June 17, 2019

Attn: Board of Directors for the Federation of the Social Science and Humanities

Dear Dr. Albanese,

We join other Federation Members in expressing our disappointment and deep concern about the racial profiling incident that occurred at this year’s annual meeting of the Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences.

As Canada’s largest scholarly association focused on language education, we are reminded daily about the ways that language both reflects and constructs our societal values and priorities, of which this incident was another example. We urge the Federation to ensure in a timely and comprehensive manner to make Congress a welcoming place for Black scholars. This incident of anti-Black racism forms part of a pattern of systemic and institutionalized racism and colonialism that persist in academia generally, and it is clearly time to specifically address this form of racism within the context of Congress activities.

On June 5th, we shared the BSCA Open Letter on our Twitter feed “in solidarity with our fellow association.” On June 8th, the Canadian Association of Applied Linguistics disseminated information about the incident on its public listserv and issued the following statement, supported unanimously by the ACLA Executive and welcomed by many of our members:

Our association is committed to equity, diversity, and inclusion, and we stand against any form of discrimination, racial profiling, and harassment as we wait for an account and further action from the Federation.

As a fellow scholarly association, ACLA fully supports the Black Canadian Studies Association's efforts to advocate for its members’ safety, security and full participation as professional academics. We will continue in our commitment to advocate for the values and principles of equity, diversity and inclusion for all our Black, Indigenous, and other racialized colleagues.

Please feel free to contact us about this letter.

ACLA Executive