



# 2021-2022 Annual Report

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## AGENDA

### Annual General Meeting of the BCSA

May 15, 2022 @ 1:30-3:30 EST

(Zoom link provided to members)

1. Brief introduction and confirmation of quorum (~2min)
2. Agenda (~5min)
  - *Possible motions or points of discussion from the floor*
3. Update Minutes 2020-2021 AGM (~2 min)<sup>1</sup>
4. 2021-2022 Annual Report (~15min)  
Brief overview of reports
  1. Letter from President and Vice-President (Melanie and Delores)
  2. Financial Report (Funké)
  3. Communication Report (Ornella)
  4. Conference Committee Report (Melanie, Gemechu, Delores and Ornella)
  5. Graduate Student Representative Report (Sarah)
5. *Discussion on any motions or points of discussion from the floor (~25 min)*
6. Nominations and Election: 2022-2024 Executive Committee (~30min)
  - Submission prior to deadline - Graduate Student Representative nomination  
Shalom Brown (nominated by Sarah Riley Case)
7. Adjournment

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<sup>1</sup> Minutes from the 2020-2021 AGM will be approved and added at a later time.

## **Letter from the President and Vice President**

Melanie Knight and Delores V. Mullings

Greetings fellow BCSA members,

To begin, we wish to thank you for your continued support of the BCSA and your participation in the association despite a year of hardship and uncertainty. As outgoing president and vice-president and as we conclude our first year in these new roles, we submit this Annual Report for your approval.

We would be remiss in not acknowledging that we continue to live and work in perilous times. The Covid-19 pandemic continues to wreak havoc on families and communities, disproportionately affecting Black, Indigenous and racialized communities. Although we are continually expected to function as “business as usual”, we know that this is not only an impossibility for many but an inscribing of normalized practices that often deny systemic racism and exclude the lived realities of Black communities and families. We offer our thoughts and concern for all those affected by the pandemic and condolences to all who have lost loved ones. We wish everyone health and access to resources as we navigate our way through the COVID-19 pandemic that continues to affect our communities. We are also grateful for the many researchers, community leaders working, and bringing visibility to critical health, and other research that is often underfunded, dismissed and invisibilized in dominant spaces.

The BCSA has been vital for the promotion of Black scholarship in Canada and for its ability to connect Black scholars to one another. We have done our best to support the exceptional work of past executives. We wish to thank Dr. Maki Motapanyane, who although served as co-president for a short time, contributed greatly to a good foundational start to the year. We are also thankful for the contributions from past co-presidents, Drs. OmiSoore Dryden and Rosalind Hampton.

At the beginning of our tenure, our executive agreed to conduct the BCSA’s business through consensus decision-making in a supportive and respectful manner. Our efforts were successful. The 2021-2022 Executive Committee of the BCSA—Funké Aladejebi, Fikile Nxumalo, Ornella Nzindukiyimana, Gemechu Abeshu, Sarah Riley Case and ourselves worked together as a team—have met monthly throughout the year, and collaborated in all decision-making and planning pertaining to the conference, daily operations of the BCSA, meeting with individuals and groups seeking support from the BCSA and future mapping and recommendations. We have sought to keep members informed of decisions and opportunities on our listserv, have maintained a public presence through our Twitter account and website, and have issued statements in keeping with our principles and mandate. This year, our membership has grown. We are grateful to individuals who renewed their membership or became new members and appreciate the membership’s response to our requests for feedback throughout the year.

As our mandate consists of supporting, engaging in, and furthering the development of Black Studies, deciding on a conference was paramount. With last year's fraught relationship with the Federation, we sought to determine the current membership's stance on a conference within Congress and issued a survey. The membership voted in support for a conference in connection with the Federation. We did so with caution, holding the Federation accountable for the promises it made to the BSCA and others we included on waiving of fees, a future in-person Congress theme focusing on Black Studies/Anti-Black racism, eventual grant support, technical assistance for virtual Congress and in addition support for contract/part-time lecturers and mapping of conference planning. The Federation agreed to all and provided an official letter. We also believe that our participation this year should not prevent or reduce the Federation's commitment to begin meaningful intensive discussion to build and implement strategies for addressing anti-Black racism both at the Federation and with its member associations. The BCSA Executive has learned a great deal in the process and feels well prepared to impart knowledge on the bureaucratic process involved with conference planning to the new executive so that they may decide how they wish to proceed with future conferences.

We are grateful for the opportunity to have served as the President 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 hope other members will take up the call to serve on the executive and continue the work of founding members.

With gratitude,



Melanie Knight and Delores V. Mullings

## **Financial Report 2021-2022**

Funké Aladejebi

At the start of fiscal year beginning from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022, the BCSA remains incorporated as a non-profit organization (since 2014 - Joint Stocks Registry). As a result, the BCSA's banking accounts are currently registered with the Credit Union Atlantic in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Its current signing officers are OmiSoore Dryden, former Co-President, and former executive member Claudine Bonner. On March 29, 2022, the current executive sent a motion, which was approved, regarding "the deregistering of the BCSA as a corporation, shift to a national bank and settle all outstanding financial matters." This motion and deregistering is meant to counter delays and challenges for an Executive possibly located outside of Nova Scotia accessing the BCSA account. In trying to shift the account, the BCSA has encountered a series of delays and the account is in the final stages of closure.

In order to deregister the BCSA as a corporation, it costs \$12.45 and good standing with the bank. The BCSA is also required to provide financial statements from 2017-2021 and pay outstanding fees of approx. \$115.00, as well as update the names with the most recent directors. The BCSA is moving towards the completion of this process and OmiSoore Dryden and Claudine Bonner are taking the lead to close accounts in Nova Scotia. The 2021-2022 Executive team signed documents to allow for the closure of the joint stocks account and this has been sent to the credit union by the signing officers in Nova Scotia (OmiSoore Dryden & Claudine Bonner).

After the new executive is elected at the May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022 AGM, a new bank account will be created and funds will be redirected to the newly created BCSA account. As of April 21, 2022, The BCSA is still registered with the Credit Union Atlantic in Halifax.

### **Membership and Donations:**

- We have a steady and growing membership and our return to Congress this year has facilitated increasing membership. As of April 21, 2022, we have 101 active members, with an influx of 32 members after Congress registration.
- We also had a generous donation of \$1,750.00 from a donor who wished to remain anonymous to assist with our operations. These funds have now been deposited into the BCSA account.
- Our membership continues to increase with donations made by members to support the participation of low-income members.

**Matters of Note:**

- As part of our participation in Congress 2022, we paid an annual membership fee of \$511.50. We were also able to negotiate a waiver of fees for Black and Indigenous students and community members as part of our participation in Congress 2022.
- The BCSA applied for the Federation Congress Graduate Merit Award and two graduate students were awarded grants of \$500.00 each. The BCSA congratulates Beatrice Anane-Bediakoh and Alicia F. Noreiga as the 2021-2022 award recipients.
- The current Black Canadian Studies Executive (2021-2022) agreed to the request from Dr. Charmaine Nelson to incorporate her research site with the name Black Canadian Studies. We believe this incorporation will still be distinct from the Black Canadian Studies Association. The incorporation also does not interfere with the joint stocks registry with the BCSA.
- The below listed information indicates estimates as full account details were not accessible to the current Treasurer.

**Update on Banking**

- Because the bank account in Halifax, NS has not been closed, financial and banking has been restricted to our past co-president, Omisoore Dryden. Dryden has received cheques from members who cannot electronically transfer funds and has also issued cheques for our membership renewal. The situation with Credit Union Atlantic continues to limit the financial capabilities for the current treasurer causing some additional burdens on past executive members.
- The current treasurer was unable to review updated banking information and access data on banks.
- Since then, some progress has been made towards removing BCSA's registration with the Joint Stocks Registry in Nova Scotia.

## Congress Registration/Fee Breakdown

### EARLY BIRD BEFORE APRIL 1, 2022 / INSCRIPTION ANTICIPÉE AVANT LE 1 AVRIL, 2022

Congress Delegate Category/ Catégorie de congressistes	Congress Fee/ Frais de congrès	BCSA Conference Fee/ Frais de conférence de l'AENC	Total Delegate Registration Fee/ Frais totaux pour congressistes
Student/Étudiant	\$55.00	\$0	\$55.00
Retired/Unwaged / Retraité(e)/Non-salarié(e)	\$55.00	\$0	\$55.00
Regular Member (attendee) who is BCSA member/ Congressiste membre de l'AENC	\$150.00	\$40.00 (will be optional in online system/ optionnel dans le système d'inscription)	\$190.00 (approx.)
Regular Non-member (attendee) who is not a BCSA member / Congressiste non-membre de l'AENC	\$150.00	\$50.00	\$200.00
Black or Indigenous Students / Étudiant(e)s Noirs ou Autochtones	\$0	\$0	\$0
Black or Indigenous Community Members, Part time Contract lecturers attending BCSA / Membres de la communauté ou professeur(e)s à temps partiel	\$0	\$0	\$0

## BCSA Current Financial Accounts

CREDIT UNION BALANCE	2021-2022	2020-2021	2019-2020
Opening	\$7,891.35 (30 June 2021)	\$6468.07 (1 July 2020)	\$3595.30 (1 July 2019)
Reporting date	\$15,155.30 (21 April 2022)	\$13,399.77 (21 May 2021)	\$6468.07 (30 June 2020)

**BCSA Statement for Fiscal Year 2021-2022**

REVENUE	July 1, 2021 (as of 21 April, 2022)	July 1 2020- (as of 21 May 2021)	July 1 2019- June 30 2020 [updated]
Membership dues	\$9,465.00 (approx.)	\$4780.00	\$3350.00
Previous year's Congress	0	0	\$3560.00
Donations (from Memberships)	\$800.00	\$1393.00	\$425.00
External Donations	\$1750.00		
Federation Grants	\$1500.00 (International Keynote Grant from Federation to be applied to invoice post Congress.)		
Total	13,515.00 *	13,509.77	\$7335.00
EXPENSES	2021-2022 (as of May 2022)	2020-2021 (as of 21 May 2021)	2019-2020
Bank fees	\$112.50	\$110.00	\$110.00
Website costs		\$5427.00 (hosting & domain, redesign and migration)	\$427.00
Honorariums	\$600 Speakers Series May 2021		
Bank Draft (unknown? Follow up with OmiSoore)	\$124.60		
Finance support for Joint Stocks * (Follow up with OmiSoore)	\$1000.00		

Congress Fees			
Previous year's congress		0	1301.30
Congress ASL interpreters (3 in total for Keynote and one session)	\$904.00		
AGM Webinar license/support	\$250.00 (approx.)		
Congress Conf Webinar Room Fees	\$470.00		
2022 Conference Keynote	\$2000.00		
Federation Membership Fee	\$511.50	0	1369.53
Student honoraria	\$250.00	600.00 (webinar series)	N/A
Professional French Translation costs	\$600.00 approx. (Annual Report)	1175.92 (\$500.00, annual report + \$675.92 by-laws)	N/A
Varia		500.00 (reimbursement to C. Bonner)	31.15
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6822.60</b>	<b>7812.92</b>	<b>3238.98</b>
<b>SURPLUS</b>	<b>6692.40**</b>	<b>5696.85</b>	<b>4096.02</b>

\* Please note there is a slight discrepancy in calculations since my term began slightly after the July 1, 2021 fiscal year.

\*\* Plus the International Keynote Grant



Funké Aladejebi

## **Communication Report**

Member-at-Large responsible for Communication - Ornella Nzindukiyimana

### **Tasks:**

- Managing and updating [BCSA](#) website and social media platform on [Twitter](#). Editing and posting associations' announcements.

### **Activities for the year:**

- Upon receiving access to the BCSA website on Weebly in July 2021, I familiarized myself with the site to ensure it would remain up to date with regards to statements and announcements.
- Throughout the year, I co-edited statements and announcements (English and French, when required)
- In February 2022, I co-edited the poster for the conference which was posted on Twitter and on the website.

### **Statements released (posted on website):**

- “Statement regarding 2022 Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences” (November 5, 2021)
- “Statement from the Executive of the Black Canadian Studies Association in support of Wet'suwet'en land defenders and all who are in the fight against Indigenous dispossession, anti-Black racism and other forms of colonialism” (March 3, 2022)

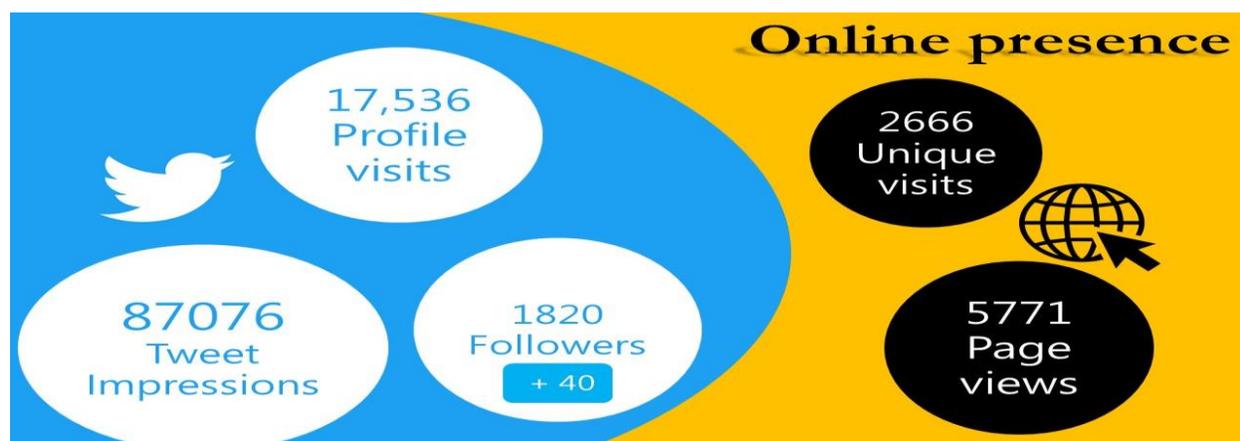
### **Announcements (posted on website):**

- English and French CFP of 2022 BCSA Conference as part of the annual Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences (December 1, 2021)
- Conference preliminary/final programme (March 4, 2022)
- Conference poster (March 4, 2022)

### **Twitter:**

- Tweets of statements and announcements
- Retweeting relevant news and calls (e.g., job calls in Black Studies, Black Canadian news, celebrating Black scholarship, prominent figures, and successes, etc.)
- Tweeting of BCSA Conference information and reminders

## Statistics overview:



## BCSA website record of daily visits – May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 to April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Note that data does not reflect visitors who can turn off cookies and tracking technologies, particularly those from the UK and Europe. Change in website host (to Weebly) means there is no data prior to May 2021.

### Twitter data between June 2021 and April 2022

Time	Tweets	Profile visits	New Followers	Tweet impressions	Mentions
Jun-21	6	6004 <sup>2</sup>	18	19200*	6
Jul-21	2	1459	4	4677	5
Aug-21	0	415	0	2655	7
Sep-21	0	678	-4	1985	1
Oct-21	4	983	-4	2154	4
Nov-21	8	1257	3	5401	1
Dec-21	19	1659	3	15100	7
Jan-22	12	1789	3	13900	6
Feb-22	15	1415	-1	9704	8
Mar-22	16	1877	18	12300	5



Ornella Nzindukiyimana

<sup>2</sup> After the BCSA's non-participation in Congress 2021, the number of profile visits and tweet impressions dramatically increased. This elevated level of engagement was uncharacteristic, as noted by the numbers in the later half of the year.

## Secretary Report

Fikile Nxumalo

As Secretary, my main responsibilities were preparing and distributing minutes of meetings of the Executive. I also completed other duties as assigned by the President such as tasks related to annual conference and AGM preparation. In considering future possibilities for this role, one suggestion would be to record meetings so that transcripts of each meeting are readily available. This would free up time for the secretary to perform other duties such as preserving and organizing institutional memory. These duties could include helping to manage documentation in the google drives. They could also include organizing emails – such as keeping a folder of events and job postings. This role could also assist in a broader effort by the association to research the emergence of Black Studies positions and programs in Canada.



Fikile Nxumalo

## Conference Committee Report

Melanie Knight, Gemechu Abeshu, Delores V. Mullings, Ornella Nzindukiyimana

This year the BCSA's virtual meeting/conference titled "*Black Solidarities, Thought, and the Quest for Black Freedom*" was held May 14-15, 2022 as part of the annual Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences (May 12-20, 2022). Let us briefly map the timeline leading up to the conference decision and our issuing of a call for papers (CFP).

- June/July 2021 - Executive members took time to read emails and documents on conversations with Federation Executives to provide context on the 2020-21 year.
- On June 23, 2021 BCSA co-presidents (Melanie Knight and Maki Motapanyane) attended the 2021 Federation Annual Meeting (given anonymous status) in order to gain more information on the federation's workings, mandate and EDID committee and work.
- July 2021 - Note: Melanie Knight, Maki Motapanyane and graduate student representative Sarah Riley Case worked on recruitment for Executive member positions.
- On Sept 28, 2021 Melanie Knight and Delores V. Mullings met with Gabriel Miller, President and Chief Executive Officer, Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences, Patrizia Albanese, Chair, Board of Directors, Federation for the Humanities & Social Sciences and Laura Chajkowski, Director, Congress and Events, Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences to discuss the BCSA's requests (waiving of fees for Black-identified and Indigenous students and community members attending BCSA events/conference, hold a future in-person Congress (2024-2027), support for possible SSHRC connection grant application, streamline the Congress 2022 planning process and provide additional logistical/administrative support and provide the BCSA with a wide range of technical and marketing supports).
- In continued communication, if the decision was to be part of Congress, advocated, successfully, for the waiving of fees for contract/part-time faculty. Also with the commitment to hold a Congress with a theme centered on Black Studies in Canada, Anti-Black racism, and Colonialism have a brief document that outlines responsibilities, key planning milestones and decision points. The aim of this outline is to ensure the BCSA is not solely responsible for the managing of future Congress but a partner and collaborator. On December 11, 2021 received a signed letter "Agreement for 2022 Congress between the Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences and the Black Canadian Studies Association" from Gabriel Miller.
- Note: January 31, 2022, we received an email from Gabriel Miller stating that the Federation began seeking proposals from Canadian universities to host a future Congress (2024 to 2027.) In their call for proposals, they reiterated the Federation's commitment to host a future in-person Congress with a theme centered on Black Studies in Canada, anti-Black racism, and colonialism and strongly encouraged universities to build proposals around this theme. Future BCSA Executives can follow up.

After consultation with Federation Executive, the BCSA decided to issue a survey (issued October 12-20, 2021) outlining the Federation's support and questions on whether to hold an online conference as part of Congress or on our own. An overwhelming majority 82.6% of those who participated in the survey (23 responses - slightly greater response rate to last year's survey) voted to rejoin the Federation and partake in Congress 2022 (made announcement Nov 4, 2021). President Melanie Knight was Congress conference committee chair (agreed to by Executive). The Executive then developed and distributed a call for papers Dec 1, 2021 in English and French, with a deadline of January 31, 2022 with an extensive diverse range of themes. We received over 50 abstracts (including panels) from faculty, graduate students and artists. The BCSA Executive made collaborative decisions on a keynote and panel organization. We also created promotional material to promote the conference (see poster). This year's conference includes Canisia Lubrin as our amazing keynote, an artist session, a graduate student roundtable session and many other sessions [BCSA - 2022 Conference Programme](#). We are grateful to all who submitted abstracts and those attending the conference.

The BCSA's work then consisted of meeting with Federation Executives to decide on room organizations, registration fees, tech support and other administrative matters. For the decision on conference/registration fees, please see the financial report. Our conference days were selected based on availability and consideration of BCSA members possibly presenting at other associations. We received some support to fill out required forms (e.g. registration, international fund award, Congress Graduate Merit Award and ASL support). We particularly wish to thank Laura Laura Chajkowski for her immense support and guidance throughout. Also important to note, the conference committee advocated to qualify for the International Scholars Keynote grant as we did not formally qualify and were successful in receiving this grant. We also nominated two graduate students for the Congress Graduate Merit Award (both were successful!). We also solicited and received a number of responses for posting on the BCSA virtual greeting lounge (the front door to the conference). Post Congress, the BCSA will be provided with recordings of every session and any desired relevant data on attendance, etc. We will work to ensure proper storage and possible dissemination on our website.

In closing, we wish to thank everyone for their overwhelming support in contributing to, organizing and hosting this amazing conference!

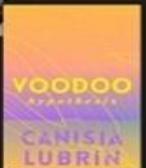


Melanie Knight, Gemechu Abeshu, Delores V. Mullings, Ornella Nzindukiyimana (Congress conference organizing sub-committee)



**Black Canadian Studies Association**  
May 14-15, 2022 Virtual Conference  
*Black Solidarities, Thought, and the Quest for Black Freedom*

**KEYNOTE**  
**CANISIA LUBRIN**



**More than 45 presenters!!!**

**A Black Graduate Students' Roundtable**

**Topics focussed on disability, black writers, social movements, carcerality, black geographies, health and environmental justice and more!!!**

**Talk-Workshop-Performance with Artist Anna Jane McIntyre**

Talk-Workshop-Performance with **Anna Jane McIntyre**



**JOIN US!!!**

See the BCSA website for programme and registration information  
[www.blackcanadianstudiesassociation.ca](http://www.blackcanadianstudiesassociation.ca)



## **Graduate Student Representative Report**

Sarah Riley Case

The Association's graduate student representative participated in executive meetings and activities as a full member, providing input on decision-making, helping to draft documents, and lending strategic advice. As well, the representative liaised with the Black Graduate Students Network (BGSN), following the appointment of a new BGSN president. The Association representative met with the BGSN president on several occasions thereafter to acquaint the president (and the BGSN through the president) to the Association. Together, they ensured that graduate students accessed information about the annual conference, including a graduate student award. They organized a dedicated space in the conference for graduate students to share experiences and give mutual support. The BGSN, through the Association's representative, encouraged graduate students to apply to the main conference, which a good number did. The graduate student representative will be hosting a consultative session with the BGSN membership on April 29, 2022 to discuss what graduate students would like the Association to do for them. Ideas discussed with the BGSN president, prior to the meeting, included a mentorship program and skills training for scholarship applications. The Association representative will convey the wishes expressed in that meeting to the current executive so the 2022-2023 executive can follow through on these possible directions.



Sarah Riley Case

## Recommendations Moving Forward

We recognize that the BCSA's membership has grown in recent years. As noted in previous annual reports, the membership should be aware that the potential work of the BCSA far exceeds the current structure in place. We have a few key recommendations for the incoming Executive.

- First, would be to address bylaws at the onset of the new term to address the confusion in certain areas.
- We also recommend the possible implementation of a limited number of standing sub-committees to alleviate the work of the executive.
  - These could include a Nomination Committee, a Communications and Conference Committee. The nomination committee in particular would alleviate the strain of last minute outreach and recruitment.
  - A conference committee could also help further develop connections with other associations/organizations who wish to collaborate on initiatives (e.g. CSA Black Caucus, ACCUTE, etc). It could also support the nomination of awards.
- Second, early attention should be given to finances/our financial accounts to ensure executive members have knowledge of the association's budget. Doing so will also help determine capacity for Tri-Council or other funding. Additional funding would help with French language translation, issues of accessibility and further support for graduate students and other initiatives.