



JUNE / JUIN 2021

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# Message from the President

Daphne Goring  
University of Toronto

First and foremost, I hope that everyone is keeping well as the pandemic sadly continues to bring suffering to many. The progress with which successful vaccines were developed and are now being offered to us does bring hope that this will soon end, and we will be able to gather in person again. It is also great to see Medicicago continue to move forward with its plant based COVID-19 vaccine. I am very fortunate to have already received a dose of one of the COVID-19 vaccines, and I hope that everyone is having this opportunity as well.

For now, we are carrying on with the online virtual meeting format so that we can gather as a community. In November 2020, we held our very first virtual scientific meeting which was a great success! We had a terrific line up of speakers in the plenary session and in the concurrent sessions. I chaired the organizing committee and worked with a wonderful group of volunteers to organize all the various aspects and ensure that everything ran smoothly on the meeting day. Having been our first effort at offering a virtual scientific meeting, it was especially rewarding to see it all go so well. A very grateful thank you to everyone who was involved. You can read more about it in on page 6 of this bulletin.

I am also very pleased to have Raju Soolanayakanahally (AAFC) and Ken Wilson (U Saskatchewan) as the Co-Chairs organizing virtual CSPB2021 Annual General Meeting to be held June 7-10, 2021. I look forward to hearing all oral presentations and seeing the posters at this meeting. During the CSPB2021 Annual General Meeting, we will be holding the CSPB-SCVB Business meeting and will announce the winners for the 2021 CSPB-SCVB awards. Among other agenda items at the business meeting, we will be electing four executive positions that will be available: Vice-President, Senior Director, Eastern Region Director and Science Policy Director. The CSPB-SCVB is strongly committed to Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, and we are always looking for volunteers to get involved in the various CSPB/SCVB committees. If you are interested or have any questions, please feel free to contact the Senior



Director or other members of the CSPB-SCVB executive.

This will be my last Message from the President as Robin Cameron will move into the role of President at the June Annual Business Meeting, and I will take over the role of Past President from Geoffrey Wasteneys. Thank you, Geoff, for all your valuable help and advice over the last couple of years. I would also like to thank the valuable service of the other three executive members who will be stepping down in June: Jean-Benoit Charron (Senior Director), Robert Mullen (Eastern Regional Director) and Owen Roland (Science Policy Director). You each brought important contributions to the CSPB-SCVB executive which allowed our society to run smoothly, and your commitment to our society was very much appreciated.

It has been my pleasure to serve in the role of CSPB/SCVB President. I hope everyone continues to stay healthy in these challenging times.

**Daphne Goring**  
**CSPB/SCVB President**

# Message from the Vice President



Robin Cameron  
McMaster University

enhance EDI. A number of people volunteered for our new EDI committee that will work on implementing the survey ideas with the overall goal of reducing barriers to participation and enhancing EDI in our society.

The EDI committee members for 2021 are me, Mehran Dastmalchi, Tagnon Missihoun, Jacqueline Monaghan, Susan Murch, with Devang Mehta (post-doc member) and Adrian Monthony (graduate student member).

One of the comments made a number of times in the survey, is that our executive is made up entirely of white people (5 women, 7 men). The diversity on our various committees is somewhat better, with 44% women and 17% visible minorities. We have been actively trying to recruit a more diverse executive by reaching out to members to put themselves forward for executive positions. Obviously, we need to do better. One way to enhance diversity on the executive would be to communicate more often with our members. With that in mind, please consider applying next year to the Senior Director & chair of the nominations committee. If you have questions about the responsibilities for each position, please see the Duties Manual on our website or contact me. Additionally, a number of survey respondents pointed out that CSPB-SCBV is a bilingual society, however, there is little communication in French or opportunities to present in French at conferences.

We will be working on implementing a number of the survey suggestions over the coming months, stay tuned for details (VP Report at 2021 AGM and in next bulletin)

**Robin Cameron**  
CSPB/SCBV Vice President

As reported in the last Bulletin, Dr Jacqueline Monaghan and myself, with input from the CSPB-SCBV executive, created a survey to learn about our members and to get their input in improving EDI in our society. Of the current 268 members (137 full, 131 student, research assistant and post-doc), 189 members filled out the survey. This was an amazing response! Thank you to everyone who filled out the survey.

The anonymous survey results are available at the end of this bulletin and on our website. Please take a look at the survey results and if you have additional ideas or suggestions, please reach out to me (rcamero@mcmaster.ca).

I am happy to report that we were successful in obtaining the deliverables for this survey.

1. We identified who we are.
2. We identified barriers to full participation in CSPB/SCBV.
3. We obtained ideas to further enhance EDI and reduce barriers.
4. We identified volunteers for the new CSPB/SCBV EDI committee.

The survey has given us information about who we are in terms of geography, career stage, age, gender identity, sexual orientation and which Statistics Canada groups that members identify with or members with a disability. We also received many comments about barriers to full participation in our society and many excellent suggestions to reduce these barriers and to



Speetlum, *Lewisia rediviva*

# Treasurer's News

Sheila Macfie  
University of Western Ontario



**Finances:** Thanks to extraordinary funding raising for each of Plant Canada 2019 and the Nov 2020 virtual meeting, as well as excellent returns on our investments, the Society finances are in good shape. The account balances are now higher than they have been in 10 years! This has been aided, of course, by not issuing the usual \$10,000 or more in George Duff Travel Bursaries in 2020 or 2021. The Society continues to rely on membership dues and donations to support our various awards of excellence. The two newer awards in particular – Carl Douglas Award and Mary Spencer Award – do not yet have sufficient funds to be self-supporting.

**Membership:** Prior to 2020, membership had been holding steady at about 400, with a healthy contingent of student and postdoctoral members. However, the postponement of our annual summer meeting in 2020 understandably resulted in a dramatic drop in student members. Early in May 2021, however, our membership was up to 380, which included 144 students and postdocs. No doubt we will be

welcoming a few more new members, and renewal of current members, for the June 2021 meeting. Scientists from any area of study within plant biology are welcome and I encourage current members to promote our Society to their lab groups and colleagues.

**Donations:** I encourage members to make a donation to any of our Award or Bursary Funds. These include The George Duff Travel Bursary for student and pdfs, the Ann Oaks Doctoral Scholarship, the Carl Douglas Prize for pdfs, and the Mary Spencer Award for mid-career scientists. Donations may be made via the Society website, and donations at or above \$10 CAN receive a receipt for tax purposes.

**Sheila Macfie**  
CSPB/SCBV Treasurer

# Canadian Society of Plant Biologists

## Annual Conference

June 7-10, 2021

Virtual Meeting

<https://event.fourwaves.com/cspb-scbv2021>



#CSPB2021



## 2021 CSPB Annual Meeting

June 7-10, 2021

### Co-Chairs

Raju Soolanayakanahally (Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada)

Ken Wilson (University of Saskatchewan)

### Organizing Committee

Hong Wang (University of Saskatchewan), Karen Tanino (University of Saskatchewan), Sateesh Kagale (National Research Council Canada), Chithra Karunakaran (Canadian Light Source), Yangdou Wei (University of Saskatchewan), Christopher Todd (University of Saskatchewan), Chris Ambrose (University of Saskatchewan), Teagen Quilichini (National Research Council Canada), Byung-Kook (Brian) Ham (Global Institute of Food Security), Edel Pérez Lopez (Université Laval), Jennifer Hoogenboom (University of Guelph), Peta Bonham-Smith (University of Saskatchewan)

### 2022

Plant Biology 2022 (Joint ASPB-CSPB/SCBV), Portland Oregon.

### 2023

CSPB/SCBV Annual General Meeting, Dalhousie University, Halifax

### 2024

Plant Canada, TBD: lead society and location

## Western Regional Meeting 2021

Join us for the Western Regional Meeting of the CSPB that is scheduled to take place in early December, 2021. This will be a virtual meeting organized by Glen Uhrig and Guanqun (Gavin) Chen (University of Alberta). More information related to the meeting date, program, and deadlines for registration and abstracts will come soon. The WRM and Eastern Regional Meeting (ERM) will have complimentary programs this year to encourage members from east and west to attend both virtual events.

### Doug Muench

(CSPB/SCBV Western Regional Director)

## Upcoming Eastern Regional Meetings

**2021** Carleton University, Virtual - O. Rowland, S. Hepworth

**2022** University of Toronto Scarborough - S. Gazzarrini (Chair), E. Gonzales-Vigil, A. Mott

**2023** Concordia University - J.S. Lee (Chair), P. Gulick, D. Dayanandan, W. Zerges

Robert Mullen as the Eastern Regional Director is co-ordinating the scheduling of these events

# CSPB/SCBV 2020 Virtual Meeting

The CSPB-SCVB 2020 virtual meeting was held on Saturday, November 7, 2020 from 12:00 pm to 6:00 pm EST. There were many individuals who worked hard to make our first virtual meeting a success. There was the organizing committee, chaired by Daphne Goring, and included David Bird, Philip Carella, Qing-Lai Dang, Jinsuk Lee, Ian Major, Jaideep Mathur, Adam Mott, Brendan O'Leary, Teagen Quilichini and Vera Velasco. As well, Robin Cameron (CSPB VP) and Robert Mullen (CSPB ERD) organized the student oral presentation competition for students presenting in the concurrent sessions. Finally, Ian Major, Vera Velasco, Adam Mott, Heather McFarlane and Daphne Goring served as zoom hosts for the plenary and concurrent sessions.

Registration was free to encourage participation, and close to 300 CSPB-SCVB members from across the country and outside were registered. We were very pleased to see such a strong interest in this meeting. Students made up about half of the meeting participants, and the rest were mainly postdocs/research associates and professors/research scientists. The free registration was feasible thanks to our very generous Gold sponsors (PP Systems, Hoskin Scientific, Canadian Science Publishing, Cedarlane) and Bronze sponsors (Performance Plants, Regent Instruments, Platform Genetics, Agrisera).

The meeting started with a plenary session of four invited speakers giving very interesting presentations covering diverse topics. Dr. Dolf Weijers (Wageningen University, Netherlands) started the session with his talk titled, Polar expeditions - towards new cell polarity mechanisms in plants. Following this, Dr. Sonia Gazzarrini (University of Toronto) spoke on the Spatiotemporal regulation of gene expression during ovule and seed development. Next up was the 2019 C.D. Nelson Award winner, Dr. Danielle Way (Western University), who gave a talk titled How will climate change alter plant carbon fluxes?. The 2020 Carl Douglas Prize winner, Dr. Phil Carella (University of Cambridge UK), gave the final talk in the plenary session on Defining the evolutionary framework that underpins host-pathogen interactions in land plants.

The plenary session was then followed by two sets of four concurrent sessions with 64 speakers scheduled. These speakers were selected from the submitted abstracts and included plenty of students and postdocs which was great to see. The session chairs for these concurrent sessions were Teagen Quilichini, Yang Qu, Philip Carella, David Chiasson, Christian Danve Castroverde, Jin Suk Lee, Thomas Graham and Marina Cvetkovska. The sessions chairs along with zoom hosts were instrumental in keeping the sessions running smoothly and sorting out any minor online presentation issues.



**CSPB 2020 Keynote Speakers from Top Left: Dr. Danielle Way, Dr. Sonia Gazzarrini, Dr. Dolf Weijers and Dr Phil Carella.**

Among the 64 presentations, 44 students competed for presentation awards. Overall, all of the student talks were excellent and contributed to the success of the meeting, and the following presentations were recognized by the judges as being particularly outstanding.

The CSPB/SCBV President's Award was given to Harley Gordon (University of Victoria) for his presentation entitled "CRISPR/Cas9 knockout of salicinoid biosynthetic gene UGT71L1 in Poplar reveals dramatic effects on metabolism and growth".

The Eastern Regional Director's Award was given to Monika Jesionowska (University of Guelph) for her presentation entitled "Exploring protein-protein interactions within the ICE-CBF-COR pathway of *Vitis riparia*".

Another student presentation award that was generously sponsored by Agrisera was given to Hui Tung Janis Cheng, (Queens University) for her talk entitled "Arabidopsis preferentially responds to the flg22 epitopes of g- and b-proteobacteria".

Several students also received honourable mentions for their outstanding presentations, including:

J. Duncan Giebelhous, (University of Alberta) "Gibberellin regulation of protein accumulation in developing pea seeds

Jan Xue (University of British Columbia) "Identification and functional characterization of a cellulose synthase (CESA) from the red alga *Calliarthron tuberculosum*.

Nour Nissan (AAFC-Ottawa) "Soybean cyst nematode (SCN): Overcoming the tiny beast below the surface".

A special thank you goes to all of the judges for their hard work and careful deliberations on the student presentation awards, including Catherine Cullingham, Mehran Dastmalchi, George DiCenzo, Susanne Kohalmi, Tagnon Missihoun, Greg Moorhead, Annette Nassuth, Francois, Ouellet, Lacey Samuels, Elizabeth Weretilnyk, Olivia Wilkins, Glen Uhrig.

Many thanks to everyone who contributed to the success of this virtual meeting! As always, we look forward to seeing everyone at the next CSPB/SCBV annual meeting.

*Daphne Goring, Robert Mullen, Robin Cameron*



Toxicoscordion venenosum

# Postdoc Feature

Prepared by Liz Brauer

## Kyle Bender



Kyle Bender is a postdoctoral scientist working with Cyril Zipfel at the University of Zurich (UZH) in Switzerland. In 2013, he received his Ph. D. from Queen's University, where he trained under Prof. Wayne Snedden. His Ph.D. thesis focused on understanding how a subfamily of stress-regulated calmodulin-like proteins mediate Ca<sup>2+</sup>-dependent environmental responses. After his Ph.D. he carried out postdoctoral work with Prof. Steven Huber and Raymond Zielinski at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. During his time in Illinois, Kyle expanded his research interests to include protein kinases and regulatory phosphorylation. There, his work on Ca<sup>2+</sup>-dependent protein kinases (CPKs) uncovered a novel role for phosphorylation in priming CPK calcium sensitivity. In Zurich, he has continued to work on protein kinase-mediated signaling, with a focus on understanding how receptor kinase phosphorylation activates intracellular signaling after perception of microbe-derived immune elicitors. While in Zurich, Kyle has developed advanced protein biochemistry and proteomics skills through training programs with state-of-the-art core facilities at UZH. When he is not in the lab, attention to his pug, 'Patti', and cat, 'Lilly', who Kyle and his wife adopted from animal rescues in Europe.

## Philippe Jutras

Philippe V. Jutras is an FRQNT postdoctoral fellow at the University of Oxford. He joined the lab of Prof. Renier van der Hoorn in 2017 to study plant proteases and how to prevent unwanted proteolysis of proteins. His research interests are driven by fundamental and applied sciences, mostly related to the cellular and molecular biology of plant cells.



He aims at a better understanding of recombinant protein expression in plants for molecular farming applications. For the past ten years, he has committed to providing human vaccines and therapeutic proteins produced from plant biotechnology. He obtained his PhD from Laval University where his work focused on pH modulation in the plant cell secretory pathway to stabilise complex recombinant proteins. Concurrently, he worked with a pharmaceutical company to produce plant-expressed virus-like particles used for the development of vaccine candidates against the seasonal flu. He now works on understanding how the plant host (mainly *Nicotiana* sp.) interacts with *Agrobacterium tumefaciens* during plant transformation to increase protein expression efficiency. His work has been supported by the research councils of Canada and Quebec, and the industry. Philippe is also strongly motivated by the fundamental principles of access to knowledge in science. He advocates for ethical collaboration platforms in academia and supports open source software.

# CSPB/SCBV EDI Survey Results

Prepared by: Robin Cameron

Please stay tuned for updates from the EDI Committee on our website and in upcoming issues of the Bulletin.

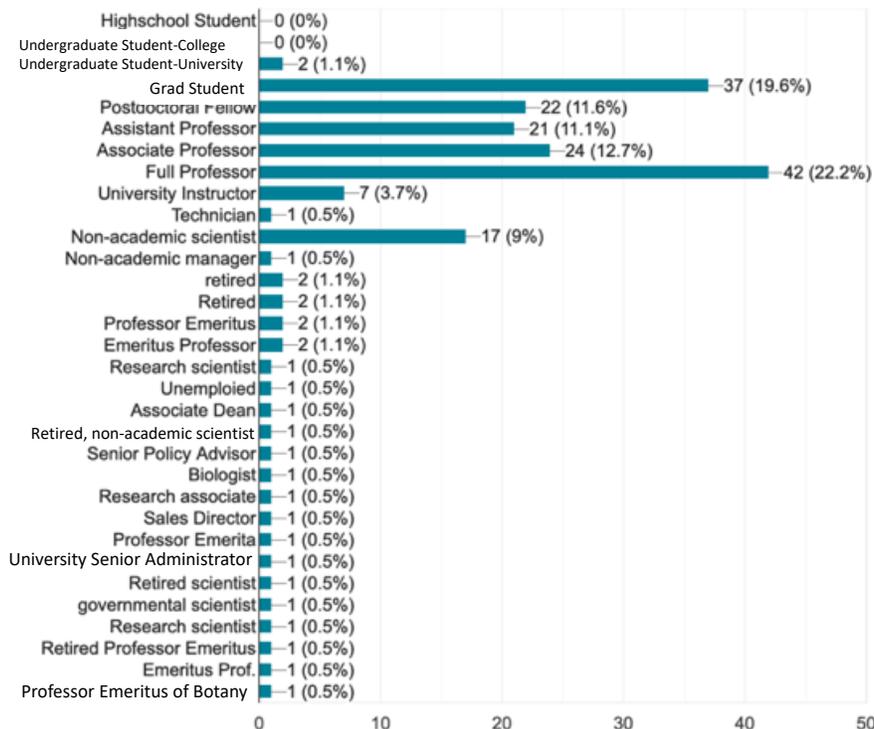
## In which jurisdiction do you live?

189 responses



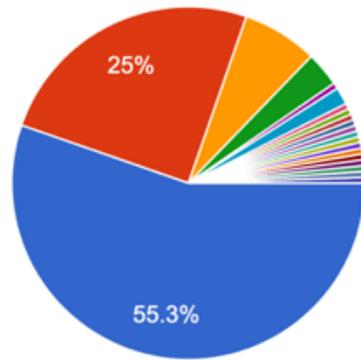
## What is your job title?

189 responses



### How did you hear about CSPB/SCBV?

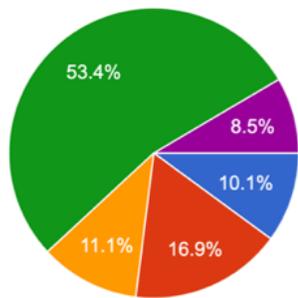
188 responses



- My academic advisor encouraged me...
- A colleague encouraged me to join
- Internet
- Email
- Social media
- Conference
- Via the Plant Biology conference put o...
- Supervisor (Professor)
- Previous membership in CSPP
- don't remember
- I was a member CPPMB when it was...
- surface mail
- Student colleague during grad school
- Via the Plant Biology conference put o...
- Can't remember
- Supervisor (Professor)
- Conférence
- don't remember
- Have know since I was in grad school
- It is difficult to tell - I have been a member since 1975 (?)

### How long have you been a member of CSPB/SCBV?

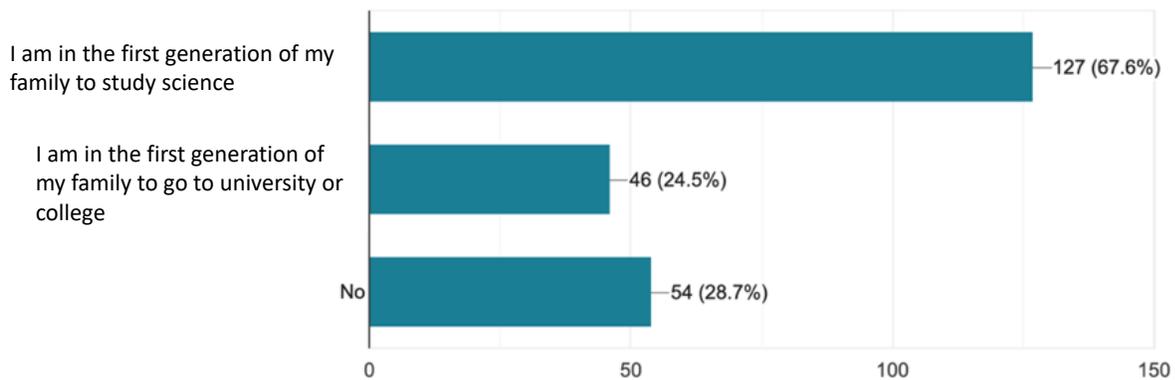
189 responses



- 0-1 yrs
- 1-3 yrs
- 3-6 yrs
- 6 yrs+
- Intermittently

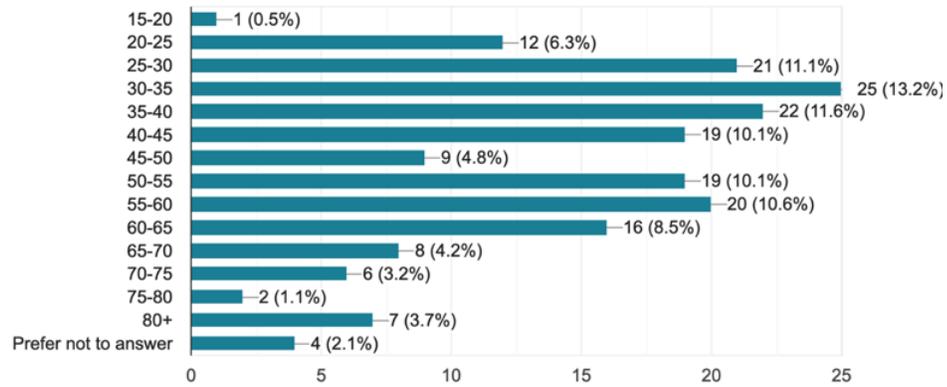
### Are you a first-generation scientist? Check all that apply.

188 responses



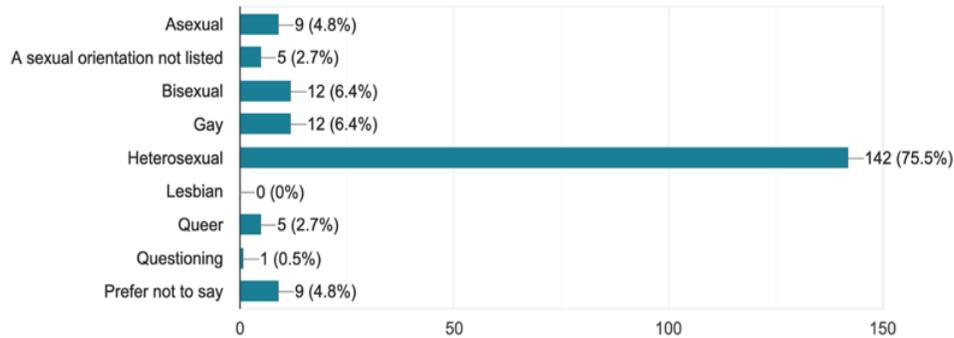
To what age group do you belong?

189 responses



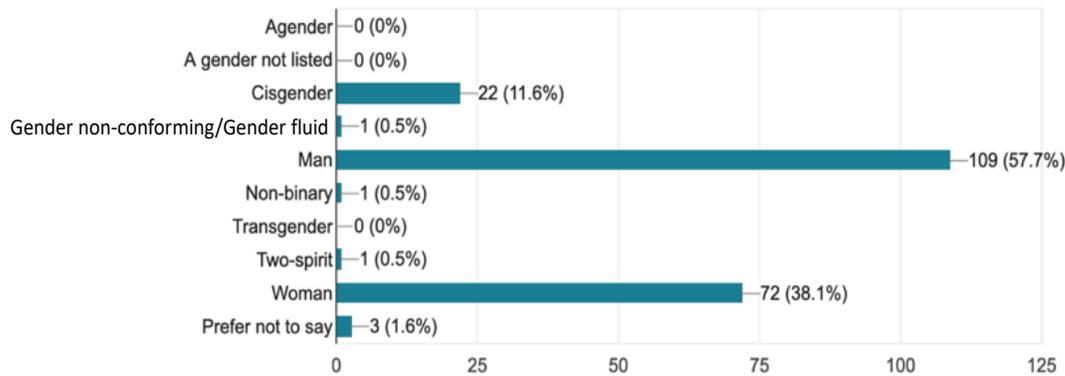
Which of the following best describes your sexual orientation or identity? Please select all that apply.

188 responses



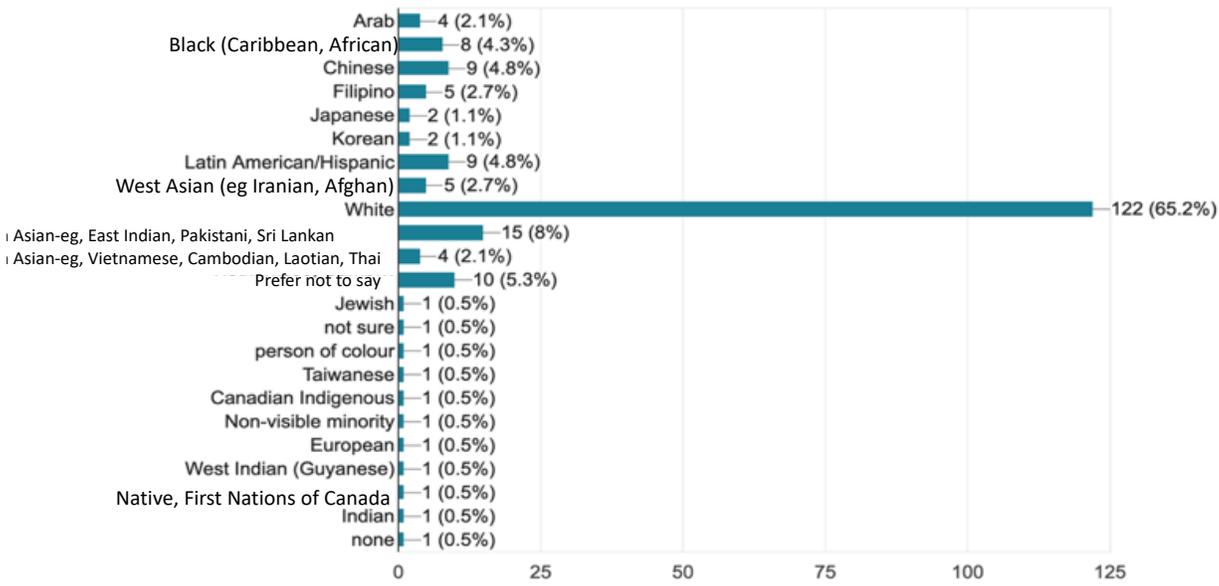
Which of the following best describes your gender identity or identities? Please select all that apply.

189 responses



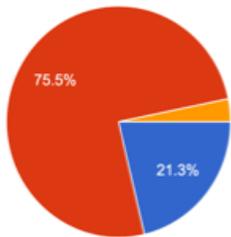
Do you identify with any of the following group(s)? Please select all that apply. The list below is based on Statistics Canada census questions.

187 responses



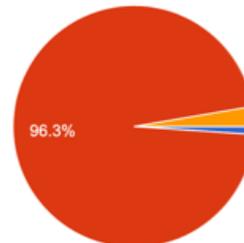
Do you identify as a racialized person (or person of colour)?

188 responses



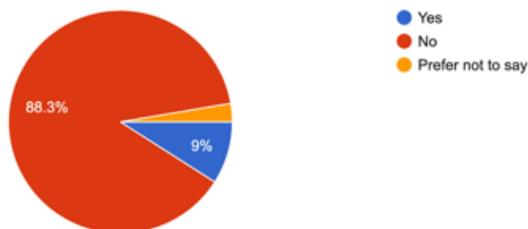
Do you identify as Indigenous (First Nations, Métis, Inuit)?

187 responses



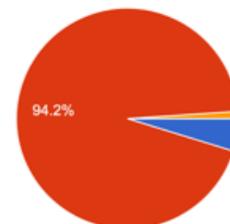
Do you identify as a person with a disability? For the purposes of this survey, disability includes persons who have a long-term or recurring physical, mental, or learning impairment or chronic illness.

188 responses



Do you identify as a person who is Deaf or hard-of-hearing?

189 responses



# CSPB Inside

## CSPB / SCBV Executive Committee Membership 2020/2021



**TOP President:** Daphne Goring, **Vice-President:** Robin Cameron, **Secretary:** David Bird, **Treasurer:** Sheila Macfie, **Communications Director/Bulletin Editor:** Susanne Kohalmi, **Western Regional Director:** Doug Muench  
**BOTTOM Eastern Regional Director:** Robert Mullen, **Senior Director:** Jean-Benoit Charron, **Science Policy Director:** Owen Roland, **Education Director:** Steven Chatfield, **Student/PDF Representative:** Jennifer Hoogenboom, **Past President:** Geoffrey Wasteneys

## Committee Members

### Ann Oaks Scholarship Committee

Harold Weger (Regina) Chair 2022  
Elizabeth Weretilnyk (McMaster) Co-Chair 2022  
Doug Campbell (Mt Allison) 2019  
George Espie (UT Mississauga) 2021  
Sharon Regan (Queen's) 2020 - 2024  
Sheila Macfie (Western Ontario) Treasurer 2021

### Communications Committee

Susanne Kohalmi (Western) Chair 2021  
Jacqueline Monaghan (Queens) 2019-2022  
Elizabeth Brauer (AAFC) 2019-2022  
Michael Stasiak (Guelph) webmaster  
David Bird (Mount Royal U) 2022  
Mehran Dastmalchi (McGill) 2021  
Lauren Erland (UBC) 2020

### David J. Gifford Tree Biology Award Committee

Uwe Hacke (Alberta) 2018-2021 Chair  
Barbara Hawkins (UVic) 2019-2022  
Nathalie Isabel (NRC) 2020-2025

### Nominating Committee

Jean-Benoit Charron (McGill) 2019 Chair  
Marcus Samuel (Calgary) 2018-2021  
Heather McFarlene (Toronto) 2020-2023

### C.D. Nelson Committee

Darrell Desveaux (Toronto) 2018-2021 Chair  
Sylvie Renault (Manitoba) 2019-2022  
Jaswinder Singh (McGill) 2020-2023

### Gleb Krotkov Award Committee

Nicholas Provart (Toronto) 2018-2021 Chair  
Belay T. Ayele (Manitoba) 2018-2021  
Peta Bonham-Smith (USask) 2019-2024

### Education Committee

Steven Chatfield (Toronto) 2019 Chair  
Abel Rosado (UBC) 2019-2022  
Tamara L Western (McGill) 2018-2021  
Joseph Colasanti (Guelph) 2018-2021

### EDI Committee

Robin Cameron (McMaster) Chair  
Susan Murch (UBC)  
Mehran Dastmalchi (McGill)  
Adrian Monthony (Guelph)

Jacqueline Monaghan (Queens)  
Tagnon Missihoun (UQuébec)  
Devang Mehta (Alberta)

### Ragab Ibrahim Award Committee

Christopher Todd (Sask) 2019-2021 Chair  
Pascale Beaugregard (Sherbrooke) 2019-2022  
Adam Mott (Toronto) 2020-2023  
Jennifer Hoogenboom (Guelph) 2022

### Society (Gold) Medal Award Committee

Sophia Stone (Dalhousie) 2018-2022 Chair  
Anja Geitmann (McGill) 2019-2023  
George Haughn (UBC) 2020-2025

### Mary Spencer Award Committee

Line Lapoint (Laval) 2021 Chair  
Shelley Lumba (Toronto) 2023  
Janust Zwiazek (alberta) 2019-2024

### Carl Douglas Prize Committee

Eliana Gonzalez-Vigil (Toronto Scarborough) 2021 Chair  
Chris Ambrose (Saskatchewan) 2019-2022  
Christian Castroverde (Laurier) 2020-2023

# Contributors

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The Bulletin is the official newsletter of the Canadian Society of Plant Biologists/Société Canadienne de Biologie Végétale (CSPB/SCBV).

## Contributors

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Lauren Erland

## Layout and Production

Lauren Erland, Susanne Kohalmi

# Bulletin 31 will appear October 2021

## Editorial deadline for Bulletin 31 is September 30, 2021

Please submit your contributions, comments, photos, suggestions for featured papers, new faculty bios and announcements before the editorial deadline to:

[admin@cspb-scbv.ca](mailto:admin@cspb-scbv.ca)

# Sponsors

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