



**BLACK CANADIAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION**  
2019-2020 ANNUAL REPORT



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June 2020

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Fellow members of the BCSA,

We submit this Annual Report amidst the global pandemic of COVID 19 and yet another siege upon Black life in Canada and in the United States. It is no exaggeration to state that in our current day Black and Indigenous people continue to be hunted and murdered by police and vigilantes. And as always, in the face of such violence we see Black life uprising. Across the colonial borders of nation states we collectively resist, we collectively refuse to be silenced, forgotten or eliminated. Our freedom dreams are relentless.

### **Congress 2019: Into the fire**

We accepted the role of co-presidents of this association amidst an incident of profound anti-Black racism at the 2019 Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences at University of British Columbia. The now well-known June 2<sup>nd</sup> incident involved a Black graduate student member of our association, Shelby McPhee. In a blatant act of racial profiling, McPhee was accused by two white attendees at the Congress of stealing a laptop. The accusers followed, harassed and photographed him, and the RCMP and campus police were contacted. McPhee was unjustly detained and questioned before being fully exonerated. When representatives of the Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences failed to respond effectively, our newly formed executive team hit the ground running. On June 4<sup>th</sup> we issued an Open Letter calling attention to the matter and asserting four demands of the Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences (hereafter the Federation):

1. The Federation immediately issue a public response acknowledging this incident, asserting zero tolerance for racial profiling and all forms of anti-Black racism, and a commitment to work with the BCSA to ensure that Congress is a welcoming space and experience for our members;
2. Ensure delivery to the two accusers involved, a letter that will be prepared by the BCSA in response to this incident;
3. The mention of anti-Black racism be added to the theme of Congress 2020: Bridging Divides (for example: Bridging Divides and Confronting Anti-Black racism);
4. If the BCSA remains a member association of the Federation, the waiving of the association's fees for Congress 2020.

Executive members read the letter at Congress sessions, shared it on social media and spoke to the press. McPhee repeatedly and publicly told his story, and BCSA executive member at large Robert Timothy wrote an article published in *The Conversation*.<sup>1</sup> An outpouring of support from our fellow member associations and colleagues across the country followed. Through these tireless efforts and

<sup>1</sup> Roberta Timothy (12 June 2019). [Living and Breathing While Black: Racial Profiling and Other Acts of Violence](#).



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consistent pressure on the Federation leadership from our executive, our four demands were finally met on August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019. All statements and letters related to these events have been archived in the BCSA records.

### **A Tenth Anniversary Transition Year Agenda**

The 2019-2020 executive team was elected at the 2019 AGM in June, for a special one-year term with a mandate to:

- (1) Represent the four demands we had made of the Federation regarding the racial profiling of McPhee and anti-Black racism at Congress more broadly; and then
- (2) Assess the current BCSA and potential for strengthening and growing the association. The 2019 AGM determined there was a need for such an assessment year before moving forward with longer term commitments.

Once the four demands had been met, we set out to fulfill the second part of our mandate. We dubbed 2019-2020 our Tenth Anniversary transition year. We decided to use the pre-existing BCSA google group / listserv as a means to remain in contact with former, current, and potential members of the association. We sought to collect and assess all association records and related documentation, and to build a BCSA archive to preserve institutional memory.

We instituted a new approach to membership that emphasizes access to membership and active participation (see p. 15). BCSA co-presidents and our student representative, Jamilah Dei-Sharpe, began to develop a plan for a national research network for Black graduate students (see p. 20).

As an executive team, we have sought to balance our different roles and capacities, with a collective approach to decision making and meeting our goals. We have met monthly and remained in communication with the association membership through the listserv, as well as with the broader public through our Twitter account and website. We oriented all of our activities toward organizing our 2020 conference. We planned for a dynamic conference addressing the futures of Black Studies in Canada, that would include large annual general meeting with an actively engaged and much larger membership.

### **Academic Activism**

The racial profiling incident at Congress 2019 and its aftermath was not the only time this year that the BCSA executive felt it necessary and appropriate for us to assert public positions on social-political matters related to our roles as Black academics in Canada. On February 13, 2020 the BCSA executive issued a public statement of solidarity with the Wet'suwet'en peoples as their lands and communities were under siege by the RCMP in order to make way for a pipeline. Quoting the Federation's stated



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commitment to engage in and “advance reconciliation” with Indigenous peoples and to “recognize Indigenous peoples’ right to self-determination,” we called upon the Federation leadership and fellow member associations to join us in signing a pledge to stand with Unist’ot’en. Several associations did so, often in direct response and quoting our statement. On March 21<sup>st</sup> 2020 when the Federation responded to the COVID-19 crisis by announcing a “virtual Congress” for this year, the BCSA issued another open letter, explaining that we would not support such a move online and were cancelling our conference. We argued,

The organization of a virtual Congress further centres academic individualism at a time when we should be focussing on our collective well-being. How exactly does this action animate the theme of confronting colonialism and anti- black racism? This is the time to re-imagine anti-colonial activism in the time of physical and social distancing. This is the time to be exploring the role of humanities and social sciences within the context of global pandemics. This is the time to consider as scholars how we move forward.

We called on other associations to withdraw from Congress 2020 and join our demand that The Federation and Western University cancel the event, and after several other associations did so the Congress was indeed cancelled.

On April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020 the BCSA signed on to a campaign calling for collaboration between the U.S., Canada and Cuba in fighting COVID-19, a campaign in which former BCSA executive member Isaac Saney is a leading organizer. Finally, on June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020—exactly one year after the racial profiling of McPhee—we issued a statement related to COVID-19 and asserting our solidarity with all those uprising against police violence (see page 8).

We have sought to involve the membership in decision making about when to issue public statements on social-political issues, and have spoken only as an executive when we felt that the membership as a whole did not share our position. Political differences emerged, for example, when the executive approached the membership regarding our decision to speak out against the invasion of Wet’suwet’en territory. Not all members saw this as an appropriate issue for the BCSA to address. We firmly disagreed, shared our rationale and issued the statement as an executive team.

In one case, we made the difficult decision NOT to support a request from some members that we issue a public statement. This was in September 2019 when three photographs of Canadian Liberal Prime Minister Justin Trudeau wearing blackface were made public. As one after the other photograph emerged five weeks before a federal election, Trudeau was forced to acknowledge that he could not even recall how many times he has worn blackface. The BCSA Executive did not, in this instance, feel compelled to issue a statement addressing the photographs. Trudeau’s history of blackface



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performance speaks to a lifetime of white elite Canadian entitlement and liberal political lineage. As an executive team, we chose not to engage or contribute to a media circus of federal party politics.

We noted that several Black scholars, including BCSA Vice President Philip Howard, had intervened in critical ways to shape the public discourse around the situation and the issues it thrust into the mainstream news.<sup>2</sup> We used the BCSA Twitter account to promote these interventions and others, and encouraged members who wished to write articles or issue individual or collective statements to identify themselves as members of the BCSA if they so desired. We noted that some members of the listserv might choose to contact representatives of the Federation of Black Canadians about the matter.

We acknowledge that this decision continues to be a source of frustration for a few BCSA members, and that it impacted their willingness to later endorse a public statement of solidarity with Wet'suwet'en. Of course all Black people do not and should not be expected to share the same politics. Conversations that have taken place over the listserv in relation to what members think of as the role of the BCSA and what some determine to be "Black issues" have been generative and are ongoing. We understand this as part of the work of growing and developing our association and its capacities and mission for a new era.

### **The Annual Report and AGM**

This annual report also represents our preliminary attempts to pull together a snapshot of the BCSA after the first decade, as per our executive's mandate to assess the status of the association and its potentials moving forward. Having inherited governing documents (mission, vision, by-laws, and certificate of incorporation) but no centralized collection of records, we have done our best to compile as much information as possible and to build BCSA institutional memory and an archive. In what follows we provide a brief history of the association, and we intentionally say "a history" and not "*the* history," fully cognizant that there are and will be many stories to tell about the BCSA from the perspectives of members involved in various roles across various time periods. We have done our best to access information and to accurately and fairly report it here, and we continue to invite members' participation in building the association archives.

We have compiled the report with input from our fellow executive members, some of whom have also submitted reports specific to their roles. Reflecting on this year and all of that it has entailed leaves us feeling exhausted, accomplished and inspired! We believe that we have indeed fulfilled the mandate handed to our executive one year ago in Vancouver. However, having to cancel what was

<sup>2</sup> Cheryl Thompson (19 September 2019) [Why Trudeau's 'brownface' photo is not shocking](#); Philip S.S. Howard (20 September 2019). [Trudeau in blackface: A symptom of Canada's widespread anti-Black racism](#); El Jones (20 September 2019) ['Apology not accepted.' Halifax El Jones on Trudeau's Blackface Insult.](#)

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shaping up to be a tremendous annual conference has been disheartening to say the least. It has denied our association the opportunity to reconvene in person to discuss the futures of Black Studies in Canada and of our association. It has denied those of us who worked tirelessly to plan and organize the conference to realize our vision and experience the outcomes of that work in person with our colleagues and comrades. **For now.** As we write this we are hopeful for a BCSA conference in 2021 that is everything we had imagined for this year and more. We do not know the future, but we are adamant that the radical potentials of Black Studies in Canada will be part of it.

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING and ELECTIONS**

On May 19<sup>th</sup> 2020 our executive invited all former, current and potential members to join us for a BCSA check-in meeting on June 15<sup>th</sup>. All listserv members are invited to the check-in meeting, while only those officially registered as members of the BCSA will be invited to participate in the AGM.

We announced on June 8<sup>th</sup> 2020 that our **Annual General Meeting will be held on June 29th, 2020**, and will be hosted online using a Zoom meeting platform. We requested any requests for AGM agenda items or nominations for executive positions be sent to us no later than June 22nd, 2020, at [blackcanadastudies@gmail.com](mailto:blackcanadastudies@gmail.com)

We thank our fellow executive members and all those who have participated in the BCSA over the past year for your hard work and dedication to Black Studies and Black life.



Yours in struggle,

**OmiSoore Dryden**

Associate Professor and James R. Johnston Chair  
in Black Canadian Studies,  
Dalhousie University

*and*

**rosalind hampton**

Assistant Professor of Black Studies, OISE,  
University of Toronto

Co-Presidents, Black Canadian Studies Association

June 2, 2020

The Black Canadian Studies Association stands in unwavering solidarity with all those engaged in uprising against police violence, those working on the front lines during this COVID pandemic – including nurses, personal support workers, cleaners, janitorial staff, orderlies and nursing assistants who are now determined as essential service workers—and all who find themselves sheltered in place within precarious conditions. We acknowledge the entirety of and extensive nature of the work being done to fight for our freedom and keep us healthy in the process.

Over the past three months we have increasingly witnessed how COVID-19 is having greater negative impacts within Black communities across Canada, as is the case elsewhere. Historical health disparities have made the impacts of COVID-19 even more devastating in our communities, and we join the call for provinces throughout the country to begin to collect disaggregated race-based data. We understand the importance of collecting this data, while we also understand the potential for this data to be used in ways that further harm our communities. We insist that Black scholars, researchers, health workers, epidemiologists and bio-satiations trained within critical race theory be the stewards of how the data is analyzed. We insist that this data be used to help facilitate the dismantling of systemic anti-Black racism as well as help disrupt the white supremacy of the health system. Finally, we insist that this data be housed in Black community networks.

There have been a number of calls by our members and others that police are NOT to be used in responding to this pandemic – that policing the pandemic will not help interrupt the spread of COVID-19. As stated by our colleagues “public health has historically been an extension of policing for Black people” and “the union of policing and public health leads to more Black people being arrested, detained and physically restrained in the name of public health protection.” We have seen and are continuing to see this play out across Canada as well as in the United States. Black and Indigenous people are disproportionately subjected to surveillance, police violence and incarceration throughout this country. Indeed, a 2018 interim report by the Ontario Human Rights Commission, reports that Black people in Toronto are nearly **twenty** times more likely than white people to be killed by the police. To say that policing has never been a source of safety and security for Black peoples is a gross understatement. Members of our communities continue to be harmed and killed by the police on both sides of the border.

We call the name of Regis Korchinski-Paquet, 29 yrs. (Toronto, May 2020)

We call the name of George Floyd, 46 yrs. (Minneapolis, May 2020)

We call the name of Tony McDade, 38, (Tallahassee, May 2020)

We call the name of D’Andre Campbell, 26 (Brampton, ON, Apr. 2020)

We call the names of Eishia Hudson, 16 yrs., Jason Collins, 36 yrs. and Kevin Andrews, 22 yrs. (Indigenous people killed in three separate incidents Winnipeg, MB, within a day period in Apr. 2020)

We call the name of Everett Patrick (Lake Babine First Nation), 42 yrs. (Prince George, BC, Apr. 2020)

We call the name of Breonna Taylor, 26 yrs. (Louisville, KY, Mar. 2020)

We call the name of Randy Cochrane (Fisher River Cree Nation), 30yrs. (Winnipeg, Jul. 2019)

We call the name of Robin Fiddler (Waterhen Lake First Nation), 34 yrs. (Calgary, June 2019)

We call the name of Machuar Madut, 43 yrs. (Winnipeg, Feb. 2019)

We call the name of Greg Ritchie (Saugeen First Nation), 30 yrs. (Ottawa, Jan. 2019)

We call the name of Nicholas Gibbs, 23 yrs. (Montreal, Aug. 2018)

We call the name of Olando Brown, 32 yrs. (Barrie, ON, Jun. 2018)

We call the name of Josephine Pelletier (Cree Nation), 33 yrs. (Calgary, May 2018)

These names represent **some** of the publicly identified Black and Indigenous people murdered by police in the Canada **in the past two years**. They include just three of at least 475 Black people murdered by police in the U.S. since 2018.

We demand justice for all those who have been harmed and killed in encounters with police.

**BLACK LIFE MATTERS.** Black Women’s Lives Matter. Black Queer and Trans Lives Matter. Black Disabled Lives Matter. All Black Lives Matter.



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**A Brief History of the BCSA**

In 2009, Dr. Afua Cooper convened a three-day Black Studies workshop at Simon Fraser University in Vancouver, British Columbia. At the conclusion of the workshop, the scholars and activists in attendance formally established the Black Canadian Studies Association to “encourage and to support research, publication, teaching and understanding of diverse Black communities in Canada and the Diaspora.” The primary objectives for the association that were established at this time were:



To create an institutional infrastructure of Black Canadian Studies in Canada, to support and facilitate interaction and exchange and networking between scholars, community historians and cultural workers of Black Studies here in Canada and abroad, to provide support for Black Canadian Studies scholars, academics, community historians and culture (and those of Black descent regardless of research interests and foci), and to actively encourage and support subsequent generations of scholars, researchers, community historians and cultural workers.<sup>3</sup>

The first official meeting of the BCSA took place the following year in Edmonton, Alberta. Founding BCSA member and interim co-chair Dr. Jennifer Kelly organized a symposium at the University of Alberta from May 6-8, 2010, with the theme *Making Connections: Knowledge Generation and Black / African Studies*.

The founding principles of the BCSA were further developed and enacted through critical dialogue and exchange, many of which continue to guide the association today. These include an emphasis on “the importance of art, culture and representation,” and challenging the use of academic language “as the chief medium for narrating the Black experience.” From the outset, the BCSA recognized the importance of working with members of local Black communities, the absolute necessity of “community members, community scholars and university academics” gathering and engaging in critical dialogue, and “the vital link between generations in the here and now and ancestors past whose struggles continue to shape the Black experience today.”<sup>4</sup>

<sup>3</sup> BCSA (May 5, 2009). “[Black Canadian Studies Formed](#)”

<sup>4</sup> BCSA (2010). Symposium Summary. [BCSA Archive]

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In the years that followed, core founding members of the BCSA continued to organize, hosting five major conferences between 2013 and 2019:

- *Where are you from? Reclaiming the Black Presence in Canada*, May 24-26, 2013. Brock University, St Catharines, ON
- *Community Empowerment & Leadership in Black Canada*, May 21-24, 2015. Dalhousie University, Halifax, NS
- *Blackness, Indigeneity, Colonialism and Confederation: 21<sup>st</sup> Century Perspectives*, May 11-13, 2017. Brandon University, Brandon, MB
- *Reparations Start with a Formal Apology for Slavery and Anti-Black Racism: Demanding Institutional Accountability*, May 28-29, 2018. University of Regina, Regina, SK.
- *Asserting Black Life, Insisting on Black Freedom, Imagining the Decolonial: Demanding Reparations and State/ Institutional Accountability*, June 3-4, 2019. University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC.

The BCSA has also been closely affiliated with and participated in Black Studies events such as:

- The ***Black Café***, hosted at the annual Congress by senior scholars—Awad Ibrahim (University of Ottawa), Tamari Kitossa (Brock University), Malinda Smith (University of Alberta), and Handel K. Wright (UBC)—collaborating on the multi-dimensional ***Nuances of Blackness*** project (2013-2020)
- The international gathering ***Create Dangerously: Congress of Black Writers and Artists***, organized by Community-University Talks (C-Uni-T) and held at McGill University from October 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup>, 2013. Graduate student members of the BCSA at the time (rosalind hampton, Cora-Lee Conway) were among the organizers of this congress, and several faculty and student members of the BCSA attended as both presenters and participants.



"Where Are You From", 2013



"Create Dangerously", 2013



"Community Empowerment," 2015



"Blackness..." 2017



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**Executive Team Members (2009-2020)**

TERM	NAME	POSITION	HOME INSTITUTION
2009-2019	AFUA COOPER	CHAIR /PRESIDENT	DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY
2009-2011	CHARLES QUIST-ADADE	CO-CHAIR	KWANTLEN POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY
2009-2011	CHARMAINE NELSON	CO-CHAIR	MCGILL UNIVERSITY
2011-2012	DAVID AUSTIN	EXECUTIVE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE MEMBER	JOHN ABBOTT COLLEGE
2011-2017	JENNIFER KELLY	EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER	UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA
2011-2017	TAMARI KITOSSA	EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER	BROCK UNIVERSITY
2011-2017	HANDEL WRIGHT	EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER	UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
2015-2017	BARBARA HAMILTON-HINCH	EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER	DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY
2015-2017	ISAAC SANEY	EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER	DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY
2017-2019	WESLEY CRICHLLOW	VICE-PRESIDENT	ONTARIO TECH UNIVERSITY
2017-2018	NATASHA HENRY	SECRETARY	ONTARIO BLACK HISTORY SOCIETY
2017-2019	PHILIP HOWARD	MEMBER AT LARGE	MCGILL UNIVERSITY
2017-2019	NII KONEY	MEMBER AT LARGE	[COMMUNITY MEMBER]
2017-2019	JESSICA BUNDY	STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE	UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
2017-2019	MIRIELLE ISIDORE	STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE	UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA
<b>2017-2020</b>	<b>CLAUDINE BONNER</b>	<b>TREASURER</b>	<b>ACADIA UNIVERSITY</b>
<b>2018-2020</b>	<b>SAWYER CARNEGIE</b>	<b>SECRETARY</b>	<b>ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY</b>
<b>2019-2020</b>	<b>OMISOORE DRYDEN</b>	<b>CO-PRESIDENT</b>	<b>DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY</b>
<b>2019-2020</b>	<b>ROSALIND HAMPTON</b>	<b>CO-PRESIDENT</b>	<b>UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO</b>
<b>2019-2020</b>	<b>PHILIP HOWARD</b>	<b>VICE-PRESIDENT</b>	<b>MCGILL UNIVERSITY</b>
<b>2019-2020</b>	<b>SAM TECLE</b>	<b>CO-TREASURER</b>	<b>YORK UNIVERSITY → UTORONTO</b>
<b>2019-2020</b>	<b>ROBERTA TIMOTHY</b>	<b>MEMBER AT LARGE</b>	<b>YORK UNIVERSITY → UTORONTO</b>
<b>2019-2020</b>	<b>CHEIKH N'GUIRANE</b>	<b>MEMBER AT LARGE</b>	<b>UNIVERSITÉ DE POITIERS [France]</b>
<b>2019-2020</b>	<b>JAMILAH DEI-SHARPE</b>	<b>STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE</b>	<b>CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY</b>

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*Professor Naa Afua Dadesen Cooper*



The 2019-2020 executive team of the Black Canadian Studies Association extends our heartfelt gratitude [Dr. Afua Cooper](#) for her tireless leadership of the BCSA for its first ten years, from 2009-2019. We all are the beneficiaries of Professor Cooper's decades long commitment to the development of Black Studies in Canada, and her courage in holding academic institutions accountable to Black people and communities. A celebrated poet, performer, and cross-disciplinary scholar of Black Canadian Studies, Dr. Cooper served as the third James Robinson Johnston Chair of Black Canadian Studies from 2011-2017 and is the founder of our association, whose creativity and steadfastness continue to be a source of inspiration for established and emerging scholars alike. On behalf of our entire membership we say,

*Thankyou Professor Cooper!*



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### **Report on Collection of Archival Documents**

Philip Howard

The Black Canadian Studies Association undertook a project to begin to create an archive of the organization--that is, to build an institutional memory, so that the history and important work that the BCSA has done is well documented. We undertook this project realizing the ways in which these histories tend to exist informally in the minds of people, as well as in various forms in the possession of members. The project therefore seeks to centralize all BCSA records as part of building the Association archive.

On Friday October 11, 2019, an email message was sent to the several members of the Black Canadian Studies executive teams since its inception in 2009 to inform them of the archiving project, and to request that they forward relevant documents to the current executive team by email or by uploading to a Google Drive folder created for this purpose. Specifically, the following persons were contacted, listed in alphabetical order by last name: David Austin, Claudine Bonner, Jessica Bundy, Sawyer Carnegie, Afua Cooper, Wesley Crichlow, Barbara Hamilton-Hinch, Natasha Henry, Philip Howard, Mireille Isidore, Jennifer Kelly, Tamari Kitossa, Nii Koney, Charmaine Nelson, Charles Quist-Adade, Isaac Saney, Handel Wright. Those contacted were asked to send their documents by email to the BCSA gmail account or to Philip Howard or to upload them to a Google Drive folder created for this purpose by November 15, 2019. A follow-up email was sent on April 28, 2020 to those who had not yet had an opportunity to respond.

#### **We received responses as follows:**

Those who responded and submitted documents: Handel Wright, Natasha Henry, Jennifer Kelly, Jessica Bundy, Wesley Crichlow, Barbara Hamilton Hinch, David Austin, Claudine Bonner

Those who responded and committed to submit documents: Charmaine Nelson, Tamari Kitossa

Those who have acknowledged receipt of the message: Afua Cooper

Those who have not responded to date: Mireille Isidore, Nii Koney, Charles Quist-Adade, Isaac Saney

A cursory description of documents collected to date:

- Various documents pertaining to the BCSA 2015, 2017, 2018 and 2019 conferences, including such items as Calls for Papers, BCSA Conference programs, Photos of keynote speakers (2017), Agenda of Annual General Meeting (2017), Abstracts received (2018), Event photographs 2010
- Membership lists and receipts issued for BCSA membership fees (2017-2018)

The BCSA plans to properly catalogue these documents in a future project.

Respectfully submitted,  
Philip S. S. Howard, Vice-President



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**2019-2020 Association Records**  
rosalind hampton

Among the objectives of the BCSA outlined by our predecessors at the 2010 BCSA Symposium are:

*To encourage the collection, documentation and preservation of a material culture relevant to the study of Blacks in Canada, to encourage a reassessment and activation of existing material cultural collections (or parts thereof) as relevant to Black Canadian Studies, to foster collective action and to challenge the Eurocentrism of Canadian Studies, and to demonstrate the historical and ongoing relevance of Black populations and experiences in Canada.*

Our understanding of this statement is that it applies to our work as well, and requires that the BCSA keep impeccable records documenting our annual activities. As noted by Philip Howard in his report above, we have begun to develop the association archive and have reached out to former executive members to contribute material to this project.

**Summary of 2019-2020 association records retained**

FOLDER	DETAILS
2019 photos	17 photographs collected from 2019 conference at UBC
BCSA Statements and Letters	10 public statements/letters (pdf format) issued between June 2019 and June 2020
Executive meeting minutes	Approved minutes from monthly executive meetings (July 2019- June 2020)
Statements & Letters from the Federation	7 statements/ letters from the Federation to the BCSA (pdf format) regarding racial profiling at Congress 2019 and BCSA demands
Letters of Support re Congress 2019	29 letters of support sent the Federation from individual academics, departments and groups (pdf format)
Membership records	membership form (2019-2020); membership form (2020-); membership list (excel spreadsheet, last updated June 5, 2020);
2020 Conference (cancelled-hold for 2021)	Various materials related to the planning of the 2020 BCSA conference. selections from (Feb 2020) Connection Grant application, CFP (English & French), plenary speaker invitations, pre-acceptance letters, registration report, room requests and allocations, tentative program, conference sessions (excel spreadsheet), conference participants (excel spreadsheet)
National Black Graduate Network	Various materials related to the development of the network. Selections from (Nov 2019) Connection Grant application, letter of invitation to participate, outreach and founding membership lists (excel spreadsheets), article announcing the network in <i>The Varsity</i> (June 2, 2020)



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### Membership Report

rosalind hampton

With leadership and support provided by established Black scholars dedicated to its cause, the BCSA has already provided a new generation of graduate students and emerging scholars with a sense of a nation-wide academic community and sense of possibility and purpose for the future of Black Studies in Canada. This year our executive team sought to build on this foundation, to grow our membership and refresh our collective affiliation.

Membership within the BCSA has ebbed and flowed over the years, as the association has developed its internal structures and experimented with approaches to organizing and hosting conferences. It is typical for academic associations to define a member according to payment of fees, and for membership cycles to centre around annual conferences, particularly for associations affiliated with the annual spring Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences. This year's executive discussed how this creates a context wherein "membership" can be viewed as a market exchange involving payment to consider oneself part of, and represented by the association, with emphasis on executive members' decision making and action. We sought to create a different, more participatory approach to BCSA membership. We wrote to all members of the existing BCSA listserv in September 2019, announcing that for the coming year we would be treating that listserv as the widest representation of our potential membership. We explained,

*We are very interested in building an association that our membership collectively holds a responsibility to and for, and are committed to exploring conceptions and criteria for membership that do **not** frame it as a monetary exchange for services. While the BCSA requires some income and a membership [fee structure is in place](#), we will not exclude anyone from this association for lack of financial resources.*

We kept the same membership fees that had been in place since 2017. We asked faculty members and those whose finances permit them to do so, to please pay membership fees and consider donating additional funds to support the participation of low-income members in our annual conference. This has proven to be a tremendously effective strategy, and along with our public activities paved the way for a surge of new and renewed memberships in anticipation of our 2020 conference. 87 individuals committed to attend and give presentations (not counting invited plenary speakers) at the conference that eventually had to be canceled due to COVID-19, half of whom have formally become members (see below).

Having achieved significant growth in the numbers and disciplinary and geographic diversity of our membership, the BCSA listserv will now be limited to members and will form our primary means of communicating with one another as an association, discussing and debating issues related to Black



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Studies in Canada, and decision making between annual meetings. We have instituted a new membership form which is available on our website and attached in this report (see Appendix B).

***Membership by the numbers since joining the Federation***

YEAR	# PAID MEMBERSHIPS	BCSA CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS			
June 2018- May 2019	14	17 paid <b>2018 BCSA conference</b> registrations			
June 2019- May 2020	9	48 paid <b>2019 BCSA conference</b> registrations			
2020-2021	Total # formal memberships	# paid memberships	# donations to low income	# of student members	# individuals who applied to participate in 2020 conference
<b>as of June 13, 2020</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>87</b>

*Our special thanks ...*

We have raised \$425 this year [updated 13 June 2020] to support the participation of our low-income members in the BCSA annual activities. Our special thanks to those who have donated this year (listed alphabetically by last name):

- Claudine Bonner
- OmiSoore Dryden
- rosalind hampton
- Emile Jabouin
- Desmond Miller
- Maki Motapanyane
- Devi Mucina
- Tisha Nelson
- Ornella Nzindukiyimana





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List of all current BCSA Members (as of 13 June 2020)

AKINOLA, OLIBANJI	KANIKI, NICOLE
AREGUY, FITSUM	KELETA-MAE, NAILA
BAGIRAKANDI, MELISSA	KIRK, JESSICA P.
BEDWARD, AJ	LEWIS, TERRENCE O.
BERHARDT, NICOLE	LITCHMORE, RASHELLE
BONNER, CLAUDINE	MASON, ALLESON
BOSE, SARIKA	MBULAHENI, TOLA
BUCKLE, MICHELLE	MILLER, DESMOND A.
CAGULADA, ELAINE	MOTAPANYANE, MAKI
CONWAY, CORA-LEE	MUCINA, DEVI
COOPER, AFUA (Honorary Member)	MULLINGS, DELORES
DANIEL, CHERIE A.	NELSON, TISHA
DEI-SHARPE, JAMILAH	NKIWANE, NTOMBI
DJOMO, ADRIEN	NXUMALO, FIKILE
DOUGLAS, MARIBA	NYELADE, RICHARD ATIMNIRAYE
DOWNEY, CORRENDA	NZINDUKIYIMANA, ORNELLA
DRYDEN, OMISOORE	POWELL, NADINE
DUHANEY, PATRINA	ROCHAT, DESIREE
FEMI-COLE, MEGAN	SAMUELS-JONES, TAMEKA
GRANT, PAIGE	SINGLETON, MARCUS
HAMPTON, ROSALIND	SOUFFRANT, KHAROLL-ANN
HENRY, NATASHA	SRAHA-YEBOAH, MICHELLE
HOWARD, PHILIP	TECLE, SAM
JABOUIN, EMILIE	THOBANI, SUNERA
KABA, ADAMA	

**All BCSA members are eligible to participate and vote in our Annual General Meeting on June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020.**

All members have access to our listserv. Please identify yourself in the group by setting your display name to your given name. This is especially important for those whose name does not appear in their email address. BCSA Members can post messages directly to the listserv by emailing [black-canadian-studies-association@googlegroups.com](mailto:black-canadian-studies-association@googlegroups.com). Members are especially encouraged to post information and initiate discussions about new research, scholarship, and events in Black Studies across Canada.



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**Black Canadian Studies Association 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 Treasurer's Report**

Claudine Bonner

The Financial Statements follow (see below), but first a few remarks.

The BCSA is a member of **Credit Union Atlantic** in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Current signing officers on this account are myself, Claudine Bonner as Treasurer, OmiSoore Dryden as Co-President, and Afua Cooper as former President. **The BCSA fiscal year is calculated from June 30<sup>th</sup> to July 1<sup>st</sup>.** However, revenue and expenses associated with our annual conference at the Congress for the Humanities and Social Sciences is calculated in the following year's budget. So for example, the 2019-2020 "Congress" line refers to the 2019 Congress prior to the term of the current executive.

**DONATIONS** A number of small donations have been received during the 2019-2020 year, for which we are most grateful.

**MEMBERSHIP** The past year has been a positive one in terms of the number of paid new memberships we have received. This is thanks to the hard work of our co-Presidents, OmiSoore Dryden and Rosalind Hampton, who have gone above and beyond in terms of outreach.

**MATTERS OUTSTANDING** At time of completing these minutes, I am awaiting information from the Federation regarding the 2019 Congress. We were to receive a cheque for \$1758.70 as surplus from the 2018-19 conference (our revenue of \$3560 minus meeting expenses of \$1301.30 and Federation membership fees of \$500). I have not received this cheque.

**THANKS**

To the entire executive for their support throughout the year, and indeed over the past five years, during which I have had the honour of serving as your treasurer. Thanks are due especially to Rosalind Hampton, our co-President who has somehow also managed to be our unofficial Membership Secretary, and in so doing, has made the life of the Treasurer so much easier by pre-processing all the incoming memberships.

Respectfully submitted,

Claudine Bonner, Treasurer



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**BCSA Statement for Fiscal Years 2018-2019 and 2019-2020**

<b>REVENUE</b>	<b>2019-2020 [as of 08 June 2020]</b>	<b>2018-2019</b>
membership dues	3395.00	550.00
Congress (*previous year)	3560.00	1045.00
donations	395.00	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7350.00</b>	<b>1595.00</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	<b>2019-2020 [as of 08 June 2020]</b>	<b>2018-2019</b>
bank fees	110.00	109.00
website (biennial operating costs)	427.00 (reimbursement to C.Bonner, expense from previous year)	
Congress (*previous year)	1301.30	913.80
Conference keynote expenses (*previous year)	1369.53 (reimbursement to C.Bonner)	
Federation membership	500.00	500.00
Varia		31.15 (conference call, Afua Cooper)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3708.53</b>	<b>1563.95</b>
<b>SURPLUS</b>	<b>3641.47</b>	<b>31.05</b>

<b>CREDIT UNION BALANCE</b>	<b>2019-2020</b>	<b>2018-2019</b>
opening (July 1)	3595.30	3564.25
reporting (date)	5678.07 (08 June 2020)	3615.30 (30 May 2019)



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**Building a National Research Network for Black Graduate Students and Students of Black Studies**

rosalind hampton & Jamilah Dei-Sharpe

The idea to develop a National Black Graduate Network (NBGN) affiliated with the BCSA emerged out of conversations among BCSA executive members following the racial profiling of Shelby McPhee at our conference last year. The incident and its aftermath highlighted the [ongoing anti-Black racism throughout Canadian academia](#), despite stated institutional commitments to “decolonizing” the academy and to the recruitment of more Black students and faculty.

We had critical conversations about how academic racism impacts the growing numbers of students interested in pursuing Black Studies in Canada, and identified the need for a formal academic network run by and for Black graduate students. Central to the project, we envisioned an interactive and secure website that will facilitate critical dialogue among members and serve as a public resource for Black Studies in Canada. I took on the role of directing the project, in conversation with co-president OmiSoore Dryden, and sought input from several Black students and senior colleagues across the country. Working with the support of research office of her institution, rosalind prepared a SSHRC Connection Grant to support the project, securing support for our application across several universities. **The grant application was not successful; the project was not seen as a good match for the Connection program.** Without SSHRC’s support our second largest funding commitment (from UBC, totalling \$10,000) was also withdrawn, causing an urgent restructuring of our budget and plan for the initial development of the network. We never, once, considered abandoning this critical project.

The development of the network formally began in January 2020, with crucial financial support across four universities. Deans of Graduate Studies at [Memorial University \(MUN\)](#) and [Concordia University](#), along with [Dr. Njoki Wane, Chair of Social Justice Education](#) at OISE, approved funding for graduate students at their respective universities to work together to establish the network. This graduate student team has been led by Jamilah, who is a PhD student in Sociology at Concordia University, as well as the BCSA student representative. Jamilah worked alongside Cherie A. Daniel (PhD student in Social Justice Education at OISE), and Julian Kapfumvuti (PhD candidate in Anthropology at MUN) over the winter and spring months [to raise awareness of the project](#) across the country and build the initial NBGN membership.

The graduate student team conducted extensive outreach efforts, establishing a social media presence early in the year and subsequently reaching out to hundreds of students, student groups and professors at universities across Canada. In this way, they have established an initial graduate student membership of approximately 150, representing students based at universities in

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Newfoundland and Labrador, PEI, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Québec, Ontario, Manitoba, British Columbia and Yukon!

Central to this project, we have been working with a professional team to design and develop an interactive and secure website that will facilitate critical dialogue among network members and serve as a public resource for Black studies in Canada. The official launch of the NBSN website—originally planned to take place at the 2020 BCSA conference, will now take place online this summer. Funding for the development of the website has been provided by the [James R. Johnston Chair in Black Canadian Studies](#) at Dalhousie University, currently held by Dr. OmiSoore Dryden. Website operating costs have been paid through rosalind’s professional expense funds account.

Moving forward, the NBSN will be coordinated by a graduate student assistant hired annually by rosalind in Social Justice Education at OISE, in collaboration with the BCSA Student Representative. The NBSN will be run by graduate students, for graduate students. Members will communicate and share resources through their website, organize events, and publish a monthly blog.

We wish to emphasize that the online component of the network is by no means meant to replace vital in-person academic networking that takes place among graduate students and with professors at national and international gatherings. Nor is it meant to divert graduate students from membership and potential mentorship within academic associations. Rather, the NBSN will add to the resources already available to graduate students, building on decades of work by Black scholars to create institutional support for Black students and for Black Studies in Canada.

The network will provide emerging scholars unique opportunities for sustained dialogue, generating new ideas and collaborations in Black Studies. Membership is open to all Black graduate students, Black students in law and medicine, and graduate students working within Black Studies, and the team is also currently recruiting volunteer bloggers for the 2020-2021 school year.

For more information and to become a member please contact the project coordinator at [nationalblackgraduatetwork@gmail.com](mailto:nationalblackgraduatetwork@gmail.com)



*Jamilah Dei-Sharpe*



*Julian Kapfumvuti*



*Cherie A. Daniel*



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**Planning the 2020 BCSA Conference: The Futures of Black Studies in Canada**  
OmiSoore Dryden & rosalind hampton

Black scholarship in Canada has proliferated over the past two decades. It is a scholarship that is rich, diverse, diasporic, transnational and interdisciplinary. The field of Black Studies is slowly receiving formal recognition, funding and space in academic institutions across Canada, due to the diligent work of Black scholars and Black student activists. While there are a number of individual (stand-alone) Black Studies *courses* offered in Canadian universities; Black Studies *programs* remain scarce. To date, Dalhousie University, Queen's University and York University are the only institutions in Canada with dedicated Black Studies programs (certificates, minors, streams). This scarcity makes the Black Canadian Studies Association all the more important of a collective and organization for Black scholarship in Canada.

The BCSA planned the annual conference to take place at the 2020 Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences, under the Congress theme, *Bridging Divides: Confronting Colonialism and Anti-Black Racism*. **We applied for a SSHRC Connection grant (which was unsuccessful)** with the hopes of expanding the scope of our annual conference and strengthening the ties between the BCSA, Black scholars and graduate students, and the Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences. We sought to bridge Black Studies scholarship through a truly interdisciplinary, nation-wide and international conference including a range of scholarly presentations, performances, and interactive workshops; a series of plenary panels; a major launch event for the National Black Graduate Network hosted by the graduate student team (see above); a local Black History tour, and an art exhibition commemorating the Sir George Williams Affair.

A lot of work had gone into the conference and its promotion. The CFP was released in French and English on December 29, 2019 and we received proposals for **56 individual and panel presentations across a wide range of disciplines, representing 87 individual participants—professionals, professors, artists, and students**. We also received many invitations to collaborate with our fellow member associations and co-sponsor Congress events. Given this encouraging response, we expanded the length of the conference to four days (May 31, 2020-June 3, 2020), expecting an estimate of 250 participants.

In preparing the Connection grant, we secured essential support from the Federation in the form of commitments to several in-kind donations related to the logistics of the conference. In turn we agreed to co-sponsor a few of the Big Thinking Keynote events including Big Thinking Keynote on Anti-black Racism, and Big Thinking Panel on Black Canadian History, Enslavement and its aftermath in Canada. We also negotiated and collaborated very effectively with representatives at the host university to arrange (a) for all sessions and events associated with our conference be hosted within



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the same general area of campus, and (b) for a section of student campus housing be reserved for Black graduate students attending our conference. We explained that while we appreciated that the organizers' offer of increased security is motivated by a desire to keep Congress attendees safe, that the increased presence of security personnel does not ensure Black people's safety and indeed has often caused fear and harm. We explained that for BCSA sessions and accommodations to be located in close proximity to one another was a matter of access and safety. We stated that we prefer to promote our collective safety through building community among our attendees, specifically through providing our members the opportunity to live and work in close proximity and get to know one another. We reserved enough rooms to include space for the screening of Black Canadian films and for students to gather in privacy to socialize, network and hold meetings.

**The Plenary Speakers' Series** included 4 plenary panels—Black Queer Futures, Black Health Studies, Nuances of Blackness, and Black Feminist Futures—that would explore the following questions: a) How does scholarship focussed on Black life in Canada fundamentally alter the disciplinary approach to these areas, and what unique insights does it bring? b) What contributions can a scholarly association around Black Studies in Canada (such as the BCSA) contribute to advancing the interests of Black life? The Speakers' series would have been opened to all attending conference as well as local community members in London, ON. The following scholars were scheduled to participate on the panels.

**Plenary #1: Black Queer Futures:**

Dr. Beverly Bain, Dr. Ronald Cummings, Dr. Rinaldo Walcott

**Plenary #2: Black Health Studies:**

Dr. Nehal El-Hadi, Dr. LaRon Nelson, Dr. Ingrid Waldron

**Plenary #3: Nuances of Blackness:**

Dr. Boulou de B'beri, Dr. Malinda Smith, Dr. Handel Wright

**Plenary #4: Black Feminist Futures:**

Dr. Adelle Blackett, M. NourbeSe Philip, Syrus Marcus Ware

All plenary sessions were to be open to Congress 2020 attendees, and to the general public. **Thank you to the above scholars for agreeing to participate in BCSA 2020 Annual Conference. We hope you are also able to join us in 2021.**

**Black History Tour**

We planned to work with the Ontario Black History Society (OBHS) to lead a tour with conference participants and the general public to learn more about the history of London ON and surrounding region in relation to Black people. We thank historian and longstanding member of the BCSA, **Natasha Henry**, for offering to organize and lead this tour.



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**Protests and Pedagogy: Representations, Memories, Meanings**

Considered one of Canada’s most notorious student uprisings, “the Sir George Williams Affair” was a direct response to racial discrimination reported by Black and Caribbean students at Sir George Williams University (now Concordia). The students’ protest actions led to a nearly two-week occupation of the University’s computer center from January 29th to February 11, 1969. The protest ended with a fire, police intervention and arrest of 97 students, one of whom later died allegedly due to police violence. Some call this Canada’s civil rights moment; many students around the world were making demands for the inclusion of Black students and Black Studies at this time (e.g., Cornell, Columbia, the University of the West Indies). By staging this exhibition of archival and artistic artefacts related to the protest, the aim was to centralize this history within the trajectory of the university as an institution in Canada. The exhibition, curated by **Dr. Christiana Abraham** (Department of Communication Studies, Concordia University) comprises more than 250 artefacts sourced largely from Concordia University’s archives and other private and public collections.

We had an amazing conference planned. And even though we did not receive the Connection grant, we had some strategies in place to offer this conference in the best way feasible. As always for Black scholars and Black Studies in Canada, funding and material support can be a great challenge. **SSHRC STILL DOES NOT RECOGNIZE BLACK STUDIES AS A FIELD OF RESEARCH AND PEDAGOGY IN CANADIAN ACADEMIA**. This is, in a word, shameful. As we continue to grow our association we will also have to continue the struggle of organizing events within the context of systemic anti-Blackness.

In planning the 2021 conference—whatever the conditions under which it will take place—it will be crucial to build on the work described above rather than starting from scratch! We have kept extensive records of all documentation related to conference planning and look forward to both continuing and re-energizing the tradition of nourishing and inspiring annual BCSA conference into the future.





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### Recommendations

#### 2020-2021 Executive and Mandate

As noted in the introduction of this report, the 2019-2020 executive team took on a special one-year mandate which we have now fulfilled, with the exception of the capstone event of our annual conference. We recommend that the incoming executive team also work under a one-year, limited mandate, focused on continuing this work of assessing, stabilizing and growing the association and building to an annual conference and meeting of members from across the country. We ask that this work be pursued with consideration for the recommendations below, several of which represent long term and/ or ongoing projects.

The membership should be aware that the potential work of the BCSA far exceeds the current structures in place, and the association may need to revisit the number and roles of executive members in the future (2021 and beyond). Our by-laws state that no one member may hold more than one position, however in practice and out of necessity this has certainly been the case this year (e.g. Rosalind has served as co-president, secretary, and in the unofficial role of membership coordinator), and we suspect in the past as well.

Generally, an executive member serves one term of two-years in duration. Our by-laws state that members holding executive positions must have been members of the association for two years. Until the association has the opportunity to review and potentially expand the size and roles of the executive, **we strongly suggest** that with the exception of up to two student representatives, membership on the executive team be limited to those holding what is described in our by-laws as “**Full academic membership**: any person employed in the academy as a full or part-time academic, adjunct, lecturer or sessional instructor during a given membership year.” This is not meant as a gesture of exclusion (of students or community members outside of academia). Rather, it is in recognition that academia, and our roles as faculty, frame and shape our work as an academic association, and to a significant extent set the conditions, and requirements of that work. See also **2020-2021 Executive Roles** (pp. 28-29).

#### A. Listserv and communication

##### Platforms

Email: general inquiries: [blackcanadastudies@gmail.com](mailto:blackcanadastudies@gmail.com); membership: [bcсамembers@gmail.com](mailto:bcсамembers@gmail.com)

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/BlkCdnSA>

Website: <https://www.africanCanadianstudies.com/>

#### **\*Passwords for all of the above accounts should be changed annually following the AGM\***

- i. **Promote English/French bilingualism.** Anglo hegemony is a weakness of the association to date, as it is the whole of Canadian academia. We have communicated in both English and



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French as often as we could this year, largely thanks to the translation work of executive member at large, Cheikh Nguirane. As noted below, we feel it necessary that the role of translator (whether the need is English to French, or French to English) be formalized on the BCSA executive to ensure that we are reaching out to Black people in Canada across colonial linguistic divides. BCSA by-laws must be translated to be made available in French. Eventually all written documentation of the association should be available to our membership in both languages.

- ii. **Overall, we must do more to address issues of accessibility and dis/ability in our work. This includes and is in no way limited to the following recommendations:**
  - ASL translation be provided for all public meetings and speaking events
  - Simultaneous captions be made available for meetings and speaking events
  - Entrances, seating and washrooms at all in-person public meetings and speaking events that are accessible to people using wheelchairs and other mobility devices
  - Clearly indicated gender-neutral washrooms at all public meetings and speaking events
  - Avoidance of academic jargon in BCSA communications and statements
  - Use and promotion of diverse and creative means of communication
  - Executive team policies and practices to be reviewed annually for how they can be made more accessible in both content and form
- iii. Switch the current **listserv/ google group** to limit it to formal members of the association. We have removed financial barriers to membership and welcome anyone who shares the objectives of the BCSA to signal their commitment by completing a membership form.
  - Executive Members at large to post monthly updates to the listserv
- iv. Consider **website development**: hired/ volunteer technical support and website manager
  - Can the BCSA website be redesigned to be more interactive and a more relevant tool for communicating with our membership? Can a private members' portal be added?
  - Can the listserv eventually be hosted through our website instead of Google?
  - Consider changing the domain name to one better matched to our association name.
  - Can the website eventually be the home for our association archives?

### B. BCSA archives

- i. Continue to build database (excel spreadsheet) of Black professors and professors of Black Studies in Canada (a copy of this list has been retained in this year's association records).
- ii. Continue to collect potential archival material from former and current members
- iii. Investigate possibilities for a comprehensive archiving project with formal cataloguing and online access (public or members only)
- iv. **Executive teams to keep impeccable records**



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### C. Finances

- i. **TO DO LIST PRIORITIES at the outset of the new executive term:** **(1)** Transfer of signing authority; **(2)** Transition meeting between former and current treasurers re. accounting policies and procedures.  
Signing authority on the BCSA accounts is to be held by two executive members: one treasurer and one president. Because the BCSA financial account has been kept at the Credit Union in Nova Scotia, it was a lucky coincidence that our treasurer and co-president this year happened to be based in Halifax. **This choice of financial institution may have to be revisited** in order to facilitate turn-over and access to the accounts by the appropriate executive members.
- ii. To the extent possible, the fiscal year should be adjusted to reflect the term of the executive. Each executive should be responsible for the expenses incurred only during its mandate, **ending** the year with expenses and revenue from our annual conference.
- iii. **Record ALL details of accounting, including expenses covered in-kind.** The financial records should provide us with a complete overview of the BCSA operating costs.

### D. 2021 Conference

As noted in the 2020 Conference report, extensive amounts of work have already gone into planning the next BCSA conference, and we encourage the organizers for 2021 to take up and build on what has already been done. We recommend that:

- i. We continue to hold the Federation and our fellow member associations accountable for addressing colonialism and anti-Black racism in all of their activities and within annual conferences regardless of any given annual Congress theme;
  - We must insist that this accountability includes and extends beyond the topics covered in presentations and whether racism is addressed in event codes of conduct. It includes working to eliminate non-performative committees, positions, and policies and seriously pursuing the work of promoting equitable representation, access, and participation. It requires material support and profound institutional change.
  - Arrange to reserve a cluster of student housing for Black student accommodations with whichever university is hosting Congress annually, as well as the possibilities for reduced rates. Based on previous experiences of anti-Black racism and racial alienation at Congress, as well as informal student responses to the potential for this opportunity in 2020, we strongly recommend that this be taken as a requirement for BCSA participation in future Congresses.
- ii. That the potential addition of one or more plenary themes, such as Black Social Work and Black Art History/ Contemporary Art.



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**2020-2021 Executive Roles**

Some of our current members have completed their time on the executive. Some of us have been executive members for just one year, and some are willing to remain in our roles for another one-year term depending on potential nominations from the full membership and elections at our AGM.

- OmiSoore Dryden, Rosalind Hampton, Sam Teclé, Roberta Timothy, Cheikh Nguirane, and Jamilah Dei-Sharpe have completed one year of service on the executive team;
- Philip Howard served on the executive as a member at large from 2017-2019, and has served as the vice-president from 2019-2020
- We once again recognize and thank Afua Cooper for her service on the BCSA executive, as the president of the association (2009-2019) and the past-president (a one-year transitional position, 2019-2020). Dr. Cooper's time on the executive has now concluded and as a former president she is an honorary member of the BCSA for life.
- Sawyer Carnegie stepped into the role of secretary of the BCSA in the 2018-2019 year and has completed her term on the executive. Our thanks to Sawyer for her work.
- Finally, our enormous gratitude to Claudine Bonner, who has served as the BCSA treasurer for five years, and who we have promised to finally allow to conclude her time on the executive! Thank you Claudine! Your commitment to the BCSA has been and remains an inspiration to us all.

**Description of Executive Roles**

Compiled and amended by OmiSoore Dryden and Rosalind Hampton

Additions in blue text approved by BCSA Executive [13 September 2019, Reviewed 09 June 2020]

**President / Co-Presidents:** who shall normally serve in such capacity for two (2) years following the year of their election as Vice-President of the Association. The President shall serve a two-year term, without immediate re-election. The President is the chief executive officer of the Association; presides over General Meetings of the members and meetings of the Executive Committee and discharges such other responsibilities as may be assigned to them by the General Meeting or the Executive Committee. [Responsible for the overall adherence of the association and the executive team to mandates and responsibilities.](#) **Communication responsibilities:** [Assure that the Executive and full membership are kept up-to-date on the workings of association, including finances, memberships, and external communications.](#)

**Past-President:** who shall serve in such capacity for the term of one (1) year after succeeding as President. **Communication responsibilities:** [to provide institutional memory and all documentation of the association to co-Presidents](#)



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**Vice-President:** who shall be President-elect, elected for two (2) years by the members of the Association. The Vice-President shall take the place of the President and exercise their powers in case of absence, incapacity, or resignation of the President; and shall discharge such other responsibilities as may be assigned to them by the General Meeting or the Executive Committee. [The VP is to work closely with president/ co-presidents on workings of the association](#)

**Treasurer:** elected by the members for two (2) years. The Treasurer shall be keeper of the [financial records](#) of the Association, shall receive and have custody of the funds of the Association in accordance with the instructions of the Executive Committee, shall present to the General Meeting the audited, financial statement of revenue, expenditure, assets, liabilities and surplus for each fiscal year and shall discharge such other responsibilities as may be assigned to them by the General Meeting or the Executive Committee. They shall take the place of the President and exercise their powers in case of absence, incapacity or resignation of the President and Vice President.

**Communication responsibilities:** [to keep the exec committee up-to-date on the financial health of the association; Provide a monthly accounting of the finances and corresponding membership list](#)

**e) Secretary:** elected by the members for two (2) years. The Secretary [is responsible for the non-financial records of the organization. The Secretary](#) shall prepare the minutes of the General Meetings and meetings of the Executive Committee; and be responsible for maintaining an up-to-date and corrected copy of the minutes books, and shall discharge such duties as may be assigned to him/her/them by the Executive Committee or the AGM. **Additional communications responsibilities:** [to communicate with exec committee on adherence to by-laws, quorum at meetings, and state of non-financial records of the association](#)

**Members-At-Large:** (\*not listed in current by-laws)

Up to two additional members of the executive committee with gender parity and regional considerations. **Communications responsibilities:** [to communicate with the membership at large through monthly posts to the listserv; to communicate concerns of members to the exec committee](#)

**Potential specified roles:**

- **TRANSLATOR.** English and French linguistic proficiency, willingness to translate documents from dominant language of communication.
- **CONGRESS LIAISON/S.** Responsible for attending Congress meetings; communication with the Federation and the Congress team leading up to annual conference
- **WEBSITE MANAGEMENT.** Responsible for posting material to the BCSA website.

**Student Representative/s:** Up to two students, with gender parity and regional considerations shall sit on the executive. **Responsibilities:** [to participate in the National Black Graduate Network and keep exec committee informed of outstanding concerns of students](#)



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**Appendix A.**  
**OBJECTIVES OF THE BCSA**

[Formerly described as mission and vision; retrieved from and available on the [BCSA website](#)]

- Encourage and support research, publication, teaching, and understanding of diverse Black communities in Canada and the Diaspora.
- Create an institutional infrastructure of Black Canadian Studies in Canada, to support and facilitate interaction and exchange and networking between scholars, community historians and cultural workers of Black Studies here in Canada and abroad.
- Provide support for Black Canadian Studies scholars, academics, community historians and culture (and those of Black descent regardless of research interests and foci), and to actively encourage and support subsequent generations of scholars, researchers, community historians and cultural workers.
- Encourage the collection, documentation and preservation of a material culture relevant to the study of Blacks in Canada, to encourage a reassessment and activation of existing material cultural collections (or parts thereof) as relevant to Black Canadian Studies.
- Foster collective action and to challenge the Eurocentrism of Canadian Studies, and to demonstrate the historical and ongoing relevance of Black populations and experiences in Canada.