

During the previous three years, we have welcomed three new societies to the Plant Canada federation. These societies are The Canadian Society of Soil Science (CSSS), The Canadian Phytopathological Society (CPS), and the Canadian Weed Science Society (CWSS). All societies have named their representatives to our board, and an updated list of board members and their addresses, etc. was prepared and circulated during May, 2003.

After some correspondence with Michael Celetti, a member of the site committee for the CPS, we received a formal invitation from the president, Karen Bailey, to meet with this society in Saskatoon in 2007. While the CPS will be the "primary organizers" of the meeting, it is expected that the other member societies will arrange for representatives to join the organizing committee.

As president of Plant Canada, I was invited to attend a meeting of the Canadian Agri-Food Research Council (CARC) in Ottawa on April 23, 2003. According to the proceedings of this meeting (a copy of which can be obtained upon request), the role of CARC is to "provide leadership in coordination and networking for agriculture and food research". The goal of the meeting was to plan a new federal organization to coordinate agricultural and food societies in Canada. Representatives of 11 societies were present, two of which are members of Plant Canada (i.e., CWSS and CPS). Each attendee gave a 10 min synopsis of the concerns, issues and challenges facing their organization. In discussing Plant Canada, I also included a brief history of our federation. The April meeting was followed by a further communication (June 18, 2003) describing a "virtual organization" called the Coalition of Agricultural and Food Science Societies Secretariat (CAF3S). Interested societies are invited to join (initial fee, \$500.00 per society).

I thank Paul Cavers for fulfilling his role as secretary, and the members of the board for their support during the past two years.

C.A. Peterson, President  
Plant Canada