



CAPAL Conference Investigation Working Group

November 2019

Background/Context

The CAPAL Conference Investigation Working Group was created to determine the logistical and financial feasibility of hosting the annual conference separate from Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences and present potential options for what an independent CAPAL Conference could look like. Additionally, the working group will determine the pros and cons of staying with Congress or hosting an independent conference. The idea of not hosting the annual conference with Congress has been brought up in the past, but was recently discussed by several attendees at the CAPAL19 Conference at the University of British Columbia in response to both the racial profiling of a member of the Black Canadian Studies Association as well as continued dissatisfaction over the lack of control the association has over critical conference components.

Objectives

The working group will:

- Identify conference feedback via past surveys that will inform future conference priorities
- Investigate potential partnerships with regional, provincial, and national associations
- Determine pros and cons of remaining with Congress or hosting an independent conference
- Develop 2-4 potential conference scenarios with estimated financial costs

Anticipated Activities

The following are some activities the working group is anticipated to undertake to complete the objectives above:

- Compile and report on historical post conference survey data in order to determine common trends for conference challenges, criticisms, priorities, opportunities, etc.

- Contact regional, provincial, and national associations to investigate potential partnerships that could be mutually beneficial
- Identify average costs of conference needs such as catering, social gatherings, etc. as needed
- Discuss and brainstorm new ideas for planning and hosting an independent CAPAL Conference
- Prepare a brief report that outlines potential conference scenarios including estimated financial costs based upon finding

Timeline

The group will hold the first meeting in November 2019.

The group will meet via Skype as needed following the initial meeting.

The group will prepare a report to be discussed and potentially voted on at the Annual General Meeting in London, Ontario in June 2020. The report will be presented to the board in advance in of the Annual General Meeting.

Members and Duties

The working group will be chaired by CAPAL Board Member and past conference organizer Kevin Tanner. The chair will be responsible for determining, meeting times, for setting an agenda for running meetings. The chair will report back to the board at monthly meetings on the progress of the working group.

A secretary will keep minutes for meetings and make any relevant documents available to members of the working group as needed.

The rest of the committee will be comprised of general membership. Members can volunteer for specific activities as needed. Membership will be open to all CAPAL members in good standing.