

**BLACK
CANADIAN
STUDIES
ASSOCIATION**



BCSA

2022-2023 Annual Report

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AGENDA

Annual General Meeting of the BCSA
Tuesday, May 30, 2023 at 10:30AM to 12:00PM EST
VC001, Vanier College, York University

1. Brief introduction and confirmation of quorum (~2min)
2. Agenda (~5min)
 - *Possible motions or points of discussion from the floor*
3. Update and approval of minutes 2021-2022 AGM (~2 min)
4. 2022-2023 Annual Report (~15min)
Brief overview of reports
 - Letter from Co-Presidents and Vice-President (Janelle, Cheryl, and Ornella)
 - Financial Report (Funké)
5. Motions for changes to Bylaws
 - Creation of four committees (Nominations Committee; Conference committee; Communications Committee; Awards Committee) along with their Operating Code
6. Discussion on any motions or points of discussion from the floor (~25 min)
 - Process for new awards and grants;
 - Congress participation in 2024
7. Nomination Process 2023-2025 Executive Committee (~30min)
 - President
 - Vice President
 - Graduate student representative
 - Members-at-large (2)
 - Treasurer
8. Adjournment

Letter from the Co-Presidents and Vice-President

Greetings fellow BCSA members,

To begin, we wish to thank you for your continued support of the BCSA and your participation in the Association this year. As co-presidents and vice president, we conclude our first year in these new roles by submitting this Annual Report for your approval.

The 2022-2023 Executive Committee of the BCSA – Cheryl Thompson (Co-President), Janelle Joseph (Co-President), Ornella Nzindukiyimana (Vice-President), Funké Aladejebi (Treasurer), Stephanie Latty (Secretary), Nicole Bernhardt (Member-at-Large), Titi Aiyegbusi (Graduate Student Representative), and Shalom Brown (Graduate Student Representative), met monthly throughout the year, collaborated in all decision-making and conference planning – including co-authoring and curating our unique Conference Theme “Nah! On the Possibilities of Ongoing Refusals.” Unfortunately, Dann Broyle, who was part of the BCSA Executive in 2022 had to resign his position due to other obligations, leaving the BCSA with one vacant Member-at-Large position.

This year we continued the Co-Presidency structure of BCSA and we think it made for a more equitable distribution of workload, a collaborative approach to decision-making, and believe that the co-presidency format also helped foster strong engagement among the BCSA Executive.

This year, we also initiated a more robust social media plan led by Shalom, including the creation of an [Instagram](#) account, and further engagement on [Twitter](#), for which Ornella frequently posted and reshared Black Canadian Studies-related content (see below communications summary for details on engagement). The website has also been maintained as the central hub for information on the association, as well as the portal for anyone looking to become a member. We continue to encourage all BCSA members to follow the Association’s social media accounts, to tag the Association on Black Canadian Studies-related posts so that as a collective community engaged in this work we can continue to grow awareness and name recognition for the work of the Association and you, our members.

We engaged the Black Research Network at the University of Toronto, to support funding for the conference keynotes and the Journal of Canadian Studies to support publishing papers based on presentations delivered at the conference.

As our mandate consists of supporting, engaging in, and furthering the development of Black Studies, deciding on a conference was paramount. Included below is a summary of the BCSA’s online presence which indicates that the association has had a healthy growth over the last year. As per our recommendations, it is greatly encouraged that the next executive form a Communications Committee which will provide the association with a team entirely dedicated to making our members’ work even more visible as well as promote the development of Black Canadian Studies. Our recommendations also underscore that, for the BCSA to continue fulfilling its mandate, it is imperative that the Executive build a solid infrastructure: we have recommended three more committees to facilitate the work of the Association, expand its capacity to serve the membership, and grow as an organization.

We proposed the creation of an award in honour of Dr. Afua Cooper that will be given to a deserving Black Canadian graduate student doing work that furthers the field of Black Canadian Studies. This award will bear Dr. Cooper's name and will include a monetary prize. Given our aim as an Executive Board to continue to support Black scholars on their journeys, we would like to create an Awards Committee that will develop a collaborative process to solicit annual donations in order to sustain the award for years to come. We envision offering the award each year at BCSA's Annual Meeting, and we believe that a sum of \$1,000 will not only have a significant impact in the life of the recipient, but it will also allow community members to demonstrate a continued commitment to supporting the work that early researchers do.

We are grateful for the opportunity to have served as Co-Presidents and Vice-President this past year. Over the years, the BCSA has been/is a vital hub for Black scholars, graduate students and community members. We are excited about the future of the BCSA and would like to encourage you, our members, to take up the call to serve on the Executive and continue the work of building an academic community for Black Canadian scholarship..

With gratitude,

Cheryl Thompson, Co-President
Janelle Joseph, Co-President
Ornella Nzindukiyimana, Vice-President

Financial Report 2022-2023

Funké Aladejebi

At the start of fiscal year beginning from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023, the BCSA was able to close its incorporated status as a non-profit organization (which was in place since 2014 as a Joint Stocks Registry). With the help of past president Melanie Knight, BCSA's banking accounts were transferred over to CIBC (2 Bloor Street West in Toronto, Ontario M4W3E2). This means that the BCSA now has a national bank it uses, and this allows for a smoother transfer of accounting as various executive members get elected. BCSA's current signing officers are current Co-President, Janelle Joseph, and Treasurer, Funké Aladejebi. Currently, the BCSA can now send and receive electronic transfers, sign cheques, and utilize other online banking services. These were services not possible under BCSA's registration with the Credit Union Atlantic in Halifax. As a result, the BCSA has been able to better track accounts and membership fees, as well as ensure that reimbursements are sent promptly to those providing services to the BCSA. The BCSA is still unable to process fees from members not registered with a bank in North America, making it challenging to include those from international locations. The BCSA executive has considered setting up a PayPal account to alleviate this but has not done so for the 2022-2023 year. Outside of this, the BCSA continues to be in good financial standing with most of the spending arising from Congress participation.

Membership and Donations:

- We have a steady membership base with half our members renewing their support in September while our participation in Congress 2023 has allowed for increasing membership registration between February and April. As of May 23, 2023, we have 100 active members, with an influx of members who continue to register as part of their participation in Congress 2023.
- We also received a generous donation of \$1,000.00 towards our keynote event from the Black Research Network at the University of Toronto. These funds have now been deposited into the BCSA account.
- While many of our members continue to provide donations to support the participation of low-income members, we received slightly fewer contributions this year and encourage full-time faculty members to please consider donating.

Matters of Note:

- As part of our participation in Congress 2023, we paid an annual membership fee of \$1,452.87. We were also able to ensure that fee waivers for Black and Indigenous students and community members as part of our participation in Congress 2023 continue.
- Our main expenditures largely revolved around the BCSA's participation in Congress 2023. This includes room fees and registration, as well as keynote flights, accommodations, and honorariums.

Congress Registration/Fee Breakdown

EARLY BIRD RATES (BEFORE MARCH 31, 2023) - TARIF DE PRÉINSCRIPTION (AVANT LE 31 MARS)

Congress Delegate Category	BCSA Conference Fee	Congress Fee	Total Delegate Registration Fee
-	-	-	-
Catégories de délégués au Congrès	Frais de conférence de l'AENC	Frais du Congrès	Frais totaux d'inscription par délégué
Regular member / Non-member			
-	\$60.00	\$190.00	\$250.00
Congressiste régulier (Membre / Non-membre)			
Underemployed			
-	\$40.00	\$150.00	\$190.00
Congressiste en situation de sous-emploi			
Student or K-12 educator			
-	\$40.00	\$80.00	\$120.00
Congressiste – étudiant.e ou enseignant.e			
Retired / Unemployed			
-	\$40.00	\$80.00	\$120.00
Congressiste – sans emploi ou retraité.e			
Black or Indigenous Student*			
-	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Congressiste – étudiant.e noir.e ou autochtone*			
Community attendee**			
-	n/a	n/a	
Participant.e Communautaire**			
Black or Indigenous community attendee**			
-	n/a	n/a	
Participant.e Communautaire – personne noir.e ou autochtone**			

*Presenting at association conference / Presente à la conférence de l'association

** Only attending sessions available to all Congress participants / Assiste uniquement aux sessions accessibles à tous les participants au Congrès

**REGULAR RATES (STARTING APRIL 1) -
TARIF RÉGULIER (À PARTIR DU 1ER AVRIL)**

Congress Delegate Category	BCSA Conference Fee	Congress Fee	Total Delegate Registration Fee
-	-	-	-
Catégories de délégués au Congrès	Frais de conférence de l'AENC	Frais du Congrès	Frais totaux d'inscription par délégué
Regular member / Non-member			
-	\$70.00	\$225.00	\$295.00
Congressiste régulier (Membre / Non-membre)			
Underemployed			
-	\$50.00	\$190.00	\$240.00
Congressiste en situation de sous-emploi			
Student or K-12 educator			
-	\$50.00	\$105.00	\$155.00
Congressiste – étudiant.ee ou enseignant.e			
Retired / Unemployed			
-	\$50.00	\$105.00	\$155.00
Congressiste – sans emploi ou retraité.e			
Black or Indigenous Student*			
-	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Congressiste – étudiant.e noir.e ou autochtone*			
Community attendee**			
-	\$0.00	\$55.00	\$55.00
Participant.e Communautaire**			
Black or Indigenous community attendee**			
-	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Participant.e Communautaire – personne noir.e ou autochtone**			

*Presenting at association conference / Presente à la conférence de l'association

** Only attending sessions available to all Congress participants / Assiste uniquement aux sessions accessibles à tous les participants au Congrès

BCSA Current Financial Accounts

BANK ACCOUNT BALANCE	2022-2023	2021-2022	2020-2021	2019-2020
Opening	\$13,651.30 (May 30, 2022)	\$7,891.35 (30 June 2021)	\$6468.07 (1 July 2020)	\$3595.30 (1 July 2019)
Reporting date	\$16,809.74 (May 23, 2023)	\$15,155.30 (21 April 2022)	\$13,399. 77 (21 May 2021)	\$6468.07 (30 June 2020)

BCSA Statement for Fiscal Year 2022-2023

REVENUE	July 1, 2022 (as of 23 May 2023)	July 1, 2021 (as of 21 April, 2022)	July 1 2020- (as of 21 May 2021)
Membership dues	\$6,795	\$9,465.00 (approx.)	4780.00
Donations (from Memberships)	\$275.00	\$800.00	1393.00
External Donations	\$1000.00	\$1750.00	
Federation Grants	\$0	\$1500.00 (from Federation Keynote Grant)	
Total	\$8,070	13,515.00	13,509.77
EXPENSES	2022-2023 (as of May 2023)	2021-2022 (as of May 2022)	2020-2021 (as of 21 May 2021)
Bank fees (including cheque book orders)	\$149.99	\$112.50	110.00
Website Costs	\$0	\$0	5427.00 (hosting & domain, redesign and migration)
Honorariums	N/A	\$600 Speakers Series May 2021	
Reimbursements	\$92.93 (reimbursement to OmiSoore Dryden)	\$124.60 (Bank draft fees)	
Miscellaneous Payments	\$1000.00 (Finance support for Joint Stocks)		
Congress Fees			

Federation Membership	\$1452.87	\$511.50	0
Congress Keynote ASL interpreters	TBD	\$904.00	
AGM Webinar license/support	N/A	\$169.50	
Room Fees	Audio-Visual Package \$ 700 Catering \$1230.90	\$570.00 (Webinar Room fees)	
Conference Keynote	\$1000.00 (approx.) (May 30, 2023 – not yet paid)	\$2000.00 (2022)	
Student honoraria	\$0	\$250.00	600.00 (webinar series)
Professional Translation costs	\$ TBD	\$444.00 (Annual Report)	1175.92 (\$500.00, annual report + \$675.92 by-laws)
Varia	\$1570.49 (Keynote #1 flight 2023) \$567.96 (Keynote #2 flight 2023) \$967.87 (Keynote Accommodations 2023) \$3106.32		500.00 (reimbursement to C.Bonner)
TOTAL	\$7733.01	6822.60	7812.92
SURPLUS	\$13,987.99 (approx.)	6692.40	5696.85

Graduate Student Representatives' Report

This year, the Association's graduate student representatives participated in executive meetings and activities as full members, providing input on decision-making, helping to draft various communications to members, and lending strategic advice for the future directions of the BCSA. As a team, each representative took on various roles in the Executive, including creating and maintaining the BCSA Instagram page, and assisting other Executive members in their responsibilities. We also liaised with the Black Graduate Student Network (BGSN), having multiple meetings to discuss how the BCSA and BGSN could collaborate strategically and work to increase graduate student membership and participation in both organizations.

As representatives, we feel confident that the ideas and strategies discussed with the BGSN are in line with the future directions of the BCSA, and that we have begun to lay a foundation for future representatives and BGSN President's to move forward in engaging and maintaining strong relationships and supports with Black graduate students across the country. The future representative(s) will continue to meet with the BGSN, expressing any wishes to the Association and working to implement ongoing collaborative opportunities for Black graduate students.

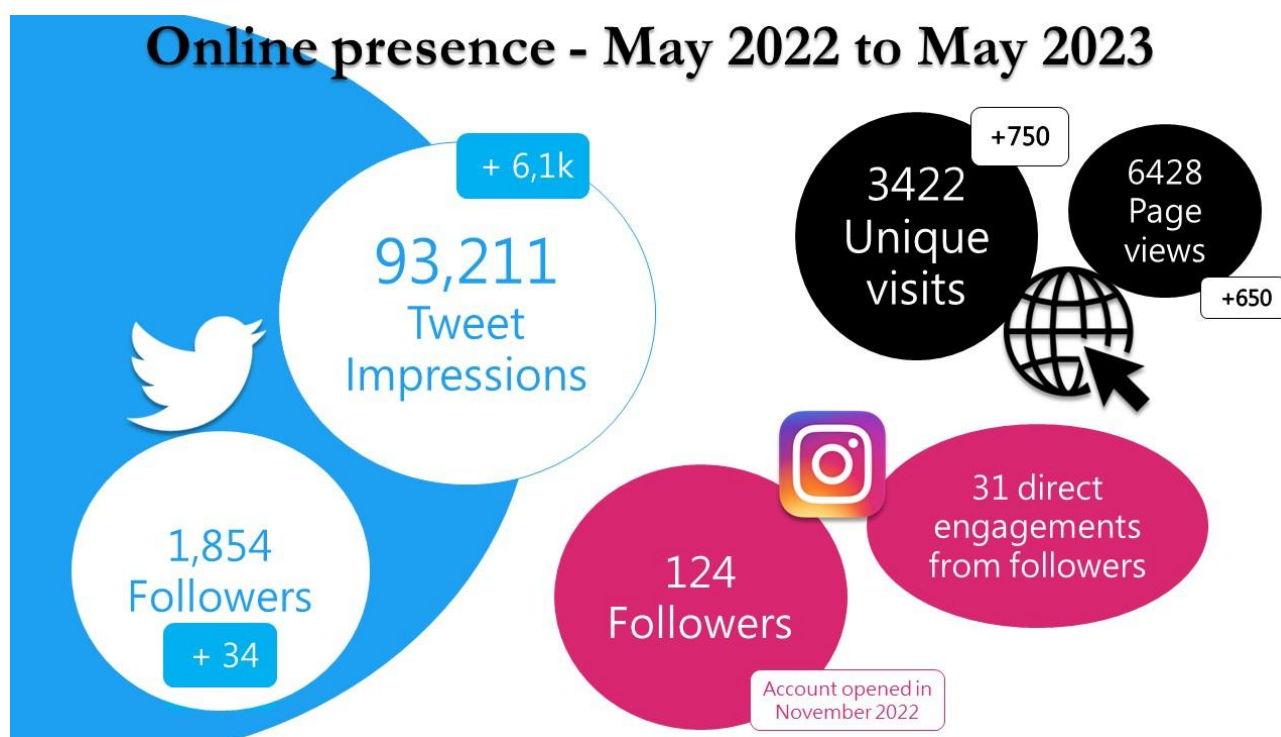
Shalom Brown
Titi Aiyegbusi

Communications overview

Managing and updating [BCSA](#) website and social media platform on [Twitter](#) and on [Instagram](#) (account opened in November 2023) maintains a healthy presence of our organization online as we share advancements in Black Studies all over Canada, job openings, as well as share listserv updates with our membership.

Since last year, there has been a steady engagement with our platforms. The Twitter and Instagram accounts have gained followers in the last few months and impressions/engagements are up.

Communication overview:



*The additional numbers in bubbles are a comparison to the same metrics last year.

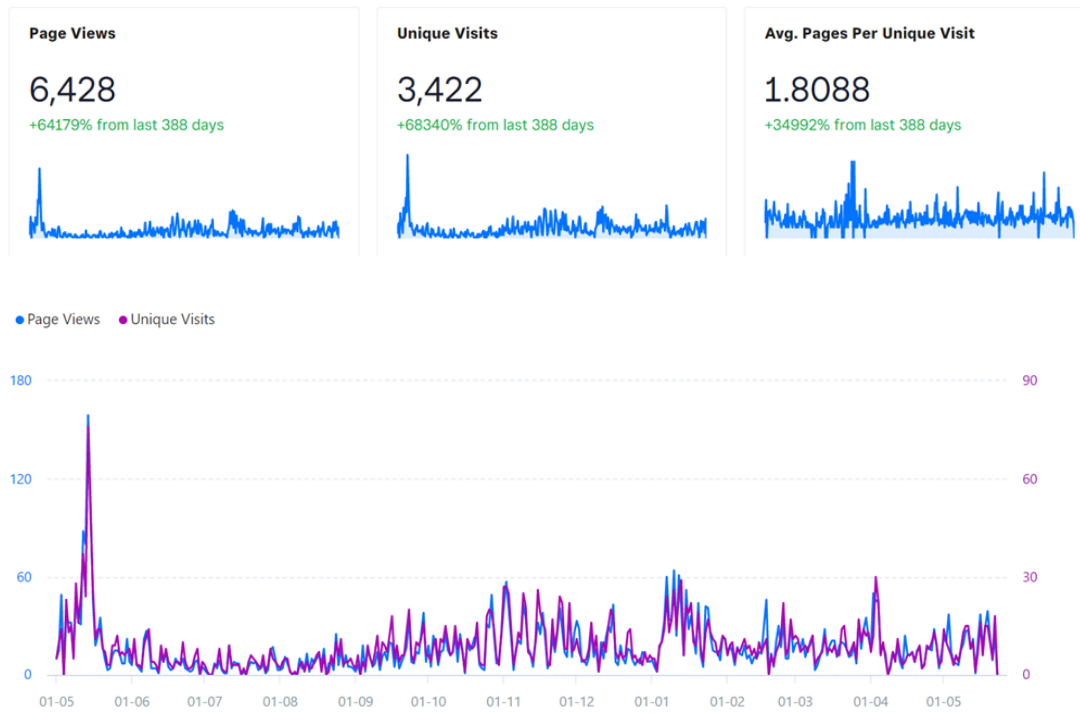
Overview of Instagram followers demographics:

33.6% of our followers come from Toronto, 4.9% come from Windsor and Montreal each, 3.2% come from Winnipeg and 2.4% come from London. We also have some international following, with approximately 17.3% of our followers being outside of Canada.

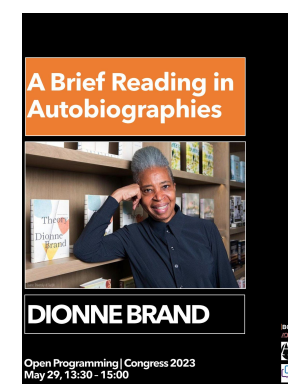
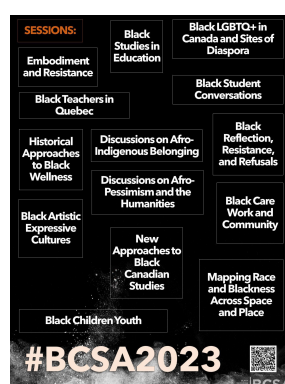
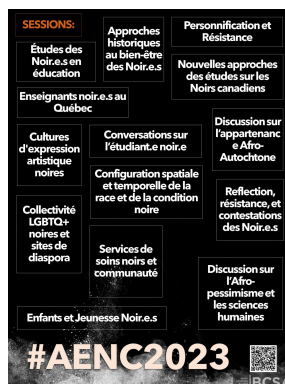
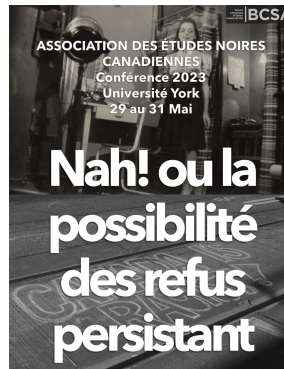
Our highest demographic is at the 25-34 age range (36.8%), followed by 35-44 and 18-24 (26.2% and 18.8% respectively).

BCSA website record of daily visits – July 2022 to May 2023:

*Note that data does not reflect visitors who can turn off cookies and tracking technologies.



Conference posters:



Recommendations Moving Forward

For the past few years, the BCSA's executive has been primarily focused on organizing the annual conference at the Congress of the Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences. This is an important part of fulfilling the vision of the BCSA and it offers a crucial forum for the membership to not only present their work, but to interact with each other. This is especially critical since the interdisciplinary nature of Black Studies means that members operate across the country in various Departments, as well as within and outside of academia, and have little to no other opportunities to interact.

The 2022-23 Executive Committee recommends that the BCSA develops the association's administrative body to ensure that the association can accomplish more for its membership, including a better forum for Black Canadian Studies. For this purpose, it is estimated that postponing participation in Congress for at least a year would be necessary to facilitate this work, as the in-person conference planning (as part of Congress) demands great amounts of time and resources. That year would allow the Executive to build a stronger structure for the association, including populating specialized committees, constructing committees's operating codes, and establishing a more efficient infrastructure to better serve the membership and thus fulfill the association's mandate.

Recommended committees are the following:

1. **Nominations Committee** to communicate with the membership to find and nominate candidates for vacant position in the executive board and other committees;
2. **Communications Committee** to manage social media platforms, update the BCSA website, and keep the membership abreast of pertinent information pertaining to Black Studies in Canada;
3. **Grant and Awards Committee** to build a process for applying for awards and grants and securing funding for internal awards;
4. **Conference Committee** to oversee conference planning and execution.

Committees' operating codes should outline the responsibilities of each committee, how many members are required to run it, how committees will be appointed, and outline the (ideally staggered) terms' length. All committees will report to the Executive board.

We have also discussed many additions and potential shifts to the bylaws of the organization, including terms of tenure and tasks for executive positions and processes for voting in elections. Future executives will continue to refine processes and bylaws to improve the association's function. It is greatly recommended that any amendments and revisions be optimized to ensure organizational memory (e.g., securing staggered terms), as well as ensuring members who served previously are encouraged to continue participating in the association.