



2026 OSCIA Resolutions

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Resolution #1 – Elgin SCIA – Research Department to Form a Network of Plot Cooperators

WHEREAS Many agricultural companies are interested in having multiyear field trials done with established protocols, and;

WHEREAS OSCIA has a network of local associations with farmers across the province with varied rainfall and heat units, and;

WHEREAS Plot results are more valid across a wide geography with more replications.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the OSCIA Research Department position themselves to be the contact to initiate a network of plot cooperators from within the OSCIA membership and liaise with agricultural companies to actively build relationships that allow for shared data and information with the OSCIA membership.

MOVED BY: John Poel

SECONDED BY: Jason Davis (Elgin)

FOR: **100%**

OPPOSED: **0%**

CARRIED

Resolution #2 – Renfrew SCIA – Dependence on Foreign Nitrogen Sources

WHEREAS Canada is a major importer of nitrogen fertilizers for agriculture, horticulture, turf and home use, and;

WHEREAS The production of nitrogen fertilizers requires access to natural gas, and;

WHEREAS Western Canada is a net exporter of natural gas & nitrogen fertilizers, and;

WHEREAS With current global political pressures, energy and food sovereignty have become higher national priorities.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Soil & Crop Improvement Association engage with industry stakeholders to raise awareness of the vulnerability of Canada's food security due to our dependence on foreign nitrogen sources.

MOVED BY: John Poel

SECONDED BY: Alex Briscoe (Renfrew)

FOR: **100%**

OPPOSED: **0%**

CARRIED

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Resolution #3 –Dundas, Russell and Eastern Valley SCIA's – OMAFRA Field Crop Specialists

WHEREAS OMAFA Field Crop Specialists provide much needed independent advice to Ontario producers, and;

WHEREAS For the last several years Eastern Ontario has been well served by at least two such specialists, one of whom has always been bilingual, and;

WHEREAS The bilingual position has been vacant since the summer of 2024, and;

WHEREAS Currently, Eastern Ontario has no Field Crop Specialist able to communicate proficiently in French, and;

WHEREAS Eastern Ontario is home to a significant number of Francophone producers.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that OSCIA encourage OMAFA to maintain the bilingual requirement of this Field Crop Specialist position and to move with all due haste to fill the position with a qualified bilingual individual.

MOVED BY: John Poel

SECONDED BY: Alan Kruszel (Stormont)

FOR: **100%**

OPPOSED: **0%**

CARRIED

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Resolution #4 – Eastern Valley SCIA – Communications

WHEREAS OSCIA is membership-based, grassroots organization, and;

WHEREAS Effective, timely, and transparent communication is essential to maintaining member trust, engagement, and organizational relevance, and;

WHEREAS OSCIA has experienced persistent and significant communication failures, and;

WHEREAS The termination of key association staff whose roles directly affected the membership was not communicated in a timely or transparent manner, and;

WHEREAS The response from the provincial office to last year's communication resolution did not truly align with the request, and;

WHEREAS The roles and responsibilities of Regional Communications Coordinators (RCCs) have remained outdated for several years.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that OSCIA work with locals, regions, and the broader membership to design and implement a comprehensive, organization-wide communications plan that clearly defines information flow, accountability, and member engagement; and;

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED, that OSCIA undertake an immediate review and revision of the roles and responsibilities of Regional Communications Coordinators (RCCs) to ensure they are clearly defined, current, and aligned with the communications needs of the organization and its members.

MOVED BY: John Poel

SECONDED BY: Alan Kruszel (Stormont)

FOR: **85%**

OPPOSED: **15%**

CARRIED

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Resolution #5 – Eastern Valley SCIA – Office Structure

WHEREAS OSCIA has been in a period of transition since the departure of former Executive Director Andrew Graham in the fall of 2023, and;

WHEREAS Staffing changes and vacant positions have placed increased strain on remaining staff and operations, and;

WHEREAS Ongoing uncertainty has contributed to staff turnover and raised concerns among key funding partners.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the OSCIA Board of Directors retain an independent, arms-length third party to review the current provincial office structure and staff workloads, and to provide recommendations aimed at improving organizational stability, operational efficiency, and staff well-being.

MOVED BY: John Poel

SECONDED BY: Alan Kruszel (Stormont)

FOR: **35%**

OPPOSED: **65%**

DEFEATED

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Resolution #6 – Middlesex SCIA – Timely Review/Release of New Pesticide Materials

WHEREAS New pesticide registrations in Canada have fallen behind neighboring jurisdictions, and;

WHEREAS New pesticide registrations have previously been run through the Canadian and US regulatory system in concert and registered simultaneously, and;

WHEREAS Currently new active ingredients are now being released in the United States yet are still unreleased in Canada.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the OSCIA communicate with Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) the importance of timely review and release of new pesticide materials and that the personnel and resources required be allocated to it.

MOVED BY: John Poel

SECONDED BY: Josh Weber (Middlesex)

FOR: **92%**

OPPOSED: **8%**

CARRIED

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Resolution #7 – Wellington SCIA – Agri-Environmental Programs to Recognize Early Adopters and Simplify Application

WHEREAS OSCIA is the preferred delivery agent for cost-share programming for Ontario farmers, and;

WHEREAS Farmers continue to adopt beneficial management practices that provide agri-environmental benefits as well as societal benefits, and;

WHEREAS Government cost-share funding typically excludes farmers who have already adopted the practices included in most funding programs, and;

WHEREAS Early adopters and innovators play an important role in improving and validating innovative practices and popularizing these with other farmers while incurring significant expense, and;

WHEREAS Funding program applications are often so complex that farmers hire support to complete applications.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that OSCIA advise program funders to find ways to include early adopters in funding program opportunities to encourage innovation, adoption and knowledge transfer; and

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED, that OSCIA advise program funders that the current application process is too complex, thereby excluding many farmers, and that the application process should be streamlined and simplified.

MOVED BY: John Poel

SECONDED BY: Ed Seifried (Middlesex)

FOR: **96%**

OPPOSED: **4%**

CARRIED

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Resolution #8 – Wellington SCIA – OSCIA Governance and Membership Engagement

WHEREAS OSCIA has undergone significant staffing and leadership changes in the last few years with limited transparency and communication with members, and;

WHEREAS OSCIA has developed a new strategic plan that includes a new approach to governance and leadership with limited member input and involvement, and;

WHEREAS Existing OSCIA staff have spent significant time covering vacancies, detracting from a focus on membership engagement and benefit.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that OSCIA undertake an official governance review, using an experienced party or agency, to evaluate the effectiveness of the current approach to organizational governance and leadership, and;

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED, that OSCIA provide quarterly updates to the provincial membership on progress of the governance review, implementation of the strategic plan and key activities affecting membership, to further transparency and communication, and;

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED, that OSCIA provide a detailed plan of membership engagement and benefits for the 2026-27 calendar years.

MOVED BY: John Poel

SECONDED BY: Lawrence Levesque (Wellington)

AMENDMENT PROPOSED – remove the first ‘Therefore, be it resolved’.

MOVED BY: Phil Oegema

SECONDED BY: Ed Seifried (Wellington)

FOR: **89%**

OPPOSED: **11%**

CARRIED

**Note: In meeting, a Wellington member (not sent as a delegate) seconded in error. Ed Seifried, Additional Delegate for Wellington, seconded the motion officially.*

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Resolution #9 – Dundas SCIA - Raising Awareness for the Federal Government to Include Nieces and Nephews in the Capital Gain Income Tax Changes

- WHEREAS** We are losing many family farms in Canada. This has many economic impacts and is also affecting our food security in rural communities in Canada, and;
- WHEREAS** Now a days, it is getting harder to pass down the farm because families are getting smaller and sometimes life does not provide options to transfer the farm to a child, and;
- WHEREAS** In having more options to transfer the family farm, this would be a win win because it would keep more farms in our communities, with the great economic impact that these family farms bring into a community such as providing jobs, for electricians, accounting firms, mechanic's, parts, lawyers, lumber, plumbers, construction, and;
- WHEREAS** If the government could widen the net to include not only the direct child but also to include nieces and nephews; this would increase the number of options to be able to roll over the farm without triggering big capital gain taxes.
- THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Dundas SCIA would like the support of OSCIA in raising awareness and supporting the appeal to the federal government to add in the Canadian Income Tax Act (ITA) to add in section 73(3) and 73 (3.1) to include "niece and nephews ".

MOVED BY: John Poel

SECONDED BY: Kelsey Banks (Dundas)

Resolution was withdrawn on the floor.

Resolution #10 – Ottawa Rideau SCIA – OSCIA Executive Committee Adjustment

WHEREAS The local and regional OSCIA organizations have smaller executive teams with two year terms, and;

WHEREAS If you get on the Provincial board you will be expected to be on the Executive Committee, which is a deterrent for some regions trying to find replacement directors.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that OSCIA remove the 3rd vice President position, and;

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED, to lengthen the executive terms to match the regional executive terms of two years. This would eliminate the pressure on board members to move up to the executive if they do not wish to.

MOVED BY: John Poel

SECONDED BY: Alex Oosterhof (Leeds)

FOR: **12%**

OPPOSED: **88%**

DEFEATED

Resolution #11 – Lambton SCIA – Soybean Cyst Nematode Threat

WHEREAS Soybean cyst nematode (SCN) is a major threat to soybean production in Ontario and research has shown that there is a growing trend to race adaptation to genetic resistance, keeping in mind soybean varieties are the main defence against this pest., and;

WHEREAS There used to be a voluntary testing program measuring resistance levels in different soybean cultivars in Ontario up until 2018 reported in the Ontario Soybean Performance trials, and;

WHEREAS Not all levels of SCN genetic resistance are equal among soybeans.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association (OSCIA) consult with the Grain Farmers of Ontario, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness, along with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada to consider supporting the re-introduction of SCN resistance testing in the Ontario Soybean Performance Trials to help Ontario's soybean growers have as much information possible in managing SCN in particular when it comes to the adaptation of race resistance in Ontario.

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED, that OSCIA discuss with these partners and look to their membership to expand soil testing to help better understand the adaptation of cyst resistance in Ontario.

MOVED BY: John Poel

SECONDED BY: Derrick Leclair (Chatham-Kent)

FOR: **100%**

OPPOSED: **0%**

CARRIED

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Resolution #12 – Golden Horseshoe SCIA – Regional Support for Rebuilding Membership

WHEREAS Seek, test, and adopt is at the forefront of OSCIA's Association, and;

WHEREAS Many local associations do not have the capacity to create and promote events and research projects within their county/region, and;

WHEREAS Membership to OSCIA is driven by the activities that happen at the Grassroots level, and;

WHEREAS The current funding model for the Regional Communication Coordinator does not allow sufficient engagement in the local activities.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that OSCIA expands the depth of the role of the Regional Communication Coordinator to include organizing local/regional events and on-farm trials/research to support membership within their respective regions and we require financial support from the provincial office to support this initiative.

MOVED BY: John Poel

SECONDED BY: Dan Court (Hamilton-Wentworth)

FOR: **96%**

OPPOSED: **4%**

CARRIED

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Resolution #13 – Huron SCIA – Conservation Area Alignment

WHEREAS The Lake Huron watershed does not align with Lake Superior's watershed, and;

WHEREAS Urban centres have a different focus than the rural areas.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ontario Soil & Crop Improvement Association engage with industry stakeholders to raise awareness of the impacts the proposed changes to the structure of conservation authorities may have on rural communities in Ontario and on producers who actively participate in programs administered by these authorities.

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED, OSCIA encourage those industry stakeholders who are registered lobbyists to bring these concerns forward to government to ensure decision-makers fully understand the potential impacts of these changes.

MOVED BY: John Poel

SECONDED BY: Peter Nonkes (Huron)

FOR: **100%**

OPPOSED: **0%**

CARRIED