



Statement regarding 2022 Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences

5 November 2021

Greetings,

First, the BCSA would like to thank everyone who has supported us over the past two years with positive messages, donations and calls to stand in solidarity with us. It has and continues to be trying times for Black peoples globally. For the BCSA and our mandate of furthering and promoting Black scholarship, we believe having opportunities to hold conversations with one another to be paramount.

After consultation with our members, we gladly announce that the vote this year was for the BCSA to rejoin Congress in 2022. We do not take this vote and our participation in Congress 2022 lightly, especially after the last two years. We are committed to holding the Federation accountable for the promises it made to the BCSA on waiving of fees, a future in-person Congress theme focusing on Black Studies/Anti-Black racism, eventual grant support, and technical assistance for virtual Congress. To support Black scholarship means a continued level of commitment and engagement with concerns raised by the BCSA.

We also believe that our participation this year should not prevent the Federation from beginning intensive discussion and building strategies for addressing anti-Black racism both at the Federation and with its member associations. For one, the BCSA will continue to advocate that the Federation's Charter be mandatory, rather than voluntary, and include an ongoing commitment to addressing anti-Black racism as part of its mandate. We also believe that in addition to standing with the BCSA, associations evaluate their by-laws and practices and work towards changing research cultures, access to knowledge, the valuing of Black scholarship, and the promotion of Black hires and mentorship within their own disciplines. This should not only be at the forefront of debates when a crisis has arisen; anti-racism is a long-term undertaking. To those who work within these environments, we hear you and want to offer you a space to speak truth to power. Join us this year to share your work!

Again, thank you to everyone who supported the BCSA. Our work is ongoing, and we are committed to supporting Black scholarship across Canada!

BCSA Executive