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

- **Yáazó Kéorat’j (We see the daylight)**
  The Honourable Ethel Blondin-Andrew

Select recordings of *Big Thinking* lectures can be viewed at: [www.ideas-idees.ca/big-thinking-congress-2021](http://www.ideas-idees.ca/big-thinking-congress-2021)
A huge thank you to Congress 2021 sponsors: