



June 10, 2020

Dear Centre for Integrative Anti-Racism Studies (CIARS) Community Members:

We hope you are keeping well during these very trying times.

The CIARS internal planning committee was diligently monitoring the development of COVID-19 and particularly how organizations have proceeded with regard to large-scale events. After careful consideration, the internal planning committee has decided to **postpone the upcoming 2020 Decolonizing Conference** “*Climate Change at the Crossroads: Whose Planet Are We Saving?*” **until the fall of 2021.**

Given the large scale of our last Decolonizing Conference and the limitations and restrictions to travel for many who planned to attend, we will not be able to proceed with such an event in the Fall. We also stand firm against putting our communities who are disproportionately affected by coronavirus at risk. The CIARS internal planning committee along with a group of active volunteers are organizing a number of important conversations on various online platforms similar to the recently co-hosted ‘Black Faculty in Conversation’ webinar event with the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education’s Centre for Leadership and Diversity.

We thank you for your time, thoughtfulness and consideration. We are grateful to everyone who has submitted an abstract or a session plan, shared the conference information or volunteered in the preliminary preparations of this biennial event. During this important time, many of the conversations and initiatives led by CIARS are now illuminated in mainstream discourse and it is our hope that these discussions do move into meaningful actions and change. We look forward to collaborating with and learning from you.

Sincerely,

George J. Sefa Dei
(Nana Adusei Sefa Tweneboah)
Director, Centre for Integrative Anti-Racism Studies (CIARS)
Social Justice Education

Ontario Institute for Studies in Education – University of Toronto
252 Bloor Street West, Toronto, ON M5S 1V6, room 12-230
ciars.oise@utoronto.ca

