



Black Canadian Studies Association

20 February 2021

Following our recent February 9, 2021 statement announcing our refusal to participate in Congress 2021, the Black Canadian Studies Association, BCSA has received several statements of solidarity and support from individuals and fellow associations of the Federation. Thank you.

We remain committed to working together with our comrades and fellow associations to continue to hold ourselves and the Federation leadership accountable to their stated aspirations to “decolonize” the Canadian university.

In response to our withdrawal, the Federation *finally* made the decision to centre an upcoming Congress on addressing colonialism and anti-Black racism and have now made Congress free to all self-identified Black and Indigenous graduate students and community members, which we enthusiastically welcome.

It is not lost on us that the Federation refused our request until **after** we stated we would no longer participate in Congress 2021 and after many scholars and associations voiced their outrage. The Federation’s publicly focused effort to limit the harm to their reputation caused by their decisions, has raised further concerns for the BCSA.

It has come to our attention that there is a rumour that the BCSA has been involved in determining the speakers for this year’s Congress. In no uncertain terms, please note that ***we did not recommend Ibram X. Kendi as a speaker for the Big Thinking Series.***

We have also received several inquiries asking our preference for what other associations should do in relation to their own participation in Congress, and from associations who are considering their future in the Federation. We take these requests to express a genuine desire to build good relations between associations and to continue the collective work of confronting anti-Black racism. However, in our recent statement we intentionally refrained from calling upon others to take a particular action. We feel that it is important, *nearly two full years after the 2019 Congress* and its aftermath, for our colleagues and fellow associations, if they so choose, to discuss the issues we have raised and positions we have taken, and to make decisions for themselves.

Links for Black Canadian Studies Association (BCSA) Position Statements:

- (09 February 2021) [Non-participation in Congress 2021: Not Enough has Changed](#)
- (28 September 2020) [Abolish University Campus Police](#)
- (02 June 2020) [Support Uprisings Against Police Violence](#)
- (21 March 2020) [Refuse “business as usual” during the COVID-19 pandemic](#)
- (13 February 2020) [Stand in Solidarity with Indigenous Land Defenders](#)
- (02 June 2019) [Stand up to Anti-Black Racism](#)