

ARAS Weekly Newsletter

Association of Retired Academic Staff



December 31st, 2025

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



CURRENT AFFAIRS SALON



The next meeting of the Current Affairs Salon will take place at 2.00pm on **Thursday, January 8th** via zoom. The topic this month will be Canada's economy and the debt that has been building up over the past decade. Can this buildup continue indefinitely?

How will Canada avoid reaching a situation when debt serving costs severely impede the provision of services to the Canadian public.

Come ready to make some suggestions. The Zoom coordinates for this meeting are

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83008835534?pwd=aKONPxDaAeyyCLw9KTUnzqlRf365Z.1#success>

Meeting ID: 830 0883 5534

Passcode: qn35hU4h

BOOK CLUB



The next meeting of the Book Club takes place on **Wednesday, January 21st** at 2:30 pm in Room 1-46 of University Terrace (8303)

112 Street). The discussion of *Clear by Carys Davies* , will be led by Vivien Bosley. Members may participate either in-person or online. Beverley O'Brien (bo1@ualberta.ca) will send a Zoom link beforehand for those wishing to join virtually. If you wish to join the group, please contact Vivien Bosley at vbosley@ualberta.ca . Please note that University Terrace is locked but there will be someone to meet you at the door when you arrive.

CURAC

You can find the latest CURAC/ARUCC Newsletter at <https://curac.ca/en/blog/december-2025-newsletter>

Academics Without Borders (AWB) Volunteer Opportunity for Facilitators for Online Teaching in Higher Education Program

Note that UofA is a member of AWS-USF so ARAS members would be eligible to take up this offer of volunteer work

[See further details about the opportunity and apply](#)

One of CURAC'S Affinity Partners, HearingLife is offering a special deal on hearing aids. You can find information on this at:

<https://curac.ca/en/member-benefits/health-hearinglife>

Trip Contest with Trip Merchant: Vietnam & Cambodia (Contest for Members of ARAS)

Win a 12 Day/11 Night package in Vietnam & Cambodia? This trip prize includes 2 nights in Ho Chi Minh City (with an included city tour), an incredible first class 7 night Mekong River Cruise with Viet Princess Cruises between Ho Chi Minh City and Siem Reap and finishing with 2 nights in Siem Reap with an included tour of the Angkor Temples. Transfers will be included throughout. Also, Trip Merchant will be providing a \$1500 CAD Airfare Credit to use towards flights. *For full terms and conditions, please visit the Trip Contest page. Enter today and good luck!

To learn more about Viet Princess Cruises and Vietnam & Cambodia, click [HERE!](#) For your chance to win this trip of a lifetime, visit the Trip Contest page [HERE!](#)

As a reminder, to register and access your travel site, follow these instructions below:

- Register for the **CURAC**/Trip Merchant Travel Site: <https://tripmerchant.com/register>
 - Fill in your details
 - Use One-time Organization Code: **4fff**
 - Ensure the "Subscribe to Newsletter" box is clicked so that you receive the time-sensitive offers/deals, trips and more (sent two times a week)
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- Click the *Register Now* button: You will then have access to the website

Apply before **March 31st, 2026**.

*If you have already registered to the travel site, all you need to do is log in [HERE](#) using your email address and the unique password that you created.

More information about the contest will be included in the attachment.

For any other questions or requests for any trip, please contact Trip Merchant by email info@tripmerchant.com or call 1-800-481-9739 » Extension 0.

CURAC/ARUCC event provided by HearingLife

January 15th (2026) at 2pm AT, 1pm ET, noon CT, 11am MT, and 10am PT

Sign up now for CURAC's Retiree Associations Conversation with our Affinity Benefit partners – how to sign up:

- Send CLL your name, email address, and the name of your local retiree association cllenave@ucalgary.ca

Topic: RA Conversation: Hearing Life

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://ucalgary.zoom.us/j/98474524149>

Meeting ID: 984 7452 4149

Humanities and Social Sciences

Big Thinking Summit 2026: Inflection Point

June 9 to 11, Edmonton Convention Centre, Edmonton, Alberta

The Federation's Big Thinking Summit: Inflection Point will bring the humanities and social sciences (HSS) to the forefront. Together, we must draw on historical, linguistic, cultural, and practice-based perspectives to open new possibilities for a Canada at the crossroads. Questions of legitimacy — who produces knowledge, whose voices are amplified, and how authority is recognized — are pressing to the fore. As public trust in postsecondary institutions is tested, shifts in cross-sector partnerships must reshape how research connects with policy and community priorities. Innovations in teaching, inquiry, and knowledge sharing must redefine scholarship and how it circulates across all of society.

Calling on academics, community partners, and policymakers from across Canada to forge new collaborations and tackle these critical questions at the Big Thinking Summit: Inflection Point.

[Register](#)

OFFICE ASSISTANT

Damdini will be in the office Wednesday from 2-5 pm.

If you wish to unsubscribe from our mailing list, please reply to emirhse@ualberta.ca with "UNSUBSCRIBE" in the subject line. Thank you!

