**Report of the workgroup on holding CAS annual conferences independently from the Congress held by the Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences. Findings and recommendations.**

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**General considerations:**

Pros:

* Freedom to choose the time and place of the conference.

The Federation will hold the Congress in only 3 cities: Montreal, Toronto, and Vancouver.

Next year: Toronto, May 30 to June 6 (a college, no CAS members to coordinate, the Federation provides local coordinator, probably at additional costs)

* Lower cost for participants and CAS.

At present, CAS pays the Federation more than $2,300.00 to be part of the Congress.

For participants: Congress registration fee is $210 (early bird).

CAS registration fee - $30.

Cons:

* Lack of contact with other associations, members of the Federation.
* No “large event feel” and no President’s reception (finger food and 1 alcoholic drink)
* The Treasurer’s job is significantly bigger, dealing with payments to the University and such.
* Editors from Canadian publishers might not come. No book sellers. \*

\*From the editors who usually attend (summary):

**Stephen Shapiro from U of Toronto press**: The largest Canadian association I know that meets separately from Congress is the Canadian Anthropology Society (CASCA) and I think UTP has attended with an editor and/or book display most years. Because all my acquisitions areas are non-Canadian, I would probably be as likely to attend a separate CAS if our schedule/budget permits.

**Richard Ratzlaff from McGill -Queen’s University Press**: MQUP senior management (and most publishers) prefer that as many societies as possible attend Congress, especially given that it's very expensive for publishers to attend as well. Editors can attend sessions and meet scholars from multiple areas, rather than one as would be the case if all or many societies met separately. However, many societies have met separately from time to time: Political science, for example, or CALACS (Latin American studies). I've often attended the CALACS conferences (75-100 attendees) and like them because they're more compact, so it's easier to talk to people informally. Both models have pluses and minuses - if cost is a critical concern, a solo, more informal conference has a lot of appeal, and there might be added scope (and resources) to entice more US-based scholars to attend.

Other associations’ experience:

Heather Coleman spoke with the president of the Classical Association of Canada that left the Federation in 2000 and are happy with their decision. They hold their conference in the 2nd week of May. They rotate regions, but Quebec City and Victoria are their biggest drawing locations. They invite publishers and in some locations the publishers attend and in others, they don't. They charge approximately $200 in conference fees.  That includes breakfast each day, a "make-a-meal" opening reception, box lunches for all official meetings, and it finances a keynote speaker. [obviously we would have a smaller "scale"].  They have reduced fees for grad students.  The banquet ticket is purchased separately, with a grad student fee that is below cost/subsidized by the non-grad fee.

**The workgroup conducted a survey of CAS members’ opinions:**

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/DesignPageV2.aspx?subpage=design&token=c15f5333e6314cd5843e39ea2c60dc7a&id=S-t2AwbCVkCQYeNC3C7NqCdQ45d6h-VNuscGceEH16lUQ1ZKUkVBU0RBSkFGRVNYWkQ4VkgwOVlXWS4u&analysis=true&tab=0>

Based on the workgroup conversations and discussions with the Executive Committee, we recommend:

1. Hold an independent conference on a trial basis, for 3 years, in different cities around the country where the largest number of members are located, i.e., Edmonton, May 16-18, 2025. We can return to the Federation any time.

2. To lighten organizers’ workload, divide the work into local coordination and program planning:

* the local coordinator takes care of renting rooms, communicating with the University, etc.
* a committee of scholars, different each year, evaluates submitted papers/panels and composes the Conference Program.

3. use savings to maintain funding of graduate students’ conference participation.