

Organic Land Care *with*

SOUL Member Newsletter Spring 2018



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SOUL News

New Incorporation Since its inception in 2003, SOUL has been a British Columbia not-for-profit corporation. As of January 29, 2018 SOUL has begun the process of moving to a federally recognized not-for-profit. With our membership growing outside of British Columbia our board thought this would be best for the organization and its members in order to grow. More information on the transition is available on our [website](#).

2017 Standards The last few edits have been made to the standards and they are now available on the website. A big thank you to Jenna Monnington for her contribution to the visual aspect of the standards. You can find the updated version on our website under Standards - [Current Edition](#).

New Certificates and Membership Cards In the coming months, you will be receiving an updated certificate in the mail. We now have the opportunity to provide our members with membership cards, accessible through our website. As such we will be replacing the annual certificate with a one-time printed certificate mailed to you. We will be sure to keep you up to date as the changes take effect.

Seedy Saturdays We have had some requests from SOUL members for materials that can be distributed at local Seedy Saturdays (or other similar events). If you would like to spread the word about SOUL and need some materials please contact Julia at administrator@organiclandcare.org.

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Organic Seeds and Inputs

With spring right around the corner (please ignore the view out your window and just trust me on this) a lot of us are itching to get started on growing something (anything!). Seeding is probably the number one garden activity across most of the country in February so it seems like a good time to take a look at what organic seed sources we have available to us here in Canada. There are quite a few companies supplying organic heritage, open pollinated and native plant seeds and, happily, some fairly comprehensive lists of those suppliers have already been compiled:

- [Canadian Organic Growers seed supplier list](#)
- [Seeds of Diversity seed list](#) (includes a search tool for finding a specific variety from a long list of suppliers)
- [Canadian Wildlife Federation Native Plant supplier list](#)

With your seed orders placed, the next step is finding supplies for getting them started. Organic garden supplies are a bit less widely available than organic seeds since they are often bulky and difficult to ship but a couple of online stores include:

- [The Organic Gardener's Pantry](#) (for organic fertilizers and soil inoculants)
- [Gaia Green](#) (Organic fertilizers and mineral supplements)

For seeding it is always best if you can find a good local source of organic, compost based potting soil but that can be difficult, or even impossible, in some areas in mid-winter. While not everyone's favourite company due to their use of peat, ProMix has an organic certified line of potting soil, made from coconut coir and inoculated with mycorrhizal fungi, which is available from most large garden centres across Canada and can help fill the need for organic potting soil until a local source becomes available to you.

We'd love to hear from the SOUL community about where you source organic products for your projects. If you have recommendations for where to find the supplies you need to create and maintain organic gardens and landscapes please share them with us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) or send us an [email](#). If we can collect enough recommendations we can put together an organic suppliers list for the SOUL website to make it easier for all of us to find what we need to help make the places we live a little, or a lot, greener.

- *Sundaure Alford-Purvis*
SOUL Executive Director



Photo credit: Sundaure Alford-Purvis