **Maria Antonia Henriquez**

16. Plaque du président remise à Maria Antonia Henriquez et mot du président entrant / **Stephen Strelkov** : Stephen a présenté la plaque à Maria, se dit impatient d'assumer la présidence de la SCP pour la prochaine année

17. Autres affaires à traiter / **Stephen Strelkov** :

- Mise à jour sur le Plan stratégique 2026-2030 de la SCP / **Dilantha Fernando** : Dilantha a présenté un diaporama sur le Plan stratégique 2026-2030, les membres des comités. Aperçu, changements futurs possibles et vision : faire progresser la phytopathologie au Canada, promotion de la recherche en début de carrière. Priorités : renforcer l'effectif chargé de la santé des végétaux, positionner la SCP en tant que porte-parole canadien de la santé des plantes, relever le défi de la résilience climatique et de la phytosanté numérique. Mettre sur pied un réseau canadien de veille sanitaire végétale, renforcer les publications, le développement professionnel et la mobilisation des connaissances de la SCP, nouer des partenariats durables et développer les capacités organisationnelles, élargir la collaboration internationale et le rôle de premier plan mondial, faire du centenaire de la SCP le catalyseur de notre renouveau et de notre croissance. Soutenir la mise en œuvre du PS (quelques exemples). La SCP peut s'appuyer sur de nombreux outils développés au cours de ses 100 ans d'histoire, risques liés

à la réussite de la mise en œuvre (bénévoles requis, autres).

- Commentaires de **Kelly Turkington** concernant les politiques de voyage d'AAC, seules 9 personnes d'AAC présentes à Halifax, la Société doit s'associer à d'autres sociétés pour envoyer un message clair à la direction d'AAC. Faire suivre au bureau du ministre.

18. Clôture de l'assemblée / **Stephen Strelkov** à 13 h 55 HAA par Andrea.



Annexe: États financiers de la SCP pour l'année se terminant le 31 décembre 2025: Rapport de l'auditeur

La Société canadienne de phytopathologie inc. État de la situation financière										
Au 31 décembre	Fonds général	FMPE	FGAC	FBDEDC	FCER	FJCE	FGBCI	FBESJY	Total de 2025	Total de 2024
Actif										
À court terme										
Trésorerie	178 788 \$	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	178 788 \$	84 683 \$
Placements (Note 2)	-	21 231	10 442	20 624	11 793	9 191	11 052	23 842	108 175	104 039
Débiteurs	44 194	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	44 194	26 855
Remboursement de TVH	11 283	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11 283	12 843
recouvrable	15 463	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15 463	21 025
Charges payées d'avance	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	249 728	21 231	10 442	20 624	11 793	9 191	11 052	23 842	357 903	249 445
Placements (Note 2)	491 767	66 308	32 610	64 411	36 831	28 706	34 517	74 461	829 611	935 372
	741 495 \$	87 539 \$	43 052 \$	85 035 \$	48 624 \$	37 897 \$	45 569 \$	98 303 \$	1 187 514 \$	1 184 817 \$
Passif et actif net										
À court terme										
Créditeurs et charges à payer	23 261 \$	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	23 261 \$	22 871 \$
Produits reportés	12 820	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12 820	95 780
	36 078	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	36 081	118 651
Actif net										
Fonds général	705 414	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	705 414	621 481
Fonds affectés	-	87 539	43 052	85 035	48 624	37 897	45 569	98 303	446 019	444 685
	705 414	87 539	43 052	85 035	48 624	37 897	45 569	98 303	1 151 433	1 066 166
	741 492 \$	87 539 \$	43 052 \$	85 035 \$	48 624 \$	37 897 \$	45 569 \$	98 303 \$	1 187 514 \$	1 184 817 \$

État de la situation financière (p. 4, Rapport de l'auditeur, 2025)

La Société canadienne de phytopathologie inc.
État des résultats et de l'évolution des soldes des fonds

Pour l'exercice terminé le 31 décembre	2025							2024	
	Fonds général	FMPE	FGAC	FBDEDC	FCER	FJCE	FGBCI	FBESJV	Total
Produits									
Assemblée générale annuelle	172 469 \$	- \$	- \$	- \$	- \$	- \$	- \$	- \$	172 469 \$
Revue canadienne de phytopathologie (Annexe 1)	90 254	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	90 254
Produits d'information (Annexe 2)	87 336	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	87 336
Produits financiers (Note 2)	22 484	2 378	1 168	2 308	1 320	1 029	1 238	2 670	34 595
Cotisations des membres	22 225	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	22 225
Dons	-	620	-	2 890	-	-	-	50	3 560
Réunions régionales	3 091	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3 091
	397 859	2 998	1 168	5 198	1 320	1 029	1 238	2 720	413 530
									533 519
Charges									
Assemblée générale annuelle	183 779	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	183 779
Adjoint du trésorier de la Société	27 316	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	27 316
Frais de bureau et frais généraux - National	23 779	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	23 779
Honoraires professionnels	23 363	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	23 363
Déplacements	20 721	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20 721
Prix nationaux	2 125	3 400	-	3 000	-	3 437	-	4 500	16 462
Produits d'information (Annexe 2)	14 774	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14 774
Réunions régionales	9 048	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9 048
Bulletin et site Web	5 175	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5 175
Prix régionaux	2 115	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2 115
Revue canadienne de phytopathologie (Annexe 1)	1 500	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1 500
Frais de bureau et frais généraux - Régional	231	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	231
	313 926	3 400	-	3 000	-	3 437	-	4 500	328 263
									503 736
Excédent (insuffisance) des produits par rapport aux charges	83 933 \$	(402) \$	1 168 \$	2 198 \$	1 320 \$	(2 408) \$	1 238 \$	(1 780) \$	85 267 \$
Soldes des fonds, au début de l'exercice	621 481	87 941	41 884	82 837	47 304	40 305	44 331	100 083	1 066 166
Soldes des fonds, à la fin de l'exercice	705 414 \$	87 539 \$	43 052 \$	85 035 \$	48 624 \$	37 897 \$	45 569 \$	98 303 \$	1 151 433 \$
									1 066 166 \$

L'état des résultats et de l'évolution des soldes de fonds (p. 5,
Rapport de l'auditeur, 2025)

La Société canadienne de phytopathologie inc.
Annexe 1
Revue canadienne de phytopathologie

Pour l'exercice terminé le 31 décembre	2025	2024
Produits		
Redevances	56 474 \$	36 950 \$
Frais de publication des auteurs	21 280	21 826
Soutien de l'éditeur	12 500	12 500
	90 254	71 276
Charges		
Fournitures de l'éditeur	1 500	450
Édition et publication	-	3 988
	1 500	4 438
	88 754 \$	66 838 \$

Revue canadienne de phytopathologie (p. 13, Rapport de l'auditeur, 2025)

La Société canadienne de phytopathologie inc.
Annexe 2
Produits d'information

Pour l'exercice terminé le 31 décembre	2025	2024
Produits		
Commandite générale du <i>Diseases of Field Crops in Canada</i>	81 000 \$	- \$
Ventes du <i>Diseases of Field Crops in Canada</i>	6 336	-
	87 336	-
Charges		
Coûts associés au <i>Diseases of Field Crops in Canada</i>	13 749	97
Coûts associés au <i>Canadian Plant Disease Survey</i>	1 025	1 148
	14 774	1 245
	72 562 \$	(1 245) \$

Produits d'information (p. 14, Rapport de l'auditeur, 2025)



CPS Award Winners and Scenes from the 2026 CPS Annual Meeting



Dr. Afsaneh Sedaghatkish (centre), recipient of the **Outstanding Young Scientist Award**, pictured with nominator **Dr. Mary Ruth McDonald** (left) and incoming CPS President **Dr. Stephen Strelkov** (right).

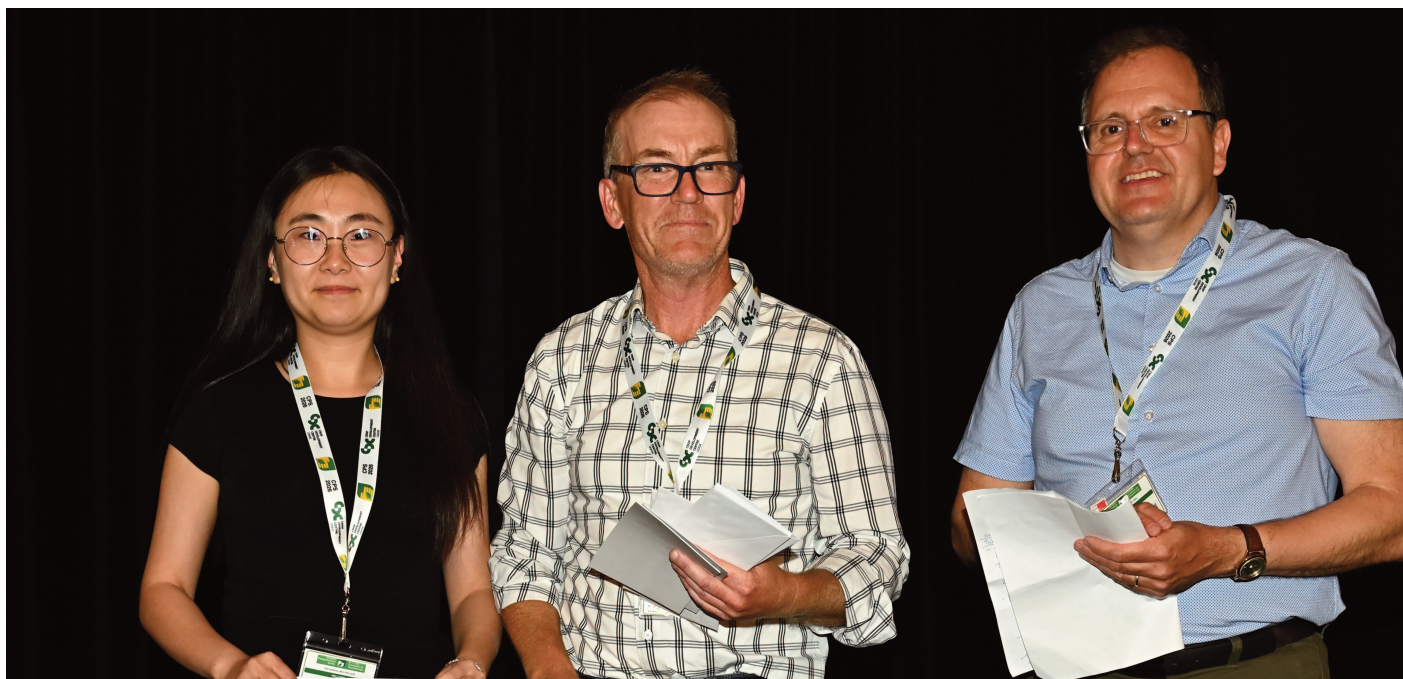
Dr. Kelly Turkington, (left), recipient of the **Achievements in Plant Disease Management Award**, pictured with incoming CPS President **Dr. Stephen Strelkov** (centre) and nominator **Dr. Brent McCallum** (right).



Dr. Mary Ruth McDonald (centre) has been named a CPS Fellow and is pictured with nominator **Dr. Bruce Gossen** (left) and incoming CPS President **Dr. Stephen Strelkov** (right).

Not pictured: Dr. Simon Shamoun, who received the Career Recognition Award.

Note: All photos by Dr. Dmytro Yevtushenko



Top photo: CPS Travel and Taylor & Francis Travel award winners **Ishraq Akbar** (left), **Bipen Karki** (2nd from left), and **Ayomi Thilakarathne** (centre), pictured with CPS Awards Committee Chair **Dr. Owen Wally** (2nd from right) and incoming CPS President **Dr. Stephen Strelkov** (right).

Lower photo: CPS Scholarship winner **Chunxiao (Rai) Yang** (left), pictured with CPS Awards Committee Chair **Dr. Owen Wally** (centre) and incoming CPS President **Dr. Stephen Strelkov** (right).

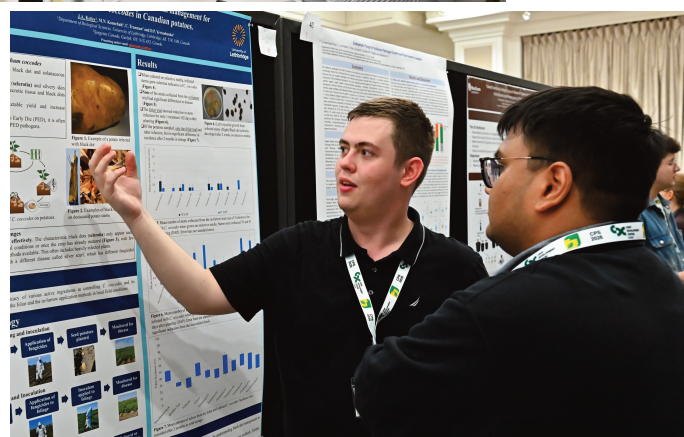
Not pictured: CPS Student Scholarship winners **Sydney Houston** and **Abdonaser Pirsalvavati**

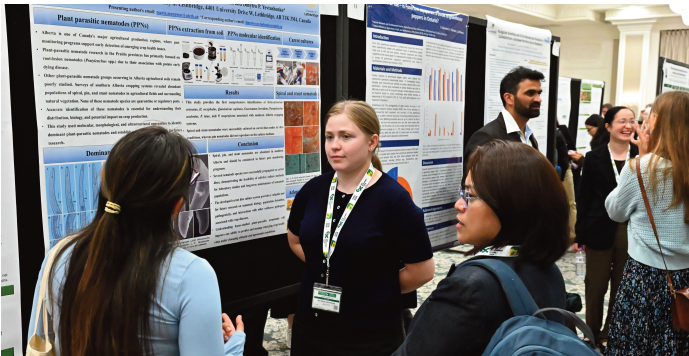


Top photo: Winners of the **CPS Student Oral and Poster Presentations**. From left: CPS Awards Committee Chair **Dr. Owen Wally** (back row), **Madeline Breton-Seguin**, **Sarah Drury**, **Ben Erickson**, **Israt Ara Hossain**, and **Catherine Fust** with incoming CPS President **Dr. Stephen Strelkov**.

Lower photo: Winners of the **CPS Education Committee's Infographic Contest**: **Amy Fang Shi** (left, 1st) and **Sarah Drury** (2nd from left), pictured with CPS Education Committee Chair **Dr. Sara Stricker** (2nd from right) and incoming CPS President **Dr. Stephen Strelkov** (right).

Not pictured:: CPS Education Committee's Infographic Contest winner Sydney Houston





List of Motions for CPS Board, July 2024 - May 2025

July 28, 2025:

Motion: to create a CPS Webinar Committee as a subject matter committee to be chaired by the CPS President with Junior and Senior Directors as members to conduct online Webinars every two-three months, open to the public. International and National speakers. Send invites to Phytopathology Societies around the world. Moved by Maria, David 2nd, motion carried 9-0.

September 4, 2025:

Motions presented but withdrawn until the October meeting.

October 16, 2025

Motion to approve the Changes to Bylaw 25 and 26. Online discussion. / **Henriquez**

- 1 Moved and updated responsibilities of the Website Editor from Bylaw 26 to the Bylaw 25.
- 2 Moved the responsibilities of the Editor in chief from Bylaw 26 to the Bylaw 25.
- 3 Deleted the Website committee from Bylaw 26.
- 4 Updated section in Membership Secretary Bylaw 25-VII-d.
- 5 Deleted section in Membership Secretary Bylaw 25-VII-J.

Moved by Maria Antonia, Secunder Steve (personal communication, online). Votes: motion carried 8-0.

Motion to delete the Subject Matter Committee "Website Committee"/ **Henriquez**

Moved by Maria Antonia, Secunder Steve (personal communication, online). Votes: motion carried 8-0.

Motion: Maria moved to remove the Ad Hoc - Symposium Workshop Committee from 1997, David 2nd, carried 8-0

Motion: to change bylaw 36(2g) to increase the amount from \$1000 to \$1500 for regional meetings by Michelle, Guillaume 2nd, vote 6-2, carried.

December 4, 2025: No motions

January 22, 2026: No motions

February 26, 2026: No motions

April 23, 2026: No motions

June 2, 2026:

Motion: that the Board approves the financial report by **Tom**, Michelle 2nd, carried



Save the date! CPS-CSA Joint Meeting 2027



Canadian Society of Agronomy
La Société Canadienne d'Agronomie

Canadian
Phytopathological
Society



La Société
Canadienne de
Phytopathologie

SAVE THE DATE!

June 6 – 10, 2027, Lethbridge, Alberta

Joint Scientific Meeting of the
Canadian Phytopathological Society and the
Canadian Society of Agronomy
at The Lethbridge Trade and Convention
Centre

Tentative Schedule of Events:

Sunday June 6: Workshops and Opening Reception

Monday June 7 – Wednesday June 9: Concurrent Science Sessions

Thursday June 10 : Field tours



Stay tuned to the [CPS website](#) and the News for further updates!



CPS Saskatchewan (CPS-SK) Regional Meeting

The Canadian Phytopathological Society –Saskatchewan (CPS-SK) Regional Meeting is coming soon!

W.P. Thompson, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon

November 9th – 10th, 2026

This year's meeting will be hosted at the University of Saskatchewan, room 106 at the W.P. Thompson building. We will host several CPS researchers and industry partners from the area of plant pathology in the Saskatchewan region; talks will include researchers, graduate students and a "new disease issue" discussion. The meeting is free of admission for CPS members. The abstract submission deadline is **October 10th, 2026**.

Please e-mail alejandra.oviedo@usask.ca for registration or to fill out the abstract submission form.



Update from the Canadian Journal of Plant Pathology: Congratulations Award Winners!

As Editor-in-Chief of the Canadian Journal of Plant Pathology (CJPP), I am pleased to announce the 2025 winners of the journal-related awards. These awards were established in 2025 to recognize the important contributions of student authors to the CJPP and the hard work of the CJPP's editorial team.

- **Emilee Storfie** has won the 2025 Student Manuscript of the Year for her manuscript entitled, "Collection and identification of *Plasmodiophora brassicae* pathotypes from western Canada in 2021–2023." The authors of this manuscript are Emilee Storfie, Victor P. Manolii, Yoann Aigu, Andrea Botero-Ramirez, Michael W. Harding, Sheau-Fang Hwang, and Stephen E. Strelkov.
- **Sabine Banniza** has won the 2025 Section Editor of the Year
- **Mamadou Lamine Fall** has won the 2025 Associate Editor of the Year

Thank you to the editorial board and reviewers who collectively volunteer hundreds of hours of their time to the CJPP, and thank you also to all authors who have contributed manuscripts to the CJPP. Our journal is a significant source of pride and revenue to the society, and it would not be possible without all of your contributions!

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Jewell, Editor-in-Chief, Canadian Journal of Plant Pathology



CPS Education Committee: Infographic Contest Winners

The CPS Education Committee is pleased to share the winners of the 2026 Infographic Contest:

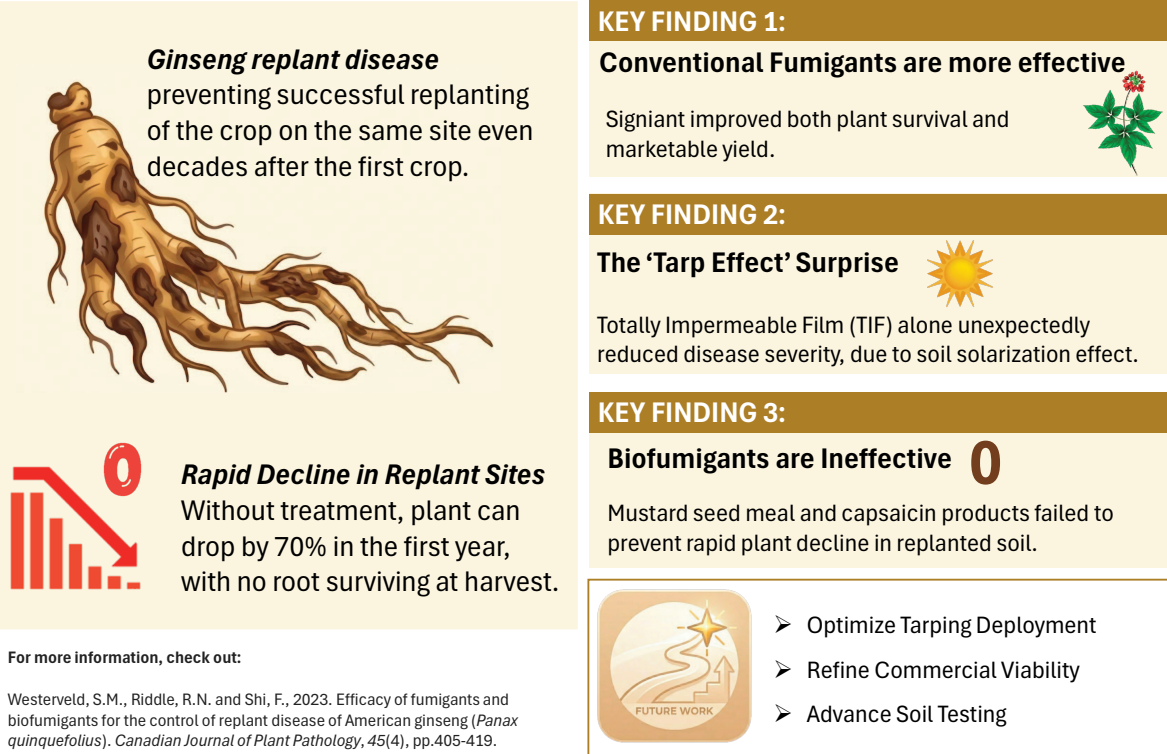
First place: **Amy Fang Shi** - Ginseng replant disease

Second place: **Sydney Houston** - White pine blister rust

Third place: **Sarah Drury** - Botrytis of grapes

Thank you to all who participated!

Efficacy of fumigants and biofumigants for the control of replant disease of American ginseng (*Panax quinquefolius*)



Amy Fang Shi's 1st place infographic

WESTERN WHITE PINE & BLISTER RUST

Using DNA to protect Canada's five-needle pines

Problem

White pine blister rust, caused by the fungus *Cronartium ribicola*, spreads across Canada and infects five-needle pines, causing **up to 95% tree mortality** in affected forests

Why this matters

Five-needle pines are **highly vulnerable**, allowing the disease to spread widely and persist for decades. **Resistant trees are rare**, so **rapid identification is critical** for restoration.

Solution

Rather than waiting years for resistance testing, researchers can use **DNA markers linked to the Cr2 gene to identify resistant trees faster**

RESISTANT



SUSCEPTIBLE

For more information check out this paper!

Liu et al., 2020. Can. J. Plant Pathol. 42: 250-259.
doi:10.1080/07060661.2019.1638454

Discovery

DNA markers **accurately identified resistant and susceptible trees** across British Columbia, with **over 99% agreement** between methods and **100% accuracy for one marker**

Future direction

DNA testing quickly identifies **blister rust resistance**, speeding up **restoration and breeding** of resistant five-needle pines. Future work will combine **multiple resistance traits** for **longer-lasting protection**.

Botrytis Bunch Rot of Grapevine

Management in a Northern Climate



Botrytis bunch rot (BBR)

BBR in grapevine is caused by the fungal pathogen, *Botrytis cinerea*. BBR can cause harvest losses of 15-60%. BBR can also alter the organoleptic qualities of wine, including colour and taste.

Management in northern climates

In northern climates, *B. cinerea* overwinters as sclerotia under grapevine bark, in diseased berries, or in plant debris. Conidia disseminate in the spring and infection occurs between 10-30°C when plant organs are wet.

Management challenges

Synthetic fungicides are the main BBR management strategy; however, alternatives are needed due to **rising fungicide resistance**.

Integrated pest management (IPM)

A combination of BBR management strategies can be used to minimize the use of fungicides and keep levels of BBR below the economic threshold.

IPM strategy for BBR in northern climates

An IPM strategy incorporating trash management (removing infected bunches), leaf removal, application of synthetic fungicides at fixed intervals, and application of the biocontrol agent, Botector kept BBR below an **economic threshold of 5%**.

For more information:

Carisse, O. and Van der Heyden, H. 2025. Knowledge-based integrated management of Botrytis Bunch Rot of grapevine caused by *Botrytis cinerea* in a northern climate. PhytoFrontiers. 5:418-428.

Top: Sydney Houston's 2nd place infographic

Below: Sarah Drury's 3rd place infographic



People

Congratulations to Recent University of Alberta Graduates!

Congratulations to **Emilee Storfie** and **Dilini Adihetty** on receiving their PhD degrees, and to **Xinlong Dong** on receiving his MSc degree from the University of Alberta on June 11, 2026. Emilee has recently begun a Postdoctoral Fellowship at the University of Alberta, where she is continuing research on clubroot disease of canola and other pathosystems. Dilini is currently a Research Associate at Western Crop Innovations in Lacombe, Alberta, where she conducts applied cereal disease research to support crop production across the Prairies. Xinlong has joined BASF as a Canola Research Associate in Ardrossan, Alberta, where he conducts field operations for chemical efficacy trials. Congratulations to all three on these significant accomplishments and best wishes for continued success in their careers!

Submitted by Sheau-Fang Hwang and Stephen Strelkov



Emilee Storfie, Xinlong Dong and Dilini Adihetty (in academic gowns, left to right) with Professors **Stephen Strelkov** (far left), **Sheau-Fang Hwang** (second from left), and **Rudolph Fredua-Agyeman** (far right), following their convocation at the University of Alberta.



Congratulations to Victor Manolii and George Turnbull on Their Retirement!

Congratulations to Victor Manolii and George Turnbull on their retirement from Plant Pathology at the University of Alberta!

Victor began his career working on the agronomy of maize crops in Moldova. After moving to Canada, he joined the University of Alberta in 2005, working with Dr. Stephen Strelkov. During his time at the University of Alberta, Victor took an active role in surveying for clubroot in canola crops across Alberta. He was also extensively involved in field and greenhouse trials to identify and evaluate sources of resistance to the disease. When resistance-breaking pathotypes of clubroot were identified in 2013, he conducted much of the pathotyping work to characterize new isolates collected across the province. Victor and George worked closely together for many years and dedicated considerable time to mentoring graduate and summer students in field and greenhouse techniques. Victor is looking forward to spending more time with his family in the years ahead.

George began his career in plant pathology doing seasonal fieldwork with Dr. Prem Kharbanda on root rot and blackleg of canola at the Alberta Environmental Centre. While working there, he was encouraged by Dr. Sheau-Fang Hwang to pursue an MSc in Plant Pathology at the University of Saskatchewan under the supervision of Dr. Bruce Gossen. After graduating, he was hired as a technician with Dr. Hwang at the Alberta Research Council, where he worked from 1993 to 2006. In 2006, he joined Dr. Hwang at Alberta Agriculture to develop management strategies for canola clubroot and blackleg. He was instrumental in establishing a clubroot nursery at Alberta Agriculture, which he used to screen canola cultivars for resistance to clubroot and to investigate management practices for mitigating the disease. In 2021, George moved to part-time work at the University of Alberta under the co-supervision of Dr. Hwang and Dr. Stephen Strelkov, where he established field experiments and assisted with data analysis.

George has now retired to a farm east of Wainwright, where he enjoys landscaping, gardening, and spending time with friends and family.

We wish Victor and George all the best in their retirements and thank them for their many years of contributions to plant pathology, canola disease research, and the training and mentorship of the next generation of researchers!

Prepared by Sheau-Fang Hwang & Stephen Strelkov



Top: George Turnbull (left) and Victor Manolii (right) wearing the U of A toques and scarves presented to them at their retirement celebration at the University Faculty Club on June 8, 2026.

Congratulations to George and Victor on their retirement!

Bottom: George Turnbull (third from right, front row) and Victor Manolii (sixth from right, front row) with members of the Plant Pathology group at their retirement celebration at the University of Alberta.



Young Scientists' Corner

Vinuri Weerasinghe
University of Manitoba



I am a Ph.D. student in the Department of Plant Science at the University of Manitoba. Born and raised Sri Lanka, my appreciation for my home country's rich biodiversity inspired my early research in lichen symbiosis during my undergraduate studies. My passion for microbiology and molecular biology led me to investigate the antimicrobial properties of lichen-associated fungi, setting the stage for my master's degree at the University of Manitoba (2022–2024).

Co-supervised by Dr. Dilantha Fernando and Dr. Champa Wijekoon, along with many mentors from the University of Manitoba and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC), my M.Sc. thesis examined the bacterial endophytes and microbiome of barley infected with *Fusarium* Head Blight (FHB). Our research investigated how FHB alters the endophytic microbiome, whether native microbiomes influence disease resistance or susceptibility, and how novel bacterial endophytes can serve as biocontrol agents against FHB. This work resulted in two peer-reviewed publications.

In 2025, I transitioned into my Ph.D. program in Dr. Fernando's lab, shifting my focus toward Bacterial Leaf Streak (BLS) disease in wheat—a re-emerging threat in Canadian agriculture. My current research explores BLS resistance in wheat, pathogen dynamics across time and space, biological control agents for BLS including mechanisms, and host-pathogen-antagonist interactions. To bridge the gap between lab findings and real-world applications, my doctoral research incorporates extensive field trials alongside greenhouse and laboratory experiments.

Active participation in the Canadian Phytopathological Society (CPS) conferences has been instrumental in my growth as a young scientist, providing a platform to share my findings and learn from peers. My research has been recognized through several academic honors, including the CPS awards. I'm a proud recipient of the University of Manitoba Graduate Fellowship and the Evolution of Fungal Pathogens (EvoFunPath) fellowship as well. Beyond the lab, I am committed to science communication and outreach. I have served as a Teaching Assistant at the University of Manitoba and volunteered in various academic and community outreach programs with organizations such as Agriculture in the Classroom Manitoba (AITC-MB). Driven by a passion for discovery and collaborative research, I look forward to continuing to translate fundamental scientific insights into practical agricultural solutions.



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.

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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 (7) July 2026

- Global Plant Health Assessment – Workshop to be held in Rome in November
- How strawberries were ambushed by fungal parasites
- Associated Societies of ISPP are invited to present bids to host the 14th International Congress of Plant Pathology, ICPP2032
- Ancient water moulds that were already devastating plants 330 million years ago
- Nitric oxide overload jams plant immune signals

- Biocontrol of rice blast by *Pseudomonas mosselii* PR5 through seed priming and foliar application reduces reliance on chemical pesticides
- When microbes cooperate, crops win
- Integrating satellite remote sensing and artificial intelligence for the presymptomatic detection of crop diseases and nutrient deficiencies
- University Distinguished Professor Jan Leach awarded honorary doctorate from University of Montpellier
- Current Vacancies
- Acknowledgements
- Coming Events

ISPP Newsletter 56 (8) August 2026

- Prof. Angelo Garibaldi, 1938-2026
- Associated Societies of ISPP are invited to present bids to host the 14th International Congress of Plant Pathology, ICPP2032
- Dictionary of Plant Pathology
- Genome evolution in plant pathogenic bacteria
- Demonstrating carbon transfer through underground fungal networks in plants

- Scientists solve 50-year mystery of plant immunity by unlocking debneyol's blueprint
 - Bacterial wilt in melon caused by a complex of novel pathogens
 - Microscopic atlas reveals how citrus Huanglongbing disease progresses through trees
 - Current Vacancies
 - Acknowledgements
 - Coming Events
- ISPP Newsletter 56 (9) September 2026**
- ICPP2028 call for symposium and satellite meeting proposals now open
 - Obituary of Ralf Lopian, 1957-2026
 - Soil pathobiome in agroecosystems and forests
 - Primed and ready to fight: A nematode pheromone arms plants to battle pathogens
 - Fighting the invisible invaders: How ViroiDoc safeguards our crops from viroids
 - Fungi utilise ancient antimicrobial proteins to attack hosts and their microbiomes
 - Soil as a battlefield and a reservoir: Linking soil components to the epidemiology of soilborne plant diseases
 - 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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Submission Deadline for the December 2026 Issue of CPS-SCP News

PLEASE NOTE: The submission deadline for the December 2026 issue of CPS-SCP News is **November 27, 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.

