

## Congress: a place to hold critical conversations

The annual Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences has been the Federation's flagship event for over 90 years, bringing together a community of scholars under one umbrella to share findings, refine ideas, and build partnerships to help shape the Canada of tomorrow.

This year's theme "Northern Relations" explored the connections between peoples, communities, cultures, and ways of knowing. It invited northern peoples — Indigenous and non-Indigenous — to lead the conversation and offered the opportunity to engage in critical conversations about anti-Black racism and decolonization.

## Programming at a glance

### Partner university programming

The University of Alberta hosted an impressive 37 events, welcoming conversations on equity, diversity, inclusion, and decolonization, and bringing awareness to issues of national and global importance. Here's a snapshot:

#### MMIWG calls for justice - Indigenous women on rising up:

A series of talks addressing the findings of the 2019 Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) from Indigenous activists and community-centred scholars.

#### Virtual colloquium on Indigenous-engaged research:

Indigenous and non-Indigenous scholars shared their journeys into or with Indigenous-engaged research and scholarship.

#### Choral singing in a confined pandemic world:

Uncovering the innovative ways that choral singing has been kept alive and well during the COVID-19 pandemic.

#### Snakes and ladders - mentoring sessions for IBPoC in the academy:

Academic members discussed the history, highlights and challenges faced in advancing their academic careers in Canadian institutions.

### Big Thinking at Congress 2021

The *Big Thinking* series featured six leading scholars and public figures who presented forward-looking research, thought-provoking ideas, and solutions to the critical issues of our time.



#### Disability will (re)make the arts

Alice Sheppard



#### Everything is connected: Environment, economy, foreign policy, sustainability, human rights and leadership in the 21st century

Sheila Watt-Cloutier



#### How to be an antiracist

Ibram X. Kendi



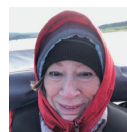
#### Ni'wahkomakanak: All my relations

Maria Campbell



#### Racism's touch: 'I can't quite put my finger on it'

Shirley Anne Tate



#### Yáázo Kéorat'ı (We see the daylight)

The Honourable Ethel Blondin-Andrew

Select recordings of *Big Thinking* lectures can be viewed at:

[www.federationhss.ca/en/resources/resource-hub](http://www.federationhss.ca/en/resources/resource-hub)

Canada's largest academic gathering goes virtual amidst pandemic

**25**  
exhibitors

**OVER 350**  
media stories

**1 MILLION**  
people reached  
across social and traditional media

**1,750**  
Zoom sessions

**28**  
scholarly  
associations

**CLOSE TO 6,200**  
attendees joined  
from 72 countries

## Congress in the news

**14** Associations with  
Congress media  
coverage

**14** Institutions with  
Congress media  
coverage

### Breakdown of media coverage by association - top three:

Canadian  
Sociological  
Association (CSA)  
**60 media hits**

Canadian Society  
for the Study of  
Education (CSSE)  
**56 media hits**

Canadian  
Communication  
Association (CCA)  
**53 media hits**

### Breakdown of media coverage by institution - top three:

University of Alberta  
**91**  
media hits

University of Windsor  
**39**  
media hits

York University  
**34**  
media hits

### Top media stories:

- [To fight racism in Nunavut schools, hire more Inuit teachers, educator says](#) - *CBC/Radio-Canada*
- ["Turning a massive ship": U of A set to host massive virtual humanities conference next week](#) - *Edmonton Journal*
- [How the California Roll became the model maki sushi- 'so different from the Japanese original'](#) - *National Post*
- [Après une année 2020 complexe, une soif d'échanges au congrès des sciences humaines](#) - *CBC/Radio-Canada*
- [Red-pilling the Pink Pill: Why gendered vitamins have different priorities](#) - *National Post*

"People think there are not that many disabled academics. I'm here to say there are not that many disabled academics because we keep acting this way." - @JayDolmage, Professor at @UWaterloo, challenging barriers to access at Congress and in academia.

@federation\_hss - Jun 4



Grad students, thanks for sharing your work! At academic conferences I always learn the most from grad student presentations. Especially the research proposal presentations. The new perspectives on theory/method and fresh takes on literature is always 🤔

@allisonjardim - Jun 3



Hearing from session on antiracism: What is the opposite of denial? Being vulnerable. Being self-critical. The heart of being antiracist is being vulnerable. Being willing to admit when nations have been racist.

@\_valeriei - May 31



**#Congressh**

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### A huge thank you to Congress 2021 sponsors:

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