

ANNUAL REPORT

April 1, 2019 - March 31, 2020



ACS • AEC

Association for Canadian Studies • Association d'études canadiennes

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REPORT FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD

JULIE PERRONE

Chair of the Board of Directors, Association for Canadian Studies

The past year was especially challenging for the Association for Canadian Studies owing to the COVID-19 pandemic. The contagion forced the cancellation of the annual Metropolis Conference in Winnipeg and making the decision to cancel has an impact on finances and stakeholder relations. Nonetheless, we managed to identify solutions to deal with the challenge and the ACS emerged in a stable position in the immediate aftermath of the pandemic.

Last year we reported on the relocation of the ACS head office after fourteen years. I am pleased to report that the new offices have succeeded in enabling the ACS to accommodate the growth in staff size.

Core activities of the ACS have remained similar as the ACS' largest research project continued to be the Canadian Index for Measuring Integration. The ACS continues to coordinate the National History Conference which was held in Gatineau to mark the 50th Anniversary of the *Official Languages Act*, and we combined that thematic with ongoing workshops and panels around the challenges of the teaching and learning of Canada's history. With over 300 attendees, the conference was highly successful. The Metropolis North America Migration Policy Forum has also become an important three-country platform for exchanging evidence-based ideas and practices on migration. Hosted this year in San Diego, California, there were some 175 participants from across Canada, the United States and Mexico.

In 2019-2020, we further expanded research dissemination with a considerable increase in the number of studies that were generated as well as a diversification

in the themes that were covered. The ACS retained its strong media visibility and enhanced our social media presence, but the focus remained on the former with our media outreach making us one of the leading public organizations in Canada receiving coverage. Regarding our two publications, *Canadian Issues* and *Canadian Diversity*, we are continuing to move towards a purely digital product with few print versions available. We will be speaking with subscribers about this eventuality.

In 2014, the ACS created the Canadian Institute for Identities and Migration (CIIM) as a way to distinguish the various conference and research projects that we undertook that did not touch on the promotion of knowledge of Canada's history. We are however in the process of altering the brand name and website to a Metropolis branded institute to reflect the organization's identity and mandate.

I want to thank the Board of Directors for their ongoing support and also the very dedicated team of professionals led by our CEO Jack Jedwab as well as express our appreciation to James Ondrick, Ashley Manuel, Sarah Kooi, Paul Holley, Chloé Nignol, Miriam Taylor, Anh Thi Nguyen, Gillian Aitken, Lisa Abramowicz, and Cedric Mawle.

Finally, I want to thank the various partners of the ACS for their ongoing support. I want to mention specifically Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, the Department of Canadian Heritage, the Canadian Race Relations Foundation, the Official Languages Commission, Ryerson's Diversity Institute, Statistics Canada and CCUNESCO.

TREASURER'S REPORT

JANE BADETS

Treasurer of the Association for Canadian Studies



The year 2019-2020 was an exceptional year for the ACS. The onset of the COVID-19 pandemic forced the cancellation of the Metropolis Conference that was to be held in Winnipeg in the month of March. As Metropolis is one of the key budgetary activities of the Association for Canadian Studies the postponement had an important impact on the organization's finances. Unexpended funds associated with the cancellation of the conference were posted as a liability in the audited financial statements so to address refunds for conference registration, arising cancellation fees for infrastructure and to cover costs for reproducing the event in 2020-2021.

Nonetheless the ACS was able to develop to meet commitments arising from the cancellation and hence this enabled us to keep our financial position stable. As we were active with several new research projects in 2019-2021 we were able to generate a surplus on the basis of annual operations for the year 2019-2020 of \$23 450 based on total revenue of \$1 230 811 and total expenditure of \$1 207 361.

We also saw continued evolution in the sources of revenue with yet further diversification. Over one third of the ACS budget is now secured from sources outside of government, an increase over previous years. Our principal source of government funds is from Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada which accounts for nearly thirty five percent of the overall ACS budget. The Canadian Heritage share of the ACS budget declined from one-quarter to one-fifth of the ACS budget. The ACS is seeking to expand its revenue from non-government sources.



ACS CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

Every year, the ACS organizes and hosts several conferences, forums and special events related to immigration and diversity, Canadian history, and the English-speaking community of Québec. Foremost of these events is the Metropolis Canada Conference, an annual forum for Canadian researchers, service-providers, policy-makers and community representatives to share findings, knowledge and practices. Metropolis gathers between 800-900 attendees in March to attend and participate in workshops and roundtable discussions, present research and network with academics, service providers and government agencies from across the country and internationally. With support from the IRCC, the ACS has successfully organized and hosted the event since 2013.

3rd Annual Metropolis North America Migration Policy Forum - Beyond Borders: Managing Migration in North America

November 7 & 8, 2019
San Diego, California, USA

In its third year, the annual Metropolis North America Migration Policy Forum has become an important three-country platform for exchanging evidence-based ideas and practices on migration. The Forum enables participants to share knowledge and key lessons around the United States, Mexico and Canada's migration policies and trends. Respect and recognition of borders, boundaries and jurisdictions remain at the very centre of North American debates over migration. Addressing challenges to national migration systems in North America requires ongoing interaction and cooperation between the three countries.

Inclusion Forum

November 21-22, 2019
Gatineau, Québec

The Forum was held at the Four Points by Sheraton in Gatineau, QC. This third edition of the Annual Forum on Measuring Identities focused on how academics, policy-makers, civil society and researchers define and measure inclusion and look at promising practices in establishing societal inclusion. The Forum also offered a platform to reflect upon new and innovative models for inclusive societies.

Officially 50! - A Conference Marking Fifty Years of Linguistic Duality and Education in Canada

November 21-23, 2019 – Gatineau, Québec

The 2019 edition of the ACS History & Social Studies Conference – Officially 50! : A Conference Marking Fifty Years of Linguistic Duality and Education in Canada – was held on November 21-23, 2019 at the Palais des congrès de Gatineau, Québec. The ACS organized the conference with the involvement of a number of important partner organizations including the Canadian Parents for French, The Office of the Commissioner for Official Languages, the *Thinking Historically for Canada's Future* SSHRC project headed up by Professor Carla Peck, the Social Studies Educators Network of Canada lead by Rachel Collishaw of OHASSTA, as well as a number of other teachers organizations and educators. This bilingual conference brought together Canadians from across the country to exchange ideas on how the two official languages have shaped Canada's historic narrative and the current challenges encountered by educators in fostering linguistic duality within the context of increasing diversity and multiple identities.

During the conference, a special expanded working session entitled *Building Interprovincial Cooperation amongst History and Social Studies Educators: Towards a National Network of Provincial History and Social Studies Teachers* was held. The ACS coordinated the meeting of Presidents and other representatives of history / social studies teachers' associations from all ten provinces across Canada to discuss with curriculum consultants and other experts how best to continue the work of expanding and developing a mandate and activities for a national network of teachers and other history educators to be called the Social Studies Educators Network of Canada. Furthermore, The ACS facilitated a meeting of the members of the *Thinking Historically for Canada's Future* SSHRC project bringing in educators from across Canada to establish an action plan of research and activities for the next five years. The ACS is a member organization of this initiative.

22nd Metropolis Canada Conference - Beyond 2020: Renewing Canada's Commitment to Immigration

March 19-21, 2020 – Winnipeg, Manitoba
(Cancelled Due to the COVID-19 Outbreak)

All registered delegates were given complementary passes to *The Economic and Social Impact of COVID-19 on Immigration, Integration and Settlement in Canada on-line virtual summit*, November 12,13 & 16, 2020, as well as complementary passes to the scheduled 23rd Metropolis Canada conference to be held either in person in Vancouver, BC, March 2021 or as an online virtual event in March 2021.





SOCIAL RESEARCH

One of the ongoing goals of the ACS is to conduct social research to better understand the cultural and political perspectives of Canadians, and to disseminate the information garnered.

From April 1st, 2019 to March 31st, 2020, the ACS commissioned and distributed numerous social research and public opinion research studies. For the exhaustive list, visit www.acs-aec.ca.

ADDITIONAL RESEARCH PROJECTS

The Canadian Index for Measuring Integration 2.0

April 2019 to March 2020

This fiscal year saw the completion of the 2.0 edition of the Canadian Index for Measuring Integration (CIMI) project. Supported by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, years of prior work was built upon to strengthen the CIMI's credibility and utility. As a uniquely Canadian performance measurement framework, the CIMI permits for comparisons of immigrant integration across Canada, reflecting a distinct Canadian experience based on Canadian datasets.

In this new edition, our set of benchmarks and indicators under four key dimensions of integration (economic, social, civic and democratic participation, and health) were expanded and enhanced to meet the following objectives:

- Incorporate 2016 Census data to expand the scope of our tool;
- Analyze themes such as generation status, immigration categories, selected identity markers, inter-/intra-provincial and secondary migration, and immigrant time of arrival;
- Continue to seek advice and gain insight from our Expert Advisory Committee;
- Update the tool on www.integrationindex.ca;
- Engage with and attain feedback from CIMI users via our website and Measuring Integration forums.



OTHER ADDITIONAL RESEARCH PROJECTS

Medavie Foundation – January to March 2020

Supporting Families of Serving and Retired Members of the Canadian Armed Forces and First Responders Living with Post-Traumatic Stress.

Ryerson University – May 2019 to March 2020

French-language Literature Review and Inventory for the Workforce Innovation and Inclusion Project (WIIP).

City of Ottawa – November to December 2019

Cultural Inventory Environmental Scan of Ottawa's Arts & Cultural Landscape for the Michaëlle Jean Foundation.

COVID-19 Social Impacts Network – March 2020

Established by the ACS to generate evidence-based responses that address the social and economic dimensions of the COVID-19 crisis in Canada.

COMMUNICATIONS AND MEDIA



Owing to their depth, quality and relevance, findings from research conducted by the ACS is often referenced by the media on Canadian culture, perspectives and values. From April 1st 2019 to March 31st 2020, results from research conducted by the ACS were cited in over 90 press articles, across several Canadian provinces, but also nationally and internationally.

The ACS uses social media platforms to reach multiple audiences across Canada and beyond. The ACS Twitter account ([@CanadianStudies](#)) presently has over 2,108 followers while the Metropolis Canada Twitter account ([@MetropolisConf](#)) currently has over 1,636 followers. Between April 1, 2019 and March 31, 2020, posts on the ACS Twitter account were seen by over 100,000 users (tweet impressions), while the Metropolis Canada Twitter account was seen by over 83,000 users. The ACS maintains profiles [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

The ACS also continues to update its own [www.acs-aec.ca](#) and [www.metropolisconference.ca](#) websites with publications (including Canadian Diversity and Canadian Issues), research, studies, press articles featuring the ACS, various events, etc. In March 2020, at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the ACS created the COVID-19 Social Impacts Network portal on the ACS website. The goal was to gather in the same place all relevant materials, content and research concerning this topic from different organizations, and to make it easily accessible for all.

The ACS is also working on launching a new website in March 2021 which will represent both brands, the ACS and Metropolis, and will host our future e-learning platforms (uCanStudy and uMetropolis).

At the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the ACS has been forced to change the format of its conferences so that they can be held online. This new virtual format brought a lot of visibility to the AEC's website and various social media platforms, notably through several webinars that were broadcast live on Facebook. The work load concerning communications and web has consequently grown and has required a new staff member to help us manage this online content (hired in August 2020).



PUBLICATIONS



Canadian Issues

Canadian Issues is the flagship publication of the ACS. First published in 1975 as an academic journal, its focus has changed over time to target a broader audience with articles pertaining to Canadian history and identity submitted by leading thinkers in these fields. *Canadian Issues* is partly funded by the Canada History Fund of the Department of Canadian Heritage and is fully bilingual.



Linguistic Duality, De Jure and De Facto – Marking the 50th Anniversary of the Official Languages Act

Fall/Winter 2019

Contributors: Miriam Taylor, Diane Gérin-Lajoie, Jack Jedwab, Shana Poplack, Robert J. Talbot, Geoffrey Chambers, Richard Slevinsky, Nathalie Dion, Jean-Philippe Warren, Richard Y. Bourhis, Matthew Hayday, Suzanne Robillard, Jean Johnson, Jean-Pierre Corbeil, Fred Genesee, Basile Roussel

The Personal Past: History, Identity and the Genealogical Impulse

Spring/Summer 2020

Contributors: Randy Boswell, Tanya Evans, Natalie Ward, John D. Reid, Leighann C. Neilson, Jane Badets, Jack Jedwab, Jean Teillet, Robert Vineberg, Sara Macnaull, Nora Spinks, Nicole Watier, Margaret Ann Wilkinson, Tracy Arial



Canadian Diversity

Canadian Diversity, first published in 2003, focuses on diversity, immigration, integration and multiculturalism. It was created to reflect the ACS' growing expertise in these areas and to showcase leading scholars and thinkers in the field both in Canada and elsewhere in the world. *Canadian Diversity* is typically produced in partnership with another organization working in this sphere.

About Immigration: Going Beyond Myths

Vol 16 - No. 2 - 2019

Special Edition - A collection of texts by Victor Piché

Contributors: Victor Piché, Danièle Bélanger, Richard Marcoux, Jack Jedwab, Lama Kabbanji, François Crépeau



Facing the Change Canada and the International Decade for People of African Descent – PART 1

Vol 16 - No. 3 - 2019

This issue has been created with the support of the Canadian Commission for UNESCO

Contributors: The Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, The Honourable Jean Augustine, Mireille Apollon, Miriam Taylor, Wayne Hamilton, Chuka Ejeckam, Afua Cooper, Dorothy Williams, Jean-Pierre Corbeil, Hélène Maheux, Tari Ajadi, Shana Poplack, Wendy Cukier, Mohamed Elmi, Erica Wright, Rebecca Aiyesa, Oleksander (Sasha) Kondrashov, Christine Lwanga, Oluwasegun Hassan, Christine van de Merwe

**Facing the Change Canada and the International Decade
for People of African Descent – PART 2**

Vol 16 - No. 4 - 2019

**This issue has been created with the support of the Canadian Commission
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Contributors: Dahabo Ahmed Omer, The Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean,
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Cicely Blain, George Elliott Clarke



**Shifting Landscapes – English-Speaking Québec and the *Official
Languages Act***

Vol 17 - No. 1 - 2020

This issue has been created with the support of the QCGN

Contributors: Geoffrey Chambers, Miriam Taylor, David Johnston, Graham
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and Universities of Québec / Editor,
The Canadian Encyclopedia / Instructor,
Concordia University, Montreal, Québec

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Canadian Heritage, Ottawa, Ontario

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Montreal, Québec

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