

# CTVAEHT

## STUDENT ETUDIANT

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# A letter from the new “Student” editor

Dear Student,

I hope you managed to make the most of your summer even amidst these Unprecedented Times. Whether you were working from home, taking extra courses online, going out to patios or just hanging out in your room watching Netflix, there’s no question that the last six months were like no other, and there’s no telling what 2020 will throw at us next.

Back in March, before the COVID-19 pandemic took over our lives, both the Ukrainian Canadian Students’ Union (SUSK) and our member Ukrainian Student Organizations (USOs) had in-person events—now basically a taboo—planned for our communities. One of the most significant being our annual national congress, which was supposed to take place in Toronto, Ont. in May.

Our congress committee basically had to start from scratch and plan a whole new event virtually in an even shorter amount of time. This involved researching different online reliable platforms, contacting sponsors that’d be willing to donate, organizing a remote election for the incoming SUSK executive team and spreading the word about the new and improved event.

From Aug.7-9, SUSK’s member USOs and executives across Canada tuned into a Zoom call that took place in 4 different time zones and six different provinces. With several rounds of “Oh sorry, no you go first,” and “Can anyone hear me?” we managed to make things work in these Unprecedented Times.

After our sort-of year-long hiatus because of our lack of a

Student Editor, we wanted to take this special Congress Issue of Student and go beyond just reflecting on the year because as we’ve said before, even the last six months were a wild ride.

Though we’ll maintain our regularly scheduled programming with annual reviews from some of our member USOs and a message from SUSK’s president Roman Grod, we’ll also dive into some heavier topics featured in our series of blog posts over the last few months—particularly involving the Black Lives Matter movement and our Ukrainian-Canadian history with Internment Camps during the First World War.

On behalf of SUSK, I wish the Student reading this the best of luck as they prepare for their online, hybrid or in-person semester—trust me, we’re all going to need it.

– Alexandra Holyk

Our “Student” Editor, Alexandra Holyk.



## A special thank you to our contributors featured in this issue:

Roman Grod

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Scan here for our latest podcast episode on Spotify!

# A message from SUSK's president

Our President, Roman Grod.



**Біраю!**

Welcome to SUSK's 2020 Congress Issue. This year COVID-19 threw all sorts of curveballs at us. First, we had to postpone our May in person congress to August, and once we realized that was no longer an option, we had to plan a Virtual Congress.

Thank you to all who attended this year's virtual congress. It was due to your support and engagement that we were able to have an exciting and productive congress this year. A special thank you goes out to the Elite Level Sponsor—Shevchenko Foundation, the Gold Level

Sponsors—Mitchell, Bardyn, & Zalucky LLP and Rodan Energy Solutions, and the Silver Level Sponsor—Kontakt Next Gen.

This issue is comprised of articles from our member Ukrainian Student Organizations (USOs), who have an opportunity to showcase their events and successes up to COVID-19. We are only as strong as our USOs and we hope to continue to see them thrive even in this virtual environment.

I wish everyone a safe and successful year.

All the best!

Всього найкращого!

– Roman Grod

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# Zooming through the presidium

Reflecting on SUSK's first online congress and the preparation leading up to the event

By Devon Sereda Goldie

Just six weeks before SUSK Congress 2020 was scheduled to take place in Toronto, Ont., we had to make a difficult decision.

On Mar. 19, the SUSK Board postponed congress to August—under the impression that an in-person congress in late summer would be a feasible option. But as you well know, the pandemic was only just beginning.

When the Congress Planning Committee began planning for Congress 2020, we dreamed big. We selected the theme, “Leaders of Tomorrow,” imagining a congress where students could meet, interact with and learn from a wide range of Ukrainians who had found success in their fields. We also planned a series of interactive workshops focusing on maintaining successful USOs to be run by student leaders within the SUSK community. We even had exciting outings planned for our delegates and observers, including a Toronto Blue Jays game and a brewery tour.

So as you can imagine, when quarantine first began, we were extremely hopeful that a short period of social distancing would be enough to stop COVID-19 in its tracks. When the decision was made to postpone congress, we contacted the venues, our speakers, etc. and informed them that we hoped to reschedule for August. When it became abundantly clear that an in-person gathering would not be possible this year, we made the decision to move Congress 2020 online.

The move to an online congress was an adventure. We started with the elements of congress



that absolutely must happen every year, namely the presidium, election of the board and resolutions. After researching various online platforms, we opted to use Zoom for the presidium.

We even had exciting outings planned for our delegates and observers

For the nominations process, we opted to offer applications via Google Forms. At our in-person congresses, the nominees get to introduce themselves and their platform to the SUSK membership. To simulate this in an online format, we asked all nominees to prepare a short video of themselves. We posted

these videos on our YouTube channel, shared them on our social media and emailed them to our registered delegates and observers, strongly encouraging them to watch the videos before voting during congress.

After researching various online voting platforms, we opted for ElectionBuddy. We gave our delegates a 24-hour window to cast their votes during congress to ensure that everyone would have an opportunity to vote, regardless of what time zone they were in.

For resolutions, we formed a Resolutions Committee from members who indicated that they were interested in their congress registration forms. The committee, chaired by myself, worked hard to adapt our standing resolutions to fit an online congress and put in many hours writing a

plethora of new resolutions.

When we first began the move to an online conference, the Congress Planning Committee discussed offering certain elements of the original schedule online. However, we were also mindful that if we had too many online events, people would turn into Zoom-bies. We briefly considered creating pre-filmed workshops, but we quickly realized that trying to make videos on top of all the work we needed to do to move congress online was biting off more than we could chew. We dropped the idea and decided instead to focus on providing an online social event.

If we had too many online events, people would turn into Zoom-bies

Looking back, I think we can call the very first online SUSK Congress a success! While it came with many hiccups and unexpected challenges, we were able to come together to accomplish important business and to build community. We couldn't possibly have done it without our incredible Canada Summer Jobs students: Natalie Blyzniuk and Alexandra Holyk.

Looking forward to next year, things are still uncertain. The new Congress Planning Committee will be meeting soon and will likely work on planning both an in-person and online version of congress until we know how things will play out. I look forward to when we can gather together as a community again in person when it is safe to do so!



# SUSK Executive of 2020-21



**FOR MORE INFO...**  
Check out  
[www.susk.ca/about/our-team/](http://www.susk.ca/about/our-team/) to find out more  
about our executive  
members!

# New year, new resolutions

A breakdown of SUSK's goals for the 2020-21 year

## RESOLUTION #1:

The 2020 National SUSK Congress acknowledges the tireless and dedicated work of the 2020 National SUSK Congress Committee.

## RESOLUTION #4:

In celebration and honour of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress' (UCC) 80th anniversary, the incoming SUSK National Board of Directors bids their congratulations as registered members of the national organization.

## RESOLUTION #5:

The incoming SUSK National Board of Directors is expected to hold quarterly meetings with USO presidents and leading members to discuss ideas and opportunities for Ukrainian-Canadian students.

## RESOLUTION #8:

The incoming SUSK National Board of Directors will provide resources and support to member USOs on how to plan and run events and programming that are either virtual or follow social distancing protocols and province-specific health guidelines.

## RESOLUTION #9:

The incoming SUSK National Board of Directors will encourage its member USOs to review the Ukrainian Anti-Racist Community's (UAC) Calls to Action and commit to taking meaningful, anti-racist actions.

## RESOLUTION #11:

An inclusion policy will be developed to hold members who use hateful terminology and/or spread hateful ideologies in any language accountable. It will also work to provide spaces and opportunities for learning ways in which othering and exclusionism are harmful.

## RESOLUTION #14:

The incoming SUSK National Board of Directors will approach the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Youth Council with the proposition to explore how the Ukrainian and Indigenous youth of Canada can work together to promote mutual understanding and closer cooperation, encouraging its member USOs to engage in similar actions.

### RESOLUTION #19:

SUSK will actively encourage its member USOs to reach out to local community organizations, such as youth and cultural groups, to raise awareness about SUSK and its activities. It will also provide its USOs with access to UCC's Ukrainian organization database, and leverage its High School Guidebook to actively engage students entering post-secondary.

### RESOLUTION #21:

SUSK and member USOs will take action to raise awareness about Canada's first national internment operations of 1914-1920 through facilitating on-campus events, holding information booths, social media campaigns, and educating other students, virtually and on campus. During the 2020-21 academic year, SUSK and its USOs will commemorate the 100-year anniversary of the conclusion of the Internment through a variety of means.

### RESOLUTION #22:

SUSK and member USOs will take action in raising awareness for the Holodomor and SUSK will adopt a zero-tolerance policy for Holodomor denial and continue to combat this misinformation.

### RESOLUTION #23:

SUSK and member USOs will take action in raising awareness of Ukrainian political prisoners unjustly imprisoned in Russia as well as Russian aggression towards Ukraine through a variety of online and on-campus events. SUSK will also work to continue educating our community and member USOs on the current situation of Russian aggression in Ukraine, including the human rights abuses toward Crimean Tartars in Russian-occupied Crimea.

### RESOLUTION #25:

SUSK will create a welcome and inclusive space at our events, programs and in our virtual community that encourages open and respectful exchange of ideas, however will not tolerate, personal attacks of any kind, the dismissing of others' experiences of present-day oppression on account of oppression in Ukraine, nor the belittling of the suffering of others. SUSK will research the possibility of offering opportunities for member USOs to partake in and/or organize inclusion, diversity, anti-racism, and anti-discrimination training for their Boards of Directors and/or members. SUSK will also share available anti-discrimination resources with its member USOs.

### RESOLUTION #26:

SUSK work towards creating a pilot project for a new program to offer an annual memorable journey to Ukraine and connect Ukrainian Youth around the globe with their ancestral roots, once travelling is safe.

### RESOLUTION #27:

SUSK will hold a 2021 National SUSK Congress as the AGM in a specified Canadian city or online if required and commits to inviting international student group representatives to next year's Congress, if international travel is possible following the coronavirus pandemic.

For a complete list of resolutions, check out your USO's mailing inbox, ask your USO executive team members, or check out [www.susk.ca](http://www.susk.ca)

# Why Ukrainians should support #BLM

By Devon Sereda Goldie

In light of the ongoing Black Lives Matter protests across Canada and the United States calling for an end to police brutality, violence and systemic racism towards Black people and people of colour, I wanted to take a moment to strongly urge Ukrainians to support this crucially important movement.

I would like to preface this article by situating myself as a white, cisgender settler of Ukrainian, Scottish, Irish and English descent. I am a descendent of first wave Ukrainian immigrants on one side of my family and of Mayflower passengers on the other. As such, I have had to come to terms with the reality that my ancestors, whether intentional or not, contributed to settler colonialism—the damage caused by which has led to systemic racism, oppression and violence towards marginalized peoples, especially people of colour in both Canada and the United States.

I have been deeply enthralled and disturbed by the concept of racism since I was a child. When I was five-years-old, my mom read me a children's book about Anne Frank and I was captivated by the atrocities of the Holocaust. What made people do evil, terrible things to other people? This question has continued to drive me and led me to my current research topic.

I am currently pursuing my Master of Arts in Applied Theatre and Ukrainian Studies at the University of Victoria. My thesis, currently in development, is called "Пам'ять/Рам'ят (Memory): Theatre as a Vehicle for Healing Intergenerational Trauma within the Ukrainian



Canadian Experience." I have spent a significant amount of my post-secondary education buried in the library and the archives pouring over historic documents relating to the history of racism and genocide around the world. In doing so, it has become abundantly clear to me that racism, and othering in general, is cyclical in nature.

Why should Ukrainians care? Because we've been there.

Throughout history, humankind has always identified, targeted and attacked groups of people for being different—first religious groups, and then, with the development of nationalism, ethnic groups. Over time, the groups of people under attack change, but the language stays the same. It is deeply haunting to read newspaper articles from different centuries and different parts of the world all using the same hateful language and rhetoric to attack different groups of people: Black, Indigenous, Latino/a, Chinese, Japanese, Irish,

Ukrainians, etc. But over time, especially the last 50 years, once marginalized Caucasian ethnic groups in North America (i.e. Ukrainians, Irish) have become considered acceptable by society—largely due to our white skin. Meanwhile, marginalized people of colour have continued to bear the brunt of racism, oppression, violence, and police brutality in North America.

So why should Ukrainians care? Simply put—because we have been there. We as Ukrainians have our own painful legacy. Most Ukrainians are the bearers of trauma or intergenerational trauma as a result of this history. Many of us still carry emotional pain, anger, and heartache over the way we or our families and/or our people are/were treated. For those of us living in North America, we are lucky to no longer have to worry about violence befalling us simply because of who we are. But our brothers and sisters who are Black, Indigenous, or people of colour are not so lucky.

Racism, oppression and violence is their everyday existence—and it is not more acceptable for such treatment to befall them than it was when it befell

us. Not to mention that there is a growing number of Black Ukrainians, bi-racial Ukrainians, and Ukrainians who are people of colour who are directly affected by this unfounded hatred.

It is our duty to ensure that these people are welcomed, celebrated and above all safe in our communities. I argue that it is our duty as Ukrainians to stand with, listen to and actively support all people who are experiencing hatred and violence. Today, that is the Black communities across North America as they grieve the loss of and fight for justice for George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, Regis Korchinski-Paquet, David Mcatee and countless others.

It is our duty to actively support all people experiencing hatred and violence

If you've ever attended a Holodomor commemoration, listened to stories from your grandparents about their families' poor treatment when immigrating to Canada, or felt angry about the police brutalities during the Euromaidan Protests in 2013-2014—support Black Lives Matter. Because we've been there. Enough is enough.

I strongly urge all Ukrainians to take time to actively listen and educate yourselves. Take time to consciously unpack your prejudices and acknowledge your privilege. Unlearn harmful behaviours and attitudes. Listen to marginalized voices and take meaningful action. It is the only way to begin dismantling the systemically racist society we live in and our role within it.





# 2019-20: A Year in Review



# UVic Ukrainian Students' Society



The 2019-2020 academic year was a big milestone for the University of Victoria (UVic) Ukrainian Students' Society. Despite it being only our second year of operation, we had a successful year of events and grew our membership from the previous year. We are lucky to live in a city like Victoria, B.C. which has such a vibrant and strong Ukrainian community. Our goal with our club has always been to help bridge the gap between the community and the university community to help both Ukrainian and non-Ukrainian students alike connect with Ukrainian Cultural and take advantage of all the wonderful opportunities that it has to offer.

As we are still a new organization, a lot of our work was centred around growing our presence both on campus and in our local Ukrainian community. On campus, we partnered with other cultural clubs and organi-

zations some of whom included Hillel, the Jewish student organization, partnering with them to bring their "Multicultural Festival of Lights" to campus showcasing the diversity of our community. We also worked with our International Student community, hosting a varenyky making workshop where students from all over the world were able to try their hand at making varenyky, even sharing with us how they make dumplings in their home countries.

We also hosted many events on campus as well. Our Holodomor Awareness Campaign was very successful. We organized a week of activities for UVic students to become educated about the Holodomor including a screening of the film "That Never Happened," hosting information tables as well as bringing the "Holodomor fine foods" food tasting experience to campus which allowed stu-

dents to experience first-hand the roots, bark and grass Ukrainians were forced to eat to survive with the support of Roma Dzerowicz from the Holodomor Awareness tours.

In our community, we worked hard to maintain strong relationships with our local Ukrainian organizations partnering extensively with the Church and our Cultural Centre. We have maintained an active role in our Centre's library renovation project helping to catalogue their library books into an online database. As a club, our members also frequently help out pinching varenyky for the monthly Ukrainian Suppers, citing that "nothing beats hanging out with the babas."

Our club is very grateful to St. George's Ukrainian Orthodox Church for their continued support of our students providing us with a space to host our annual perogy-making workshop and fundraiser. Despite the onset of the pandemic cutting our sales short, we had a huge suc-

cess delivering our orders door to door, fundraising \$600 for the club. Along with other members of the church, our students participated in the Church's annual Kolyada event. We had a great time carolling and although it was a first for many of our members, it certainly won't be our last as we look forward to continuing on the tradition.

Most importantly, we had a lot of fun this past year. Through the club, our members were able to travel across the country to take part in Ukrainian Events all over Canada. We travelled to Nanaimo to see Dakhabrakha in concert, then on to Vancouver to catch the premiere of Mr. Jones at the Vancouver Film Festival, and finally to Ottawa to represent SUSK at the Ukrainian Canadian Congress' (UCC) triennial Congress.

Transferring our programming to an online format will prove to be an interesting challenge but we are nonetheless excited for another year of success at UVic.



# University of Alberta

The Ukrainian Students' Society (USS) is the heart of Ukrainian culture and heritage at the University of Alberta.

Every year USS brings together students from both Ukrainian and non-Ukrainian backgrounds together in celebration and remembrance. Our most successful event has been our biannual Perogy BBQ. The Perogy BBQ is a fundraising event where we sell deep fried pyrohy and pairings outside in the middle of campus. The famous, most delicious smell carries into almost every building!

More popular amongst the executive is the Malanka. USS hosts a Malanka at a local bar, with a live Ukrainian band, polkas and plenty of horilkas! We also host a welcome back BBQ, intramurals, monthly meetings, and an annual ski trip to the mountains.

In addition to our social gatherings, we do our very best to be active within the Ukrainian po-



litical climate. USS runs an active social media page and sends out newsletters featuring all aspects of the Ukrainian community. We also exhibit a Holodomor Information and Remembrance Installation where individuals are able to take a black ribbon to show support and acknowledgement. However, last year our Holodomor Remembrance gained awareness immensely. Our social media posts about the installation reached over 20,000 views and 300 engagements. We also had the opportuni-

ty to speak to many local news networks about the man-made famine. USS also places importance on preserving our culture. In order to do this, we organize Pysanky, Pyrohy and Paska where participants are taught and engage in making a paska, a pysanka and are rewarded with delicious pyrohy to eat! USS at the University of Alberta combines all necessary components to keep our Ukrainian culture and heritage alive and growing, while still being current and connecting to all!

# University of Manitoba

Hello fellow SUSK members! The University of Manitoba Ukrainian Students' Association had a very busy start to the 2019-2020 school year. We started off the fall term by taking part in University of Manitoba's Clubs Fest, where student groups can engage with a variety of students, actively recruit new members, and promoting upcoming events. It was a successful event and an excellent way to follow up with our meet and greet introducing our incoming Executive team, as well as socializing with our existing and new members.

In October we held a Zabava, bringing together students with

the greater Ukrainian community in Winnipeg. We had a smaller turn out than expected, but regardless, it was filled with lots of food and dancing!

For Holodomor commemoration week, we spread awareness to fellow students and staff by holding a booth with various education materials. We also held a viewing of the Holodomor documentary called "Genocide Revealed" by Yuriy Luhovy to further spread awareness and educate others.

To welcome students back after the holidays, we held our Annual Perogy Lunch at St. Andrew's College. With our

cheap price of \$3 per plate, we had a busy lunch hour filled with many students and staff coming to enjoy the delicious perogies made by the incredible staff at St. Andrew's College.

Our last event of the year ended up being our movie night, showing the comedy "Сказане Весілля." It was a great way to relax and relieve some stress around midterm season. Sadly, we weren't able to execute some other fun events and activities we had planned for the rest of the school year due to COVID-19, but we're thrilled for some of the upcoming events we have coming up in 2020-21.

# University of Guelph

During the 2019-2020 year the University of Guelph Ukrainian Student's Club was focused on amplifying our voice and reaching a larger community at the university. In previous years, the club had been inactive so the executive's team main goal was to raise awareness and make the club's voice heard on campus. The club executive team consisted of Taisa Mysakowec, Tamara Moroz, Katrina Foster, Andrew Blyzniuk and Mark Juchimenko. We used social media to promote our club. We also hung up ribbons and information cards about the Holodomor on a tree in central campus to raise awareness. The club planned to have a large varenyk sale to raise money for Help Us Help The Children, but we were unable to due to COVID-19.

## Looking for your USO?

SUSK represents more than 25 Ukrainian Student Organizations (USOs) across Canada.

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To find out if your school has a USO or if you want to start one, check out [www.susk.ca/about/our-clubs-usos/](http://www.susk.ca/about/our-clubs-usos/)

# McMaster Ukrainian Students' Association



The 2019-2020 school year was one like no other for the McMaster Ukrainian Students' Association (MUSA). With plenty of new events and a growing number of members, this past year was particularly memorable for the club.

MUSA began the year with the annual general meeting, accompanied by pizza and pop, of course! Curious students came by to see what the club was about, as the hype for the year began. Shortly after the first event, MUSA released its first-ever sweater design competition. Many people submitted their creative designs and the winning design was available for purchase. During mid-term season, MUSA members had the opportunity to take a break from studying and hit the bowling lanes for MUSA's annual bowling night. It was a night full of competition, spe-

cial prizes, and of course, pizza (again). During the month of November, MUSA hosted an education table in the student centre about Holodomor. This was an opportunity for the club's members to spread awareness about the genocide to fellow peers and staff. After exams and Christmas holidays came to an end, MUSA members decided to keep spreading the holiday spirit by carolling to the Ukrainians of Hamilton. It was a night full of guitar, snacks and holiday joy. After being apart from the club due to the winter break, the Welcome Back Board Games Night was the perfect opportunity for club members to catch up with one another while learning about the upcoming events for the semester. There were plenty of games to choose from, such as scrabble and Jenga.

As the semester flew by, it was finally time for the 18th annual

MUSA Volleyball Tournament and Zabava. The morning began early, with teams arriving to St. Mary's High School in Hamilton. DJ Kus got the teams hyped for the day by playing banger after banger. After a long day of competition, Spiked Borscht came out on top as the winning team. Once everyone went home and showered, it was time for the zabava to begin. The night flew by as Zirka kept their audience on the dance floor all night. In order to celebrate the success of the annual volleyball tournament and zabava, MUSA members celebrated at a karaoke pub night. Surprisingly, many MUSA members are good singers. However, some, not so much. This night was an excellent way to commemorate all the hard work put into the events over the past year. Unfortunately, the year ended abruptly, and the final MUSA meeting was

held over Zoom. However, this was still an opportunity to reflect on the club's success over the past year, even if through a computer screen.

During the past year, MUSA worked to share Ukrainian culture on campus. The club participated in various events that promoted Ukrainian culture to McMaster students, such as Clubs Festival and the Holodomor Table. Additionally, the annual volleyball tournament and zabava was promoted on campus, and many non-Ukrainian individuals attended!

There is no doubt that the COVID-19 pandemic was a challenge during this past year. Unfortunately, many events were cancelled, such as Pangea, a multicultural fair, and MUSA's pysanka night. However, MUSA plans to make the best out of this upcoming year and cannot wait to host events for all to enjoy!

# Ryerson University

The Ukrainian Students' Club at Ryerson University had a great year under the leadership of our past president, Victoria Chmarycz.

In the fall, we held our annual Welcome Week pub night and election, where we were able to attract new members to our club and our executive team. This was a great opportunity to bond with our new and current club members over some poutines and Billy's—the orange juice and beer mixed drink favourite on campus!

Over the winter break, we re-launched our newsletter called, "Яєчко" to send out to our membership and keep everyone informed about what the club has done, is currently doing and plans to do in the upcoming semester. This was revived by our first-year representative last year and this year's president, Alexandra Holyk, who hopes to continue the newsletter as well as other initiatives as we head into the 2020-21 year.



Our next and major fall semester event was our seventh annual Dynamo Cup soccer tournament and zabava. With six teams and roughly 80 participants, there was a mixed calibre of players in the roster. From your USC Karpaty soccer stars to those who just wanted to get a free ticket to the zabava afterwards, it was clear that everyone had a fun time with friendly (and not-so-friendly) competition. The Cabbage Rollers took first place, followed by Fodebois and Underdogs. We would also like to thank our sponsors—Buduchnist Credit Union and Ukrainian Credit Union—for their continuous financial support throughout the past year!

In February, we had our last event before the pandemic hit—our neon-themed zabava. With the band Zirka playing featuring appearances from McMaster's Ukrainian Students' Association's (MUSA) DJ Kus, the zabava went аж до рання!

Though COVID-19 prevented us from holding any more on-campus events—and forced us to host our elections and meetings on Google Meets—the 2020-21 executive team is looking forward to holding more online or socially distanced events over the fall semester and (hopefully not) the year.

# Carleton University

Carleton Ukrainian Students' Club (CUSC) is rooted in Ukrainian customs. Established eight years ago in 2012, it has become one of the two Ukrainian clubs on Carleton's campus. CUSC was created with the intention of bringing together a community of individuals who share a background, interest, or passion for Ukrainian culture.

Stepping into this current 2020-2021 school year, our goals remain the same as in the beginning—to be an environment which promotes Ukrainian traditions. This goal is achieved through creating a space where people, regardless of their cultural background, can come together and participate in events which celebrate Ukrainian heritage.

Over the past year, CUSC has held three such events, each one adopting a unique aspect of Ukrainian customs and traditions. The very first event held in the 2019-2020 academic year was the Welcome Back Pub Night. This gave previous CUSC members the opportunity to reconnect with one another, while new members got a chance to get to know each other, fostering the growth of community.

The second event continued to highlight the traditions of Ukraine as the members partook in Kolyada Night. The group sang songs and carols in Ukrainian businesses and homes in Ottawa, preserving a tradition that has been a foundation of Ukrainian Christmas celebra-

tions for decades.

The last event of the year was arguably the most popular as more than 100 individuals participated, making the sixth annual perogy night one of good food, company and celebration. Indeed, it was a night spent making, eating and laughing about misshapen perogies. Not only did CUSC members and those part of the Ukrainian community participate, but many international students also joined, giving them the opportunity to learn more about Ukrainian culture.

This upcoming year, CUSC has encountered unexpected challenges due to COVID-19 and the restrictions to which the club must adhere.

However, despite these unforeseen events, CUSC will continue promoting Ukrainian culture and traditions and fostering a community for individuals who have an interest in Ukraine. We will continue to do this by holding virtual meetings which will give new members opportunities to meet with others in the club. In addition, if restrictions permit, CUSC plans to host socially distanced in-person events to honour Ukrainian holidays and customs.

Looking towards this upcoming year, Sophie Shields, the club's new President states, "This year we plan to host many new and exciting events. Whether online or in-person, we hope to be a community for Carleton students and alumni to come together, have fun and enjoy Ukrainian traditions. We welcome new members excitedly, especially ones who like perogies!"

# UOttawa Ukrainian Students' Club

## Recruitment: Ukrainian Style

What better way to recruit new members than by promising food? During uOttawa's Welcome Week Clubs Fair, our table decked out in blue and yellow got the attention of many students walking to and from class. At one point, a first year student came running up to us, asking for a photo to send to her mother back home. "My mother will be so excited that there's a Ukrainian club here!"

To everyone who showed interest in OUSC, we provided details about our Annual General Meeting (AGM)—and the food that would be involved! The Thursday of that same week, we hosted at Father & Sons, a student-favourite restaurant near campus. We were surprised by the large turnout, and used the time to discuss our plans for the school year, ask for ideas and feedback, eat, and socialize. A better Welcome Week would have been unimaginable!

## Fall Social: Perogy (Varenyk) Dinner

To kickstart our school year, OUSC hosted a perogy/varenyk dinner at the Ottawa CYM Hall. The turnout was wonderful, and we were happy to see so many new and familiar faces throughout the evening.

## OUSC Helps the World: UNICEF Bake Sale

OUSC participated in UNICEF uOttawa's World Pastry Day by selling Ukrainian and other Eastern European treats. The proceeds raised were donated to UNICEF uOttawa's mission to raise awareness and support human rights for children around the world.

## New Memories & Old Friends:



## UCC Triennial Congress

Members from our club and our Executive team were happy to help out at the UCC XXVI Triennial Congress held in our very own Ottawa. The weekend of volunteering provided access to informative lectures and presentations, meaningful discussions and social events. The highlight of the Congress was reconnecting with our other Ukrainian Student Organization (USO) friends from across Canada.

## Crucial Conversations: the 15th Annual Danyliw Research Seminar

OUSC members volunteered at the 15th Annual Danyliw Research Seminar on Contemporary Ukraine. This three-day seminar, organized by the Chair of Ukrainian Studies at the University of Ottawa, featured 20 presentations regarding current research and new books on Ukraine. The highlight was meeting Anne Applebaum, author of "Red Famine: Stalin's War on Ukraine."

## Holodomor Awareness Week

OUSC remembered the victims of the Holodomor fam-

ine-genocide by setting up an information booth in University Centre with candles and infographics. Together, we stood in solidarity and informed our fellow students about the millions of Ukrainians who were starved to death and tortured by the Soviet regime during 1932 and 1933.

## Koliada With a Dual-Purpose: Support for Ukrainian Veterans

A community favourite, this annual OUSC-organized event brings together Ottawa students for three or more days full of holiday celebration. We rehearse as a group before hitting the road and singing both traditional and modern Ukrainian Christmas and New Year carols for families across Ottawa. All that we ask for in return? A donation—the majority of which is given to a designated charity. This year, we donated \$1,000 to Повернення/The Return: Support for Ukrainian Veterans, a joint project of Help Us Help The Children (HUHTC) and Ukrainian NGO. This project aims to help veterans in Ukraine with re-integration and social adaptation.

## Meeting a Hero: A Conversation with Oleh Sentsov

The Human Rights Research and Education Centre and the Chair of Ukrainian Studies at the University of Ottawa organized a conference with Oleh Sentsov, Ukrainian filmmaker, writer, and activist from Crimea, who had been recently released from prison. OUSC members were honoured to have the opportunity to listen to him speak, ask questions, and meet him in-person.

## Uncertain Times WON'T Stop Us: Fundraiser for Help Us Help's New Project

OUSC had planned a packed schedule for the winter semester—a film screening of Akhtem Seitablayev's *Cyborgs: Heroes Never Die*, a Postcards for Prisoners booth, a pysanka workshop for uOttawa's international students at Ottawa's CYM Hall, an Eastern European Bloc Party at the Umbrella Bar on Dow's Lake, and an end-of-year volunteer appreciation barbecue. Like most others, we had to cancel these events due to the uncertainty and health risks associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.

With the newfound time that arose with quarantine, our Executive and Committee teams wanted to take on something meaningful. We set up a fundraiser for Help Us Help's COVID-19 Children's Relief Project in Ukraine, and with extensive advertising and a fun incentive, we raised more than \$1,000. This money will go toward providing disadvantaged families in Ukraine with basic life necessities for their children. These children were sent back home from orphanages at the start of the pandemic.

# What does it mean to be Canadian?

Testimonial reflections on Canadian identity and internment camps during the First World War

By Devon Sereda Goldie

On Canada Day this year, our country turned 153 years old. Once again, I found myself struggling with what it means to be Canadian and the expectation of celebrating this colonial holiday. Especially when it means celebrating the country that put my ancestors in internment camps simply because of who they were.

This year, as part of my MA research, I had the opportunity to teach a theatre course about historic racism against Ukrainians in Canada; the internment of Ukrainians in Canada during the First World War and the Holodomor. The outcome was a play called Pam'yat that we co-created about these topics. Here are some of my students' reflections on Canadian identity and the First World War Internment Camps—shared with their permission.

Perhaps I would have been able to use my privilege to stand up to oppressive behaviour

“Learning about Ukrainian history in Canada has taught me a lot about myself and how sheltered I am and was growing up...Indigenous people have faced oppression and racism in Canada, more than any other culture that I know of. I grew up in a small town in Alberta where Indigenous culture and values were not something that was widely respected or even accepted. At the time, I never questioned anybody for being racist. I genuinely did not know any better. Looking back, I am



horrified at the way Indigenous people were (and are) stereotyped and treated. I wish I had the same values back then as I do now. Perhaps I would have been able to use my privilege to stand up to oppressive behavior... Pam'yat forced me to recognize my privilege. There are people in the world who have to fight for the life they have because of who they are. I will never have to experience that.” – Darby

“I have always known that I was Ukrainian but I had never really considered what that meant. At the first rehearsal I was thrown aback by how much I didn't know about my own ancestors let alone the trauma and racism that occurred without my knowing... This project really made me appreciate my own privilege and how I was lucky to be born where and when I was...My whole life I was told that Canada was this amazing country and that the government was a positive force that could do no wrong. Hear-

ing about how they invited the Ukrainian people to our country and then stole their freedom was heartbreaking. Then when I discovered my own family name on the list of internees, I suddenly had major stakes in this event that a few days prior, I didn't even know existed.” – Vanessa

I have felt increasingly uncomfortable with the popular notion of Canadian nationalism

“Although Pam'yat revolved around the notion of Ukrainian identity, it also prompted me to affirm and re-evaluate my concept of what it means to be Canadian. For the past several years, I have felt increasingly uncomfortable with the popular notion of Canadian nationalism. I have been gathering pieces of information about Canada's darker history of genocide, internment, and discrimination; the disturbing truths that I learned through

Pam'yat were yet more confirmation for me...Pam'yat offered me a chance to reflect on my pre-established opinions of Canadian identity; for me, an incredibly impactful moment occurred as we were reading a children's book, *Silver Threads* (*Silver Threads*). The story followed a Ukrainian couple who had immigrated to Canada to build a new life, which was swiftly torn apart by the cruel internment camps. Despite the trauma and injustice that had been forced upon him by the Canadian officials, the husband still fiercely and proudly defined himself as “Canadian.” I was baffled that, even after being horribly wronged by the Canadian government, this man could retain such a nationalistic attitude. The resilience of his pride in being Canadian made me seriously reflect on my own conflicted Canadian identity.” – Sophie

*Testimonials have been edited for length and clarity. Read the full article on [susk.ca](http://susk.ca).*



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