



# Canadian Society of Agronomy *La Société Canadienne d'Agronomie*

CSA Newsletter

January 2019

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*Fellow CSA members,*

This year (2019) is the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of The Canadian Society of Agronomy. The idea of a common platform for Canadian agronomists was conceived in 1919 in western Canada ([AgronomyCanada.com](http://AgronomyCanada.com)). The society was formed with the aim of providing a platform for networking, external relations and awareness (agriculture in general with specific emphasis on agronomy) and internal communications and coordination. In the last ten years, the society has evolved bringing about novel agricultural research and educational tools delivered to its members through an annual conference, newsletter and journal. I have been a proud member of the society for the last ten years and am currently serving as your President. My responsibility is to oversee the society's mission by promoting its cause through consultation with CSA executive and its members.

I am sure you all are aware of the CSA's activities and membership benefits. Every year the society holds an annual meeting/symposia either individually or jointly with other scientific societies. In 2018, the annual meeting was organized in collaboration with the American Society of Agronomy (ASA) and the Crop Science Society of America (CSSA). This year, CSA will join six other Canadian plant science societies to hold a joint meeting in Guelph - July 7-10, 2019. We are all looking forward to this important event. As always, CSA members can obtain discounted registration rates! In addition, CSA along with other societies such as Canadian Society for Horticultural Science (CSHS), and the Canadian Weed Science Society (CWSS) publish a scientific journal, the Canadian journal of Plant Science (CJPS) through a non-profit publisher, Canadian Science Publishing (CSP). Members receive a discount and pay three times less than non- members.

CSA also recognizes its members with many different awards ([agronomycanada.com/awards/](http://agronomycanada.com/awards/)) including "Best CJPS paper", "Early Career Agronomists", "CSA Fellow Award", and "Distinguished Service Award". I encourage all of you to participate by nominating deserving candidates. CSA inspires graduate students with "Graduate Student Pest Management Award" and through graduate travel awards and presentation awards (poster & oral). CSA keeps members informed through email blasts, newsletters, the website and now through social media (Facebook, @agronomycanada).

All the growth in this society is attributable to its motivational members. Without them, this society would never flourish. In the past few years, membership in various societies including ours are on a decline. I fully understand that there are many new organizations competing for your membership dollars and being a member of every organization is sometimes difficult. The CSA executive is working hard to come up with new solutions and extended benefits for the members. Please have your say by providing the CSA executive with your ideas to make CSA more prominent in the changing agricultural landscape. We all agree that integration of the field agronomy research with fundamental laboratory research is of utmost importance. Let us work together and promote our mission through maintaining and stimulating membership! I encourage you to maintain your membership and motivate others to become members as well. Best wishes for a happy new year filled with health, happiness and prosperity!

Sincerely,

Jaswinder Singh



## 2019 Award Applications

The CSA is now accepting applications for the 2019 CSA graduate student awards. The deadline for nominations is **April 15, 2019**.

The available awards include:

- 1. Student Travel Award**  
Maximum of \$500 available to 3 graduate students to attend the CSA Annual General Meeting.
- 2. Pest Management Award**  
An award of \$500 available to a graduate student enrolled at a Canadian University with research programs relevant to pest management. The award is accompanied by a travel grant of up to \$1,000 to attend the CSA Annual General Meeting and present on his/her research project.
- 3. Student Presentation and Poster Awards**  
A number of awards are awarded at the CSA Annual General Meeting for the best oral and poster presentations given by graduate student members. The awards are presented after an assessment conducted by a panel of judges. Up to \$2,000.00 is awarded for graduate student oral and poster presentations.

You must be a member of CSA to apply for the above awards. Further information including nomination guidelines can be found on our website at [agronomycanada.com](http://agronomycanada.com) under awards.

## Nominations for 2019 Awards

The CSA is now accepting nominations for the 2019 CSA awards. The deadline for nominations is **April 15, 2019**.

The available awards include:

- 1. Early Career Agronomist**  
The candidate will have made an outstanding contribution to Agronomy and be within 10 years of starting his/her career or within 10 years of earning his/her last degree.
- 2. CSA Fellow**  
The candidate must have a distinguished record of service in any field of agronomy. the recipient of a Fellowship Award will be named "Fellow of the Canadian Society of Agronomy".
- 3. Distinguished Service Award**  
The candidate must have 15 years or regular membership and a distinguished record of service to the CSA and in the field of agronomy.

Nominations for the above awards can be made by any active member of CSA who has had continuous active membership in CSA for at least five years. A member may nominate only one person for each award in a given year. Further information including nomination guidelines can be found on our website at [agronomycanada.com](http://agronomycanada.com) under awards.

## Nominations for 2019-2020 CSA Executive

The CSA is now accepting nominations for the 2019-2020 CSA Executive. The deadline for nominations is **April 15, 2019**.

The open positions are below:

1. President-Elect
2. Western Director
3. Eastern Director

Nominations for the CSA Executive can be made by any active member of CSA. Please email your nominations to [nzubriski@gmail.com](mailto:nzubriski@gmail.com) by April 15, 2019.

## Have Your Say and Be Eligible for a Free CSA Membership

Thank you to all members of the CSA for their support through membership in the society.

In order to continue to provide membership benefits that offer value we are asking members and potential members to complete a brief survey. Your answers will help us improve the association activities and membership benefits. To say thank you, we'll be offering everyone who completes the survey the chance to win a one-year membership in the CSA. In total, 8 memberships will be awarded - 4 regular and 4 student memberships. The draw will take place at the 2019 CSA Annual General Meeting July 7-10, 2019.

We would like to acknowledge and thank Dr. Tarlok Singh Sahota, CSA's 2018 Fellow, who has generously offered to donate his award back to the CSA to be used for membership.

To complete the survey copy and paste the link below into your browser.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/P5ZTR8V>

## Meet the 2018 CSA Fellow



Dr. Tarlok Singh Sahota, Director Lakehead University Agricultural Research Station (LUARS) Thunder Bay since May 2018 (formerly Director of Research and Business, Thunder Bay Agricultural Research Station (TBARS), Thunder Bay, Ontario), has been heading the Research Station since January 2004. As a result of Dr. Sahota's development oriented research and public outreach, area producers adopted several new crops/crop varieties and beneficial nutrient management practices, diversified and expanded their operations and initiated new small scale commercial activities such as a stone grinding flour mill and a canola crushing plant; with resultant improvement in rural economy. Originally

from a family farm, Dr. Sahota has Master's and Doctorate degrees in agronomy with distinction, from the famous Punjab Agricultural University (PAU) Ludhiana, India.

Dr. Sahota has undertaken International Course for Development Oriented Research in Agriculture (ICRA), Wageningen, The Netherlands (7 months course meant for young agricultural professionals). He has 40 years' experience in agricultural research, extension and development spread over four continents and 12 organizations. Highlights of his career include establishment of a 10101 acre commercially viable contract mint farming program for A. M. Todd Company USA and management of large scale commercial farms in Nigeria, including a fresh produce export project. Dr. Sahota was an invited member of an International Panel for the Second External Review of ICRA, The Netherlands and has worked in multinational and multidisciplinary teams. He has also served on the Board of Directors of (i) Indo-Israel Lab Ltd. Baroda, India (1996-97) - a commercial organization, marketing agricultural inputs, (ii) the CSA for six years (2012-2017; three years as an Eastern Director and one year each as President Elect, President and Past President) and (iii) Plant Canada (2016 and 2017). Dr. Sahota is the winner of the Fellow of Canadian Society of Agronomy (CSA) Award 2018 and an Award of Honour by the Alumni Association, PAU Ludhiana, India (2015). Dr. Sahota was nominated for the CCA Award of Excellence in 2013 and 2017 and for the RBC Innovation Award in 2015. He has several other awards and honors to his credit. Dr. Sahota has worked with farmers all through his 40 years career. He has been an Ontario Certified Crop Advisor (CCA) in good standing since 2007. He has published over 200 extension articles in Ontario and has made over 60 research presentations at Canadian Society of Agronomy (CSA), Plant Canada, American Society of Agronomy, and farmers' conferences in Ontario/Canada and USA in the recent past (total over 550 publications to date). He has often been invited by the Industry and Universities (outside Canada) for presentations of his farmers focused research results. Dr. Sahota has been a member of the CSA and the American Society of Agronomy for over a decade and a member of OSCIA for nearly 20 years!

Since 1993, Dr. Sahota has held senior management positions in six organizations and has headed multimillion dollar projects/divisions. Dr. Sahota is also an Adjunct Professor with the Faculty of Natural Resources Management, Lakehead University, Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada since 2013.

## Meet the 2018 CSA Distinguished Agronomist



Yousef Papadopoulos (Ph.D., M.B.A., P.Ag.) is a Research Scientist with Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada and Adjunct Professor at Dalhousie University and Saint Mary's University working in Truro, Kentville and Nappan Nova Scotia. For over 30 years, Dr. Papadopoulos has conducted extensive research on forage breeding and pasture management, focusing most of his attention on improving the genetics of forage species and their varieties while increasing the utilization

of forage crops in modern cropping systems. Dr. Papadopoulos has conducted extensive research on breeding strategies to: expand the adaptation of grass and legume species to climate change; increase long-term persistence; reduce nitrogen fertilizer requirement, leaching and emission; increase pasture biodiversity; and development of forage cultivars for novel applications. Dr. Papadopoulos has commercialized seven forage cultivars and is currently in the process of releasing six new grass and legume cultivars.



Dr. Sahota (Left), Dr. Deen (Centre) and Dr. Papadopoulos (Right) at 2018 CSA AGM.

## 2018 Graduate Student Presentation and Poster Awards

At each annual meeting, the Canadian Society of Agronomy provides awards for the best oral and poster presentations given by student members. These awards are given to acknowledge the contributions that graduate students make to the society and to encourage excellence in graduate student research and presentation.

At the 2018 ASA-CSSA-CSA annual meetings in Baltimore, judges assessed 5 student presentations for their scientific merit, content and presentation style.

In the category of 15 minute oral presentations, first prize (\$750) was awarded to Cameron Ogilvie MSc. Student at the University of Guelph, for his presentation: "Can Service Crop Mixtures Improve Crop Water Supply and Avoid the Set Backs of Cereal Rye Monocultures?". Second prize (\$500) was awarded to Caleb Niemeyer, MSc. Student at the University of Guelph for his presentation "Improving Maize N Fertilizer Recommendations Using Rainfall Effects on N Demand".

In the category of Poster/5-Minute Rapid Oral presentations, first prize (\$500) was awarded to Amy Mangin, PhD student at the University of Manitoba for her 5-minute rapid oral presentation: "Nitrogen Management of Spring Wheat in Manitoba". Second prize (\$250) was awarded to Amy Mangin for her poster presentation: "Agronomic Management to Reduce Lodging Risk for Spring Wheat in Western Canada".

We would like to thank Jaswinder Singh, Mumtaz Cheema and Sheri Strydhorst for judging the student presentations at the 2018 meeting.

## Report on Germplasm Symposium at 2018 CSA AGM

The 2018 Canadian Society of Agronomy meeting was held in partnership with the American Society of Agronomy and the Crop Science Society of America joint conference in Baltimore MD, from November 4 to 7. The conference theme was 'Enhancing Productivity in a Changing Climate'. Over the four days there were more than 300 symposia, oral, and poster sessions held, as well as, dozens of training and networking sessions, bringing together approximately 4,000 researchers and students from industry, government agencies, and academic institutions.

The CSA hosted a symposium entitled "Germplasm Exchange and the Future of Plant Breeding" on the final afternoon of the meeting. The session was designed to address the questions that many plant breeders have around the impact of the recent changes to Plant Breeders' rights in both Canada and the United States as both countries ratified and are starting to implement the 1991 International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants Convention, typically known as UPOV'91. In Canada, the 2015 Agricultural Growth Act included amendments to the Plant Breeders' Rights Act that updated the rules and protection of plant breeders' rights to align with the UPOV'91 Convention. The updates of UPOV'91 extend the scope of plant breeders' rights with impacts on importing and exporting protected varieties and increase the scope of royalty collection. While this does not specifically address germplasm sharing, it does have the potential to change the way institutions will agree to germplasm exchanges and potentially increase the level of complexity of royalty agreements.

The CSA invited four speakers to explore this topic from various points of view. Dr. Jose M. Costa, a National Program Leader for Plant Genetics and Grain Crops at USDA-ARS, spoke on the "FAO International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture: USDA Perspective". Dr. Tom Michaels, Professor of Horticultural Science at the University of Minnesota focused on breeding dry edible beans and specialty crops for organic, urban and local production systems, and spoke on "Open Access Germplasm" in a talk entitled: "Sharing With Others". Mark de Wit, a Senior Examiner from the Canadian Plant Breeders' Rights Office spoke from their perspective on "Access to Plant Genetic Resources: The Interrelationship between the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and UPOV". And Dr Kofi Agblor, the Managing Director of the Crop Development Centre of the University of Saskatchewan spoke on "Germplasm Exchange and Its Role in Plant Breeding - a Canadian Context". The session was well attended and generated a lot of discussion particularly for Canadian plant breeders.

More information on the meetings can be found at

<https://scisoc.confex.com/scisoc/2018am/meetingapp.cgi/>

## Meet the 2019 CSA Executive



### **President, Jaswinder Singh**

Dr. Jaswinder Singh is currently an Associate Professor in the Department of Plant Science, McGill University, Canada. Dr. Singh received his PhD from the University of Sydney and CSIRO Plant Industry, Canberra Australia and did his postdoctoral studies at the University of California Berkeley, U.S.A. His research focuses on the enhancement of quality traits, stress tolerance and bioenergy capability of crop plants using modern genomic, molecular breeding and biotechnological tools. Dr. Singh is an internationally recognized innovator in the use of transposon tagging in cereal crops. His findings have shown for the first time the reversal of epigenetic silencing in plants. Recently, his laboratory discovered a key

gene that acts as a switch to determine how a particular plant responds to high humidity and excess rainfall. The research opens up a new epigenetic-based direction for exploration of seed dormancy and Pre Harvest Sprouting (PHS). He has delivered 47 invited talks in international meetings and renowned academic institutes. He has published over 48 research articles in high impact peer reviewed journals, books and conference proceedings. He also presented his research at prestigious conferences and published 78 abstracts. Additionally, he is actively involved in teaching plant breeding, plant biotechnology, genetics, plant biology courses, training graduate students, postdoctoral fellows and lab assistants. To date, he has trained 44 researchers, which include undergraduate, technicians, graduate students and PhDs. Beside this, he is an editor for two international journals (Canadian Journal of Plant Science, PLOS ONE) and a reviewer for numerous granting agencies. He is honored to serve as panel member for various national and international funding organizations including US Department of Energy, and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. He has served as Eastern Director of Canadian Society of Agronomy (2010-2012), executive member of International Committee of the American Society of Plant Biologists (2012-15) and executive committee member of International Association of Plant Biotechnology- Canada (2013-2014). He is currently a member of Gleb Krotkov award committee of the Canadian Society of Plant Biologists. In addition, he has successfully co-chaired two prestigious conferences (Canadian Plant Biotechnology -2014 and CSA-CSHS -2016) in Montreal.



### **President-Elect, Sheri Strydhorst**

Sheri Strydhorst is a cereal agronomic research scientist, Livestock and Crops Research Branch, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, Barrhead, Alberta. Her work focuses on enhancing the profitability and competitiveness of Canadian agricultural crop producers. Her research program centres on maximizing the genetic potential of cultivars by using cultivar specific agronomic management. She is also an adjunct professor at the University of Alberta - Department of Agricultural, Food and Nutritional Science Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences. Sheri Strydhorst was raised in St. Albert, Alberta, but now farms with her husband, Shane in Neerlandia, Alberta.

## Meet the 2019 CSA Executive (continued)

### **President-Elect, Sheri Strydhorst (continued)**

She completed her BSc, MSc and PhD at the University of Alberta. Her MSc work centered on developing agronomic practices for low tannin faba bean production and her PhD studied rotational benefits of pulse crops. She then worked as the Executive Director for the Alberta Pulse Growers Commission. Sheri returned to agronomic research in 2013 where her research activities focused on cereal crop agronomy. She works on advanced agronomic practices including: nitrogen fertility, plant growth regulators and foliar fungicides. Her most interesting work involves studying different responses of these agronomic practices on various wheat cultivars. Sheri Strydhorst focuses on extension of her applied research so that it can be implemented on-farm. She has strong partnerships with industry and is currently collaborating with SeCan and Syngenta. Sheri authored or co-authored 11 peer-reviewed papers and has made over 100 invited presentations at producer meetings. Currently she co-supervises a graduate student, sits on 2 graduate student committees and serves as an external examiner for numerous graduate student defenses. She is a member of the Canadian Society of Agronomy (CSA) and American Society of Agronomy (ASA). She has been a member of the organizing committee for CSA annual meetings in 2014, 2015 and 2018.



### **Secretary-Treasurer, Douglas Cattani**

Doug has been involved primarily with perennial horticultural, forage and now perennial grain and oilseed crops over the past 30 years. I completed my undergraduate and Masters degrees at the University of Manitoba and PhD at Wageningen University, the Netherlands. I have been employed in academia, government and private industry and have worked in both Canada and the United States. I am currently an Assistant Professor at the University of Manitoba with teaching responsibilities at the diploma, undergraduate and graduate levels in the areas of genetics and breeding and agronomy of forage production. The areas of research that I am currently involved in are: herbaceous perennial crop development and agronomy (food, feed and forage); genetics as related to perennial crops;

plant developmental morphology as it relates to both crop establishment and productivity; seed production and quality of herbaceous perennial crops; and the utilization of herbaceous perennials in the both agricultural and non-agricultural environments. I am also interested in the utilization of native plant materials for agricultural purposes, both as food crops and for ancillary purposes (e.g. N<sub>2</sub>-fixation). I have been involved with the Invasive Species Council of Manitoba since 2008 and am currently the vice-chair for 2016-2017. I was formerly the community leader (2013-2014) for the Perennial Grains community of the Global Agronomy section of the American Society of Agronomy. I believe in strong professional societies to foster professional development, for networking and to provide for the development of the next generation of agricultural professionals in Canada.

## Meet the 2019 CSA Executive (continued)



### **Past-President, Helen Booker**

Helen Booker is a flax breeder developing cultivars for production in Western Canada. Her research program centres on understanding the genetics of traits of economic importance in flax. She co-developed a course on Tropical Crops of the World and coordinates a course on Global Plant Genetic Resources. Helen Booker was raised in Southern Ontario. She received a BSc and an MSc from the University of Guelph and a PhD in plant science from the University of the West Indies, and completed a post-doctoral fellowship at Canada's seed bank, Plant Gene Resources Canada (PGRC), Saskatoon Research Centre (AAFC). She then worked as a Research Associate in Cereal Breeding at the University of Alberta. Her move to the University of Saskatchewan in 2009 brought the opportunity to apply her training in plant breeding and experience with other self-pollinating crop plants (legumes and wheat) to the only university-based flax breeding program in Canada. Helen Booker as co-breeder with Gordon Rowland has released five new flax cultivars, including CDC Glas (registered in 2012), CDC Neela (registered in 2013), CDC Plava (first Northern Adapted variety; registered in 2015), and CDC Melyn (first high omega-3 yellow linseed variety) and CDC Buryu (both registered in 2016). Moreover, she coordinates regional pre-registration and Saskatchewan provincial variety testing for flax. Helen has authored or co-authored 19 published peer-reviewed papers, 2 published cultivar descriptions, and contributed to a book chapter. Since 2013, she has worked as an associate editor for the Canadian Journal of Plant Sciences. She has been a member of the Canadian Society of Agronomy (CSA) since 2010 and was the Western Director CSA 2012-14. She was also on the committee for CSA Awards in 2013. She holds the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture (SMA) Strategic Research Program (SRP) Chair for the Flax Program and, since her appointment, has served as a director at large on the Board of the Flax Council of Canada (FCC) and as a Scientific Advisor to the SaskFlax Development Commission (SFDC).



### **Western Director, Harpinder Randhawa**

Harpinder Randhawa is a spring wheat and triticale breeder working at Lethbridge Research and Development Centre, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. His prime focus of research is to develop spring wheat cultivars that have better agronomic performance, excellent end use quality and resistance to various biotic and abiotic stresses in western Canada. He has developed eight high yielding spring wheat cultivars and co-developed four high yielding triticale cultivars for general production in western Canada. Dr. Randhawa's Wheat Breeding program is funded through a unique P4 partnership involving Alberta Wheat Commission, Canterra Seeds and AAFC. His other research interests include the identification of new sources of disease resistance in wheat, genetic mapping of important traits, doubled haploid production, and developing new breeding tools to enhance efficiencies. His passion for wheat breeding developed during his childhood while he grew up and worked alongside his parents on the family farm in Punjab.

## Meet the 2019 CSA Executive (continued)

### Western Director, Harpinder, Randhawa (continued)

He obtained his B.Sc Agriculture (Hons) in 1990 and M.Sc with a specialization in Plant Breeding in 1993 from Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana. In 1994, he was appointed as Assistant Rice breeder at the Punjab Agricultural University where he was part of a team whose objective was to develop high yielding cultivars of rice. He completed his PhD in Plant Science at the University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Canada in 2002 and then worked as a post-doctoral Fellow at the Washington State University, Pullman, USA. Dr. Randhawa focused his research to develop new wheat genomics tools, novel strategies for rapid introgression of traits using marker assisted backcrossing, genetic and physical mapping of agronomically important traits in wheat and eventually developing improved wheat cultivars. Since 2007, Dr. Randhawa has been working as a spring wheat and triticale breeder with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada at the Lethbridge Research Centre, Alberta.



### Western Director, Laurel Thompson

Laurel Thompson is an agronomic research scientist in Northeast Alberta. Her work focuses on agronomic solutions to increase cereal production and profitability, and has recently grown to include pulse crop research. Laurel explores interactions between cereal genetics, agronomic management practices, and the environment to assist producers in making targeted agronomic decisions. She has also taught the fungicide physiology component of the PISc 470 undergraduate course at the University of Alberta since 2016, and she provides teaching support for faculty in the Crop Technology program at Lakeland College. Laurel

Thompson was raised in Slave Lake, AB, and now farms grain and cattle with her husband, Duncan, in Mannville, AB. She completed her BSc and MSc at the University of Alberta. Her MSc work centered on assessing advanced agronomic practices for maximizing feed barley production, and on the interactions between feed barley genetics, advanced agronomic management, and the environment. She began her role as Research Scientist at Lakeland College in the spring of 2016, where she led the development of a brand new small-plot research program there. The program grew quickly from 300 plots in 2016 to 1,500 plots in 2018. Since 2016, Laurel has developed the new research program to include cereal and pulse agronomy and varietal performance, and a strong extension component to local crop producers and industry. Recently, her work has focused on wheat and malt barley responses to various mixtures of plant growth regulators. Laurel Thompson has developed strong partnerships both university and government researchers, and with industry. Current industry collaborators include Mosaic, Syngenta, SeCan, Engage Agro, and Anuvia. Laurel is the lead author on 3 peer-reviewed papers and is a member of the Canadian Society of Agronomy (CSA) and American Society of Agronomy (ASA).

## Meet the 2019 CSA Executive (continued)



### **Eastern Director, Mumtaz Cheema**

Dr. Mumtaz Cheema is currently serving as Associate Professor agronomy in the School of Science and Environment, Grenfell Campus Memorial University of Newfoundland. Dr. Cheema received his PhD from University of Agriculture, Faisalabad, Pakistan (UAF), and did his postdoctoral studies from Iowa State University of Science and Technology, Iowa, Ames, USA. His research focuses on integrated nutrient management practices (INMP) that conserve or enhance soil fertility through efficient nutrient cycling and management strategies to maximize nutrient use efficiency and maintain optimum economically sustainable crop productivity with minimize damage

to the environment. Waste/manure management for P uptake in plants, sustainable agriculture, abiotic stress management strategies to induce stress tolerance using innovative agronomic interventions, estimation of greenhouse gases emission and mitigation strategies in different cropping systems. His research group is also monitoring in-situ root morphological traits, root exudates and their role in enhancing nutrient use efficiency. He has authored four book chapters/monographs and published more than 86 research articles in refereed journals. He participated and presented his research at several International conferences in US, UK, Canada, Australia, Germany, Sri Lanka, and India. He is actively involved in teaching of undergraduate and graduate courses and training of graduate students, postdoctoral fellows and lab assistants. Dr. Cheema has supervised 36 MSc, and 16 PhD (supervised and co-supervised) theses. Currently, he is graduate officer of Boreal Ecosystems and Agricultural Sciences (BEAS) program and supervising or co-supervising seven MSc and three PhD students. He also worked as visiting scientist at Dalhousie University Agricultural Campus, Truro, Nova Scotia. Before joining Grenfell Campus, he was a Professor in agronomy, and Director graduate studies at University of Agriculture, Faisalabad, Pakistan.

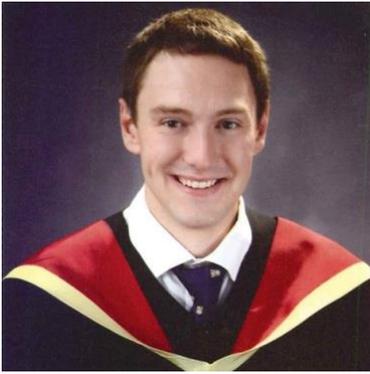


### **Eastern Director, Andrew Burt**

Andrew Burt is a research scientist and spring wheat breeder working with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada based at the Ottawa Research and Development Centre. Andrew's research program focusses on developing spring wheat cultivars for Eastern Canada, from Prince Edward Island to North-Western Ontario, with good agronomy, excellent disease resistance, and good quality for the end user. Andrew obtained his MSc Biology from the University of Ottawa and his PhD in Plant Agriculture at the University of Guelph in 2011. He was trained in a maize breeding program that

focussed on inbred development and worked as a research associated in a dry bean breeding program before joining AAFC in 2014 to direct spring wheat breeding programs for the Northern and Eastern Prairies while based in Brandon MB. In 2018 Andrew relocated to Ottawa to focus on breeding for Eastern Canada. To this point of his career, Andrew has participated in the release of 44 maize inbred lines, five dry bean cultivars, and gained support to register six wheat lines; he has authored and co-authored 19 peer reviewed research papers, and five published cultivar descriptions. Since 2014 he has worked as an associate editor for the Canadian Journal of Plant Science.

## Meet the 2019 CSA Executive (continued)



### **Student Representative, Caleb Niemeyer**

Caleb Niemeyer completed a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture in 2017 from the University of Guelph, majoring in Crop, Horticulture, and Turfgrass Science. During the summers between years of university he worked for Reesor Seed and Grain, a farm input supplier in Stouffville, Ontario and Pioneer as a Technical Sales Intern based in Guelph, Ontario. As an undergraduate, he was a research assistant in the lab of Dr. Manish Raizada working on improved plant nitrogen tests and nitrogen fixation in legumes. He began his MSc in Plant Agriculture in 2018 under the supervision of Dr. Bill Deen at the University of Guelph and is the recipient

of an NSERC Canada Graduate Scholarship. His research focuses on improving corn nitrogen fertilizer recommendations using rainfall effects on crop nitrogen demand.



### **Editor of CJPS, Brian Beres**

Dr. Beres is a research scientist at Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Lethbridge Research Centre in Alberta. Dr. Beres started his career path as a teacher in southern Alberta after obtaining Bachelor's degrees in Education and Geography. However, the allure of scientific research, which he was exposed to as a summer student at AAFC, inspired him to change career paths whereupon he obtained a Master's and PhD from the University of Alberta. Dr. Beres established an agronomy program in 2000 and leads several multidisciplinary projects developing innovative and integrated crop management systems. Dr. Beres publishes in the areas of agronomy and crop science and has been the author or co-author of 46 peer-reviewed research articles and 1 book chapter. He has served on the executive of the Canadian Society of Agronomy, and is an active member of the American Societies for Agronomy, Crops and Soils, and currently serves as an Associate Editor for the Canadian Journal of Plant Science.

Dr. Beres

and his co-authors were the recipients of the 2013 Canadian Journal of Plant Science Best Paper Award. He maintains close ties with both producer organizations and several national and multinational private companies that have a stake in crop production systems and life sciences research. Dr. Beres has several international collaborations and represents Canada on the Research Committee of the International Wheat Initiative. Dr. Beres is the past-Chair of the Prairie Recommending Committee for Wheat, Rye, and Triticale and led this cross-sectorial group through a review of the current registration process to ensure any impediments to the pace of delivering new genetics to the marketplace were removed.

## Canadian Society of Agronomy Annual General Meeting



The 2019 Canadian Society of Agronomy Annual General Meeting will be held at Plant Canada 2019 at The University of Guelph, July 7-10, 2019. The theme of Plant Canada 2019 is Communicating Innovation in Plant Science.

Registration and programming will be available soon. For information visit the Plant Canada 2019 website at [cspb-scbv.ca/PlantCanada2019/](http://cspb-scbv.ca/PlantCanada2019/)

## Canadian Society of Agronomy Photo Contest

Start collecting photos for our Photo Contest! The objective is to encourage CSA members to capture excellent agronomy-related images and to share these images with fellow CSA members.

The three best photos submitted in each of three categories will be recognized. Category 1: Agronomy in action; Category 2: Crops and Biological Interactions; Category 3: Landscapes and Fieldsapes.

The winning photos will be chosen by a panel of judges selected by the Photo Contest Coordinators at the CSA 2019 annual meeting (July 7-10, 2019). 1st place: \$100, 2nd place: \$50, 3rd place: \$25 in each of three categories.

Photos can be submitted by email ([csagronomy@gmail.com](mailto:csagronomy@gmail.com)) or Twitter, by tweeting a high-resolution image to @AgronomyCanada using the hashtag #CSA2019photocontest. Please provide a short and descriptive caption or title for your photo when submitting.

## 1st International Wheat Congress



The 1st International Wheat Congress will be held in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada from July 21 - July 26, 2019. For more information visit the congress website at <https://2019iwc.ca>

## **Reminder - Time to Renew Your Membership**

**It's time to renew your membership in the Canadian Society of Agronomy!**

Online registration is available on our website. You can also download a pdf copy of the membership form, complete the form and mail-in your payment. To access go to [agronomycanada.com](http://agronomycanada.com) and follow the membership pull down menu.

**Thank you for your membership!**

# Canadian Society of Agronomy Executive Committee 2019

## **PRESIDENT**

### **Jaswinder Singh**

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## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

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## **PRESIDENT-ELECT**

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