

# RhetCanada President's Report 2022

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The pandemic has presented our association with three years of firsts: our first cancelled conference, our first online conference in association with Congress, and this year, our first independent online conference. Thanks to the efforts of RhetCanada members, our move online for the last two years has been successful, preserving not only the academic quality but the collegial spirit of our meetings. I'd like to thank the RhetCanada executive for their support during the planning of the conference, the members of the Conference Planning Committee for their advice and feedback during the planning process, and the Advisory committee for its help in vetting the new conference proposals. I'd also like to thank the Student Prize Committee for their wise adjudication and even more, for their dedicated support of the graduate students who present at our conference. And, of course, I'd also like to thank the presenters and chairs for all their splendid work.

Next year's conference will present an important time in the life of our association: it will likely be our first in-person conference in three years, and next year's elections will include the positions of president and vice-president. There's a lot to decide for RhetCanada 2023: what our theme will be, whether our meeting will be held in association with Congress, and whether we'll be including a hybrid element in the conference. No matter what we decide, it will be wonderful to finally gather in person to share our research and ideas, and to simply catch up.

Circumstances this year forced me to focus on the basic functions of our association: keeping our records up to date, onboarding new members, and organizing our annual conference. Other projects, such as starting a newsletter to keep members more in touch with each other and thinking about ways of making the association more inclusive and diverse, were largely tabled, but they remain ongoing issues that require consideration and action. Given the prominent role of graduate student members in our organization, another area that needs consideration is how the association might further support our graduate members in their development as scholars, in their professionalization, and in their search for jobs. I welcome ideas on any of these issues, and I look forward to working with our executive and our committees to continue fostering the association's development and impact.

I'd like to close by thanking Andy McGillivray for his years of service as RhetCanada's secretary-treasurer. For a president, the secretary-treasurer is a kind of anchor, and Andy has been the most stable and supportive anchor a president could wish for, particularly during the bumpy period of the pandemic. Our association is fortunate to have such dedicated long-term members—faculty, independent scholars, and graduate students—who continue each year to share their skills, ideas, energy, and time. Those long-term members provide a solid foundation as we welcome new members into our association who will, we hope, come to value our scholarly community as we do and in turn make their own contributions to its growth.

I wish you all a wonderful summer and a productive and enjoyable 2022-23 academic year. I look forward to seeing you in person at RhetCanada 2023!