



January 17, 2022

Dear Friends and colleagues,

It is with deep regret that we are compelled to announce, on behalf of the ACSUS Executive Council, that our upcoming conference scheduled for March 24-27 in Washington D.C., has been cancelled. This decision reflects prevailing and projected concerns stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic. It was solely out of concern for the health and safety of our members that the Council made its decision. Our next biennial conference will take place at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City in the fall of 2023.

The space and time we currently occupy in our professional and personal lives is fluid and uncertain, and the idea that we have to once again change the date for our conference is profoundly frustrating. The constant challenges arising from the COVID-19 Delta and Omicron variants (testing, quarantines, transmissibility, in addition to illness, hospitalizations and deaths) have proven difficult and, we think, will continue to be so in the coming months. Changing health guidelines and requirements at a local, state/provincial, and national level are equally vexing. Unfettered, straightforward passage across the Canada-U.S. border is and will remain problematic, and many universities continue to restrict or ban outright professional travel and the use of professional funds for scholarly activities.

Between now and the fall of 2023, our Association will be announcing a number of virtual and (if possible) in-person Canadian Studies program initiatives, designed to highlight the original research and scholarship of members of our Association – especially those of undergraduate and graduate students and junior faculty. These activities will be announced through the association's email list-serv and through our social media outlets.

Those of us who have already registered for the March 2022 conference can either ask that your registration payment be held by ACSUS and credited toward fall 2023 conference registration or, if you prefer, that an immediate refund be issued to you or your university. Please let us know your preference, by sending an e-mail to info@acsus.org.

If there is a silver lining to this unfortunate news, it is that our Association, even in the face of tough circumstances, will persevere and thrive. We enjoy a healthy membership, solid finances, a top-flight academic journal, and a vibrant membership across all disciplines in the humanities and social sciences. The Executive Council remains committed, even though our next biennial will be in fall 2023, to ensuring that ACSUS is engaged in featuring and promoting new, inclusive Canadian Studies scholarship through exciting program initiatives.

Chris Kirkey, ACSUS President

Christina Keppie, ACSUS Vice-President