



# The Canadian Society of Plant Biologists La Société Canadienne de Biologie Végétale

## CSBP Awards – Proposed Changes

### CSBP Proposed By-Law Amendments

**Preamble:** These proposed changes come from the recommendations of the Equity and Diversity Taskforce report and are aimed at the:

#### 1) Award By-Laws

- clarify the purpose, eligibility period, and frequency for each award
- simplify the nomination process: Only one full member is required (as an example, this is the current practice for ASPB awards <https://aspb-awards.secure-platform.com/a/>)

#### 2) Other By-Law Amendments (see report)

### 1) Award By-Law Amendments

#### By-Law 16 - The Society Medal

- a) The Society shall award a ~~plaque with a Gold medal Society logo~~ Medal to be known as The Society Gold Canadian Society of Plant Biologists' Medal.
- b) The Medal shall be awarded ~~either~~ for outstanding career research and leadership ~~published~~ contributions, ~~or for distinguished service to plant biology,~~ primarily in Canada.
- c) The Medal shall be awarded by decision of the Board of Directors on the recommendation of the Society Medal Committee.
- d) The members of the Society Medal Committee shall be elected at the annual meeting of members, and shall consist of three Full Members rotated in such a manner that one new member is appointed annually. The longest serving member of the committee becomes the Chair for one year. Membership in the Committee is for three years.
- e) The Medal shall be normally awarded with a maximum frequency of once in three years, and shall be presented at the annual scientific conference of the Society.
- f) The recipient of the Medal shall be invited to address the members at the annual scientific conference following the one at which the award is made.
- g) A nomination for the Medal must be supported by ~~three-one~~ one Full Members and shall be documented with a full curriculum vitae list of publications and a citation outlining the nominee's outstanding career research contributions to plant biology. These documents shall, ~~and~~ be submitted to the Chair of the Society Medal Committee at least ninety days before the annual meeting of members. Nominations shall stand for three years, but may be revised annually and shall be renewable.
- h) Nominations and supporting documents shall remain confidential to the Committee. After the three year nomination period, or after the awarding of the Medal to a nominee, the nominee's "nomination file" shall be destroyed unless the nomination is renewed.

#### By-Law 17 - The C.D. Nelson Award

- a) The Society shall award the C.D. Nelson Award in Plant Biology.
- b) The Award shall be given for outstanding research contributions to plant biology. Special consideration will be given to originality and independence of thought. Nominees shall have been in an independent, full-time research position for no more than 10 years, although career breaks will be taken into account when applicants

are nearing the end of this eligibility period (e.g. maternity or parental leave, caregiver’s responsibilities, illness, etc.). Nominees need not be Canadian citizens or members of the Society but must be engaged in a research program in Canada at the time of the nomination. The award includes a cash prize; the value of the prize is determined by the Board of Directors.

c) The Award shall be awarded by decision of the Board of Directors on the recommendation of the C.D. Nelson Award Committee.

d) The members of the C.D. Nelson Award Committee shall be elected at the annual meeting of members, and shall consist of three Full Members rotated in such a manner that one new member is appointed annually. The longest serving member of the committee becomes the Chair for one year. Membership in the Committee is for three years.

e) The Award shall be awarded with a maximum frequency of once every year, and presented at the annual scientific conference of the Society.

f) The recipient of the C.D. Nelson Award Medal shall be invited to address the members at the annual scientific conference following at the one at which the award is made.

g) A nomination for the Award must be supported by three-one Full Members and shall be documented with a full curriculum vitae (with contributions from their independent research position clearly identified) list of publications and a citation outlining the nominee’s originality and independence of thought in their outstanding research contributions to plant biology. These documents shall, ~~and~~ be submitted to the Chair of the C.D. Nelson Award Committee at least ninety days before the annual meeting of members. It is recommended that nominees have been in a independent research position for a sufficient period of time to build a record of research contributions that strongly supports their ‘originality and independence of thought’ (i.e. at least 6 years). Nominations shall stand for three years, but may be revised annually and shall be renewable.

h) Nominations and supporting documents shall remain confidential to the Committee. After the three year nomination period, or after the awarding of the C.D. Nelson Award to a nominee, the nominee’s “nomination file” shall be destroyed unless the nomination is renewed.

### **By-Law 18 - The David J. Gifford Award in Tree Biology**

a) The Society shall award the David J. Gifford Award in Tree Biology.

b) The Award shall be given for outstanding research contributions in tree biology, primarily in Canada. Special consideration will be given to originality and independence of thought. Nominees need not be Canadian citizens or members of the Society but must be engaged in a research program in Canada at the time of the nomination, and shall have been in an independent, full-time research position for more than 15 years. The award includes a cash prize; the value of the prize is determined by the Board of Directors.

c) The Award shall be awarded by decision of the Board of Directors on the recommendation of the David J. Gifford Tree Biology Award Committee.

d) The members of the David J. Gifford Tree Biology Award Committee shall be elected at the annual meeting of members, and shall consist of three Full Members rotated in such a manner that one new member is appointed annually. Membership in the Committee is for three years.

e) The Award shall be normally awarded with a maximum frequency of once in three years, and shall be presented at the annual scientific conference of the Society.

f) A nomination for the Award must be supported by three-one Full Members and shall be documented with a full curriculum vitae list of publications and a citation outlining the nominee’s outstanding and original research contributions, and be submitted to the Chair of the David J. Gifford Tree Biology Award Committee at least ninety days before the annual meeting of members. Nominations shall stand for three years, but may be revised annually and shall be renewable.

g) Nominations and supporting documents shall remain confidential to the Committee. After the three year nomination period, or after the awarding of the David J. Gifford Award to a nominee, the nominee's "nomination file" shall be destroyed unless the nomination is renewed.

#### **By-Law 19 - The Gleb Krotkov Award**

a) The Society shall award the Gleb Krotkov Award.

b) The Award shall be given for outstanding career service to the Society. ~~both in administration and in scientific contributions to scientific conferences.~~

c) The Award shall be awarded by decision of the Board of Directors on the recommendation of the Gleb Krotkov Award Committee.

d) The members of the Gleb Krotkov Award Committee shall be elected at the annual meeting of members, and shall consist of three Full Members rotated in such a manner that one new member is appointed annually. Membership in the Committee is for three years.

e) The Award shall normally be awarded with the maximum frequency of once every ~~two~~three years, and shall be presented at the annual scientific conference of the Society.

f) A nomination for the Award must be supported by ~~three~~one Full Members and shall be documented with a full curriculum vitae and a citation outlining statement on the nominee's outstanding career service to the Society ~~and a list of the scientific contributions to Society meetings.~~ These ~~documents, together with a citation for the Award,~~ shall be submitted to the Chair of the Gleb Krotkov Award Committee at least ninety days before the annual meeting of members. Nominations shall stand for three years, but may be revised annually and shall be renewable.

g) Nominations and supporting documents shall remain confidential to the Committee. After the three year nomination period, or after the awarding of the Gleb Krotkov Award to a nominee, the nominee's "nomination file" shall be destroyed unless the nomination is renewed.

#### **By-Law 23 - George H. Duff Student and Post-Doctoral Fellow Travel Bursaries**

a) The George H. Duff Student Travel Bursaries shall be given by the Society.

b) The bursaries shall be used to assist students and post-doctoral fellows with travel costs associated with attending the annual scientific meeting.

c) The Society will annually set aside a sum of money to finance the Bursaries. The amount set aside will be determined by the Board of Directors.

d) The allocation of the Travel Bursaries shall be determined by the Eastern and Western Region Directors, who are members of the Society's Board of Directors.

e) Applicants must be members of the Society, and an undergraduate or graduate student or a post-doctoral fellow, at the time of the annual scientific conference. Post-doctoral fellows shall have obtained their PhD no more than 4 years (i.e., 48 months) prior to the date of the submission of the application, although career breaks will be taken into account when applicants are nearing the end of this eligibility period (e.g. maternity or parental leave, caregiver's responsibilities, illness, etc.).

f) Applicants must be the designated presenter of the work at the conference, in an oral or poster category. Applications will be judged on the basis of need and distance from the conference site. Preference may be given to applicants living beyond a determined distance from the conference site (as determined by the two Regional Directors).

fg) A call for applications for the George H. Duff Travel Bursaries shall be made at least two months in advance of the abstract deadline for the annual scientific conference. Applications for the Bursaries are to be sent to the more senior of the two Regional Directors, who serves as the Chair of the Travel Bursary Committee.

- g) The George H. Duff Travel Bursary Committee shall be comprised of the Regional Directors. The Committee will be responsible for judging applications and notifying students of their decision and any conditions associated with the Bursary.
- h) The recipients of the Bursaries will be notified before the abstract and registration deadlines for the annual scientific conference.

#### **By-Law 24 - Ragai Ibrahim Award for Best Student Paper**

- a) Origin and Purpose - The Ragai Ibrahim Award Fund was established by the Society through a generous donation from Professor Ragai Ibrahim, eminent Canadian plant scientist and an emeritus member of the Society. The purpose of the award is to recognize excellence in publication by graduate students. Each year there will be one winner and an honourable mention. The Award includes a cash prize; the value of the prize is determined by the Board of Directors.
- b) Establishment and Management of the Ragai Ibrahim Award Fund - The Treasurer shall establish and maintain a separate financial account for the transactions of the Ragai Ibrahim Award Fund. The Society will attempt to grow the available fund through investment in financial instruments. The Treasurer may seek advice and assistance from professional managers employed by financial institutions. The Treasurer is authorized to accept additional charitable donations from individuals, organizations and institutions to assist in financing the award.
- c) Criteria - A peer reviewed paper either in print or on-line will be nominated by the supervisor of the student, and will be evaluated on the impact or potential impact that work will have on plant biology. The nominated student will be the first or primary author of the work, and the paper must be based on work that the nominee performed as a student (graduate student or undergraduate). Recognizing that multi-author papers have different inputs, the contributions of the nominee (involvement in the experimental design, experiments conducted, analyses, contribution to writing etc.) should be clearly described in the nomination letter. The nominee must be a member of the Society.
- d) The award is based on the calendar year (January 1 to December 31). The publication date can be based on either the date published online or the journal issue date. The nominee must be a student, or alternatively, have completed their graduate/undergraduate program no more than twelve (12) months prior to the date of publication of the paper.
- e) The Award shall be awarded by decision of the Board of Directors on the recommendation of the Ragai Ibrahim Award Committee.
- f) The members of the Ragai Ibrahim Award Committee shall be elected at the annual meeting of members, and shall consist of three Full Members rotated in such a manner that one new member is appointed annually. The Student/Post-Doctoral Fellow Representative will also be part of this Committee. The longest serving Full Member of the Committee becomes the Chair for one year. Membership in the Committee is for three years.
- g) The award shall be presented at the annual scientific conference of the Society.

## 2) Other By-Law Amendments

### By-Law 10 - Nomination and Election of Officers, Directors, Auditors, Committees and Representatives

a) The Nominating Committee consists of three (3) members. The Chair of the Nominating Committee is appointed from the Board of Directors, and the other two (2) members shall be Full Members who are not members of the Board of Directors. The Eastern Regional Director and the Western Regional Director will serve as ex officio members to advise the nomination committee.

b) The Nominating Committee is responsible for preparing a slate of nominations to be presented at the annual meeting of members. The Nominating Committee prepares nominations for all positions within the Society except for the Student/Post-Doctoral Representative (the latter is directly elected by the Student and Post-Doctoral/Research Associate Members). Additional nominations shall be accepted over the signatures of two Full Members or from the floor at the time of the election (except for the Student/Post-Doctoral Representative position).

c) The nominating committee should aim to prepare a slate of committee nominations that broadly represent the diverse backgrounds, research fields, and regional coverage of Society members.

d) Where more than one candidate is nominated for a position, an election by secret ballot shall be held at the annual meeting of members.

e) The Student/Post-Doctoral Representative can be nominated by Student or Post-Doctoral/Research Associate Members, or the Student/Post-Doctoral Member can nominate her/him self. Each nominee should provide a brief resume and a brief statement of why she/he is interested in participating more actively in the Society (maximum of 100 words for both). The Chair of the Nominating Committee is responsible for sending out the call for nominations and for running the election. Balloting will be conducted by e-mail using an appropriate online voting system, and among the Student and Post-Doctoral/Research Associate Members will be invited to participate in the vote by email.

f) The members shall at each annual meeting of members appoint ~~two (2) Auditors to hold office until the next annual meeting of members, to audit the accounts of the Society for report to its members, provided that the Directors may fill any casual vacancy in the office of Auditor~~ an accounting firm, on the advice of the Treasurer, to perform one of a compilation engagement, review engagement or audit engagement and to submit the appropriate Corporation and Charity tax reports. The remuneration of the Auditors shall be fixed by the Board of Directors.

g) For all positions, each nomination must have the assent of the nominee.