



SUSK MEDIA PACKAGE 2013

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Conclusion of the 55th National SUSK Congress in Edmonton, Alberta

The Ukrainian Canadian Students' Union (SUSK) is pleased to report on the successful completion of the 55th National SUSK Congress held in Edmonton, Alberta from May 9th to 12th 2013. "Over fifty delegates from post-secondary institutions from all across Canada descended on Edmonton, Alberta to take part in professional seminars, leadership development, and SUSK statutory events," said Immediate Past President Danylo Korbabicz. "SUSK has experienced exponential growth since its rebirth and re-organization in Winnipeg, Manitoba in 2007. During my five years on the SUSK National Executive, I have been privileged to see attendance at our conferences double and triple. This renewed interest bodes well for the future of the Ukrainian community in Canada and I am heartened to see our youth take a more active role in community life," continued Korbabicz.

The four day conference and Congress was hosted by SUSK affiliate the *Ukrainian Students' Society* at the University of Alberta. Beyond delegates, the Congress hosted several observers and local community groups. Professional seminars dealt with the following topics:

1. Holodomor, Orwell and the Refugees: The Untold Story of Animal Farm (Andrea Chalupa)
2. Contemporary Politics in Ukraine (Marta Farion)
3. What can the Ukrainian Canadian Congress & the Shevchenko Foundation do for you? (Daria Luciw & Andriy Hladyshvsky)
4. Business and the Ukrainian Connection (Canada Ukraine Chamber of Commerce: Slavka Shulakevych, Vitaliy Milentyev, Myron Pyzyk, Michael Sulyma, and Illarion Shulakevych)
5. How can the Ukrainian Community Grow? (Dr. Andriy Nahachewsky)
6. Financial Planning (Servus Credit Union: Theresa Comeau)
7. Strategic Planning (Boris Radyo)



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In addition to seminars, participants were treated to several social and team-building activities including: a professional dance workshop hosted by St. John's Institute in Edmonton, a perogy-eating contest, a race and competition involving Ukrainian landmarks in Edmonton, and a history lecture about Ukrainians in Alberta hosted by the Honourable Gene Zwozdesky, MLA for Edmonton-Mill Creek and Speaker of the Alberta Legislative Assembly.

A unique element of this year's conference and Congress was the introduction of a "Case Competition." The Case Competition required participants to form teams and then develop ideas and solutions for problems facing the Ukrainian Canadian community. This year's topic was declining Ukrainian Bilingual Education in Canada. As is well known, declining enrolment and retention of pupils in such programs, both at the K-12 and university course levels, threatens Ukrainian Canadian community life. After finalizing their proposals, students were judged by professors from the Kule Folklore Centre and Ukrainian Centre for Language Studies at the University of Alberta, as well as teachers and administrators from the Public and Catholic Edmonton School Board Ukrainian Bilingual programs. The team that came up with the best proposals was awarded \$1000 courtesy of St. John's Institute (Edmonton, Alberta).

Participants were truly impressed with the size, scope, and professionalism of the conference and Congress. "I could not have asked for a better introduction to SUSK. Not only was I given the opportunity to connect with many Ukrainian-Canadian youth from across the country, I was also able to re-connect with my Ukrainian heritage in a new way. Incorporating speakers whose unique experiences with Ukraine and Canada could relate to more than one niche with the audience allowed for diverse and engaging discussions amongst delegates. The case competition was another highlight, allowing students to brainstorm ideas meant to preserve aspects of Ukrainian culture in Canada. I think that having community members listening to these fresh ideas better connected students (and SUSK) with the community of Edmonton. I hope that this competition will continue to be incorporated into future SUSK congresses," said first-time SUSK delegate Marusia Douglas from McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario.

The Annual SUSK Banquet and Zabava was held at Matrix Hotel and Banquet Hall in downtown Edmonton. Guests and SUSK alumni enjoyed a gourmet meal, a performance by world-renowned Shumka dance troupe, a live-painting session by Ukrainian Canadian artist Iryna Karpenko, and a keynote address by Ms. Marta Farion, President of the Kyiv-Mohyla Foundation of America. Ms. Farion is a former Chicago attorney and a member of the Executive Committee of the City of Chicago Mayor's Office of International Relations. After the announcement of SUSK Executive election results, guests were treated to the Zabava melodies of local Edmonton band, Euphoria.



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Incoming President Christine Czoli from the University of Waterloo, who had previously served as Executive Vice President for the 2012-2013 term, looks forward to the continued growth of SUSK and helping shape the future direction of the large and important Ukrainian Community in Canada: "As students, we are uniquely positioned to confront issues in our community and in Ukraine: by carefully examining these challenges, evaluating potential alternatives, and using our creativity and spirit to develop and implement solutions. These skills and tools are what we will use to establish our positions, inform our actions, and ultimately, define the impact we have in the Ukrainian Canadian community and abroad," said Czoli.

"I'd like to thank the outgoing Executive, and in particular outgoing President Danylo Korbabicz, for their dedication and contribution to SUSK. I am very honoured to lead SUSK and look forward to working together with Ukrainian students across Canada for the betterment of our community," concluded Czoli.

About SUSK

SUSK is a national student organization comprised of Ukrainian Students' Organizations at post-secondary institutions across Canada. It was formed in 1953 in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Though it fell inactive in 2001, SUSK was revived at the XXII Congress of Ukrainian Canadians held in Winnipeg, Manitoba, in October of 2007. SUSK's mandate is to advocate concerns relevant to Ukrainian Canadian students. SUSK serves as a national forum in which these concerns are discussed and acted upon. It is the coordinating body for Ukrainian Students' Organizations throughout Canada.

For more information and commentary in English or Ukrainian, media may contact:

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Incoming and Outgoing Executives

2013/2014 Incoming SUSK National Executive

- President: Christine Czoli (University of Waterloo)
- Executive Vice President: Nadia Demko (McGill University)
- Vice President Finances: Adrian Warchola (University of Alberta)
- Vice President West: Sasha Vorotilenko (University of Alberta)
- Vice President Central: Emily Bayrachny (University of Toronto)
- Vice President East: Alexandra Lewyckyj (McGill University)
- Secretary: Darya Naumova (McGill University)
- External Relations Director: Artem Chaplynsky (University of Western Ontario)
- Internal Relations Director: Mark Moroz (McMaster University)
- Project Director: Deanna Kibap (University of Alberta)
- Media Director: Cassian Soltykevych (University of Alberta)
- Alumni Director: Olena Kit (McMaster University)
- Immediate Past President: Danylo Korbabicz (University of Ottawa)

2012/2013 Outgoing SUSK National Executive

- President: Danylo Korbabicz (University of Ottawa)
- Executive Vice President: Christine Czoli (University of Waterloo)
- Vice President Finances: Danylo Kostruba (University of Western Ontario)
- Vice President West: Ann Zalucky (University of Calgary)
- Vice President Central: Anastasia Ostapchuk (University of Western Ontario)
- Vice President East: William Pidzamecky (University of Ottawa)
- Secretary: Ulanna Wityk (University of Waterloo)
- External Relations Director: Adrian Warchola (University of Alberta)
- Internal Relations Director: Kateryna Ivanchenko (University of Ottawa)
- Project Director: Sasha Vorotilenko (University of Alberta)
- Media Director: Cassian Soltykevych (University of Alberta)
- Alumni Director: Zenon Ciz (University of Toronto)
- Immediate Past President: Olena Kit (McMaster University)



Photographs from the 55th National SUSK Congress



Myron Pyzyk speaks to participants during the "Business and the Ukrainian Connection" seminar



Representatives from Alberta K-12 Ukrainian Bilingualism Program & St. John's Institute judge the SUSK Case



SUSK delegates pose with Speaker Gene Zwozdesky in front of the Ukrainian Immigrant monument at the Alberta Legislature



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Outgoing President Danylo Korbabicz presents the Hon. Gene Zwozdesky with a token of appreciation, a painting by Ukrainian Canadian Artist Iryna Karpenko

SUSK delegates participate in a "Ukrainian Dance Workshop" led by Andriy Nahachewsky courtesy of St. John's Institute and the Kule Folklore Centre, University of Alberta



Former SUSK Executive Member & Superintendent of Education for Edmonton Catholic School Board, Boris Radyo, leads a strategic planning seminar for SUSK delegates



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Above: SUSK Alumni Banquet and Zabava
Left: Keynote Speaker Marta Farion addresses SUSK Delegates and Banquet Guests



The incoming 2013/2014 National SUSK Executive



Resolutions

RESOLUTION 1

BE IT RESOLVED that the 55th National SUSK Congress acknowledge the tireless and dedicated work of the 55th National Congress Sub-Committee and its host, the University of Alberta Ukrainian Students' Society.

- **CARRIED**

RESOLUTION 2

BE IT RESOLVED that the 55th National SUSK Congress greet the outgoing SUSK Executive with the successful completion of the previous SUSK term.

- **CARRIED**

RESOLUTION 3

WHEREAS the 55th National SUSK Congress recognizes the significance of the 1932-1933 Holodomor-Genocide and other human rights violations that have afflicted the Ukrainian people,

AND WHEREAS the current proposed exhibits in the Canadian Museum for Human Rights in Winnipeg intentionally exclude any substantial material involving the suffering of Ukrainians,

BE IT RESOLVED that the incoming SUSK Executive take concerted efforts towards ensuring the inclusion of Ukrainian issues in the Canadian Museum of Human Rights in Winnipeg.

- **CARRIED, 1 AGAINST**

RESOLUTION 4

WHEREAS the subsequent year commemorates the following anniversaries:

80th Anniversary of the Holodomor-Genocide in Ukraine (2013)

200th Anniversary of the birth of eminent Ukrainian poet Taras Shevchenko (2014)

1025th Anniversary of Christianity in Ukrainian-Rus' (2013)

60th Anniversary of the creation of the Ukrainian Canadian Students' Union (SUSK) (2013)

95th Anniversary of the IVth Universal declaring Ukrainian independence (2013)

BE IT RESOLVED that the incoming SUSK Executive encourage its member USOs to hold commemorations of these and other notable historical events.

- **CARRIED**

RESOLUTION 5

WHEREAS the 55th National SUSK Congress sees the necessity of having an international body coordinating youth activity,

AND WHEREAS the Central Union of Ukrainian Students (CeSUS) has fallen inactive,

AND WHEREAS the SUSK Executive has taken strides to work with fellow youth organizations in the past,



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BE IT RESOLVED that the incoming SUSK Executive work with affiliated youth organizations throughout Ukraine and the diaspora to form an international coordinating youth body under the patronage of the Ukrainian World Congress.

- **CARRIED**

RESOLUTION 6

WHEREAS the 55th National SUSK Congress underscores the mobility and free expression of Ukrainian students as a priority in the SUSK mandate,

AND WHEREAS the SUSK Executive has the ability to leverage its political and economic freedoms to assist its colleagues in Ukraine on an ongoing basis,

BE IT RESOLVED that incoming SUSK Executive strive to establish an enduring working group of Ukrainian individuals in both Ukrainian and Canadian post-secondary institutions,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the incoming SUSK Executive expand its network of contacts in Ukraine as broadly as possible.

- **CARRIED**

RESOLUTION 7

WHEREAS the 55th National SUSK Congress recognizes the importance of maintaining bilateral relationships with its member USOs,

AND WHEREAS the 55th National SUSK Congress finds that Regional Conferences, National Teleconferences, and open meetings with USO Representatives constitute the most effective means of communication with member USOs,

BE IT RESOLVED that a member of incoming SUSK Executive make an effort to update representatives of its member USOs using the aforementioned methods on a monthly basis.

- **CARRIED**

RESOLUTION 8

WHEREAS the dissemination of Ukrainian student activity and information to the broader community remains a cornerstone of the SUSK mandate,

AND WHEREAS the national publication "Student" remains a widely read and respected journal among Ukrainian Canadians,

BE IT RESOLVED that the incoming SUSK Executive lobby its direct and indirect membership to provide sufficient content to publish "Student" on at least a bi-monthly basis.

- **CARRIED**

RESOLUTION 9

WHEREAS the 55th National SUSK Congress deems it important to preserve Ukrainian Canadian culture through the lens of the Ukrainian Canadian student,

AND WHEREAS the 55th National SUSK Congress holds that archiving future publications of "Student" is the most effective means of preserving this,



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BE IT RESOLVED that the incoming SUSK National Executive continue with SUSK's "Student" digitization project, which seeks to document a comprehensive collection of "Student" publications and create a searchable digital archive of the publications,
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the incoming SUSK National Executive continues to actively seek funding for the SUSK "Student" digitization project.

- **CARRIED**

RESOLUTION 10

WHEREAS the year 2013 marks the 80th Anniversary of the Holodomor famine-genocide of Ukraine,

AND WHEREAS the Ukrainian Canadian Congress National Holodomor Awareness Committee has proposed that SUSK collaborate with a national book presentation tour initiative with Andrea Chalupa, author of "Orwell and the Refugees: The Untold Story of Animal Farm,"

BE IT RESOLVED that the incoming SUSK National Executive support the UCC NHAC with the proposed initiative to commemorate and raise awareness of this tragedy within the Ukrainian Canadian community as well as among the broader Canadian public.

- **CARRIED**

RESOLUTION 11

BE IT RESOLVED that the incoming SUSK National Executive hold the 56th National SUSK Congress in the months from May-October, 2014.

- **CARRIED**

RESOLUTION 12

WHEREAS the 55rd National SUSK Congress sees it important to maintain the long term continuity of SUSK,

BE IT RESOLVED that the incoming SUSK National Executive continues using the UCC National address in Ottawa, Ontario as the central mailing address, and have any SUSK mail/correspondence forwarded to the concerned individual.

- **CARRIED**

RESOLUTION 13

WHEREAS the 55th National SUSK Congress holds SUSK to be a constituted federation, and shall remain as such for the foreseeable future,

AND WHEREAS SUSK recognizes the compatibility of all Ukrainian Student Organizations with the objectives of the SUSK constitutions,

AND WHEREAS SUSK endeavors to promote a sense of unity and solidarity between local Ukrainian Student Organizations across Canada,

BE IT RESOLVED that the incoming SUSK National Executive recommend to all Member Organization USOs within SUSK that have not done so already to adopt the name "SUSK" in conjunction with their local name as the official name of their Ukrainian Student Organization (Club, Society, Association, Union).

- **10 FOR, 13 AGAINST, 7 ABSTAIN**

- **NOT CARRIED**



RESOLUTION 14

WHEREAS the 55th National SUSK Congress recognizes the importance of developing working relationships with affiliated individuals and youth groups in Ukraine,

AND WHEREAS SUSK stakeholders stand to gain perspective and insight on issues plaguing fellow youth in Ukraine from developing such relationships,

BE IT RESOLVED that the incoming SUSK Executive undertake at least one tangible and actionable project that is implemented in conjunction with youth and student groups in Ukraine.

- **CARRIED**

RESOLUTION 15

WHEREAS the 55th National SUSK Congress understands the importance of maintaining fiscal accountability and transparency in any community organization,

BE IT RESOLVED that the incoming SUSK Executive continues to abide by generally accepted accounting principles to compile its financial report.

- **CARRIED**

RESOLUTION 16

WHEREAS the 55th National SUSK Congress sees the importance of financial accountability,

BE IT RESOLVED that the incoming SUSK National Executive enforce the payment of membership dues from Member Organizations.

- **CARRIED**

RESOLUTION 17

WHEREAS the 55th National SUSK Congress holds the financial longevity of SUSK crucial to its long term continuity and suffers shortages in operational funding,

BE IT RESOLVED that SUSK in cooperation with the Taras Shevchenko Foundation and other donors create a managed Contingency Reserve Fund to sustain the projects and ventures of the Ukrainian Canadian Students' Union in perpetuity,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a reasonable portion of the income garnered from such a fund be allocated to the development of appropriate projects in Ukraine.

- **CARRIED**

RESOLUTION 18

WHEREAS the 55th National SUSK Congress recognizes that the priorities of the SUSK Executive shift as time progresses and circumstances change,

AND WHEREAS it is in the best interest of the SUSK Executive to make clear to stakeholders and interested parties in the community what the priorities of the SUSK Executive are,

BE IT RESOLVED that the incoming SUSK Executive review the existing SUSK Position Paper developed by the outgoing SUSK Executive annually,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the incoming SUSK Executive tailor the Position Paper to conform with the issues that affect the broader membership of SUSK at that given time,



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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that until such a time that the document is revised and approved by a current SUSK Executive, let the existing Position Paper serve as the overarching guideline for SUSK priorities.

- **CARRIED**

RESOLUTION 19

WHEREAS the 55th National SUSK Congress sees importance to further cooperation between the Ukrainian Canadian Students Union and the Federation of Ukrainian Student Organizations of America (SUSTA), the Organizational Committee of the Ukrainian Student Association of Mykola Mikhnovskiy, and other governing student bodies,

AND WHEREAS the 55th National SUSK Congress sees it mutually beneficial to have active Ukrainian Student Organization umbrella organizations in North America,

AND WHEREAS the 55th National SUSK Congress is aware of other National Ukrainian Student Organizations outside of SUSK's respective jurisdiction and where there may be a Ukrainian diaspora with students,

BE IT RESOLVED that the incoming SUSK National Executive make an active effort to organize a joint Congress with any affiliated organizations that are willing.

- **CARRIED**

RESOLUTION 20

WHEREAS the 55th National SUSK Congress sees the importance in career outreach for its broader membership,

AND WHEREAS no formal position on the SUSK Executive exists to cultivate relationships between professionals and students,

AND WHEREAS the outgoing SUSK Executive has taken strides to bring likeminded students and professionals together,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alumni Director on future SUSK Executives assume the responsibilities of Alumni and Student Outreach Director, wherein he/she would be responsible for fostering relationships between students and adult professionals.

- **CARRIED**

Friendly Resolutions:

RESOLUTION 21

WHEREAS the 55th National SUSK Congress identifies SUSK as a reputable institution with discernible revenues and expenses,

AND WHEREAS the 55th National SUSK Congress has a vested interest in ensuring the transparency and accountability of our finances to external parties,

BE IT RESOLVED that the incoming SUSK Executive review any liability that SUSK may have with regard to reporting its financial figures to a governing body.

- **CARRIED**



RESOLUTION 22

WHEREAS the 55th National SUSK Congress recognizes that the SUSK mandate and objective has not been reviewed in recent SUSK terms,

BE IT RESOLVED that the incoming SUSK Executive take into consideration recommendations on updating the SUSK mandate and objectives, and update them as they see fit.

- **CARRIED**

RESOLUTION 23

WHEREAS there are undoubtedly a significant number of Ukrainian students in colleges and technical institutes,

AND WHEREAS the 55th National SUSK Congress is aware of SUSK's limited exposure among Ukrainian students in colleges and technical institutes,

BE IT RESOLVED that the incoming SUSK Executive make an attempt to reach out to students in colleges and technical institutes,

AND BE IT RESOLVED that the incoming SUSK Executive work to establish USOs in colleges and technical institutes wherever possible.

- **CARRIED**

RESOLUTION 24

WHEREAS the voting strength of a USO at the SUSK National Congress is based on both its present delegates and on its reported membership,

BE IT RESOLVED that the incoming SUSK executive develops guidelines for the creation of USO membership lists for SUSK use.

- **CARRIED, 1 ABSTAIN**

RESOLUTION 25

WHEREAS the 55th National SUSK Congress sees the importance in accountability and continuity,

BE IT RESOLVED that the incoming SUSK executive looks into the feasibility of having two year terms for President and Vice President Finances

- **CARRIED, 5 AGAINST, 3 ABSTAIN**



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