



As a leading voice in the Ukrainian Canadian community, the Ukrainian Canadian Students' Union (SUSK) adopts the following positions with respect to key policy issues relating to Ukraine and Canada:

1. Corruption and Indiscretion in the Ukrainian Democratic Process

Independent foreign observers have overwhelmingly deemed several recent Ukrainian elections as biased and deliberately staged. Undoubtedly, the integrity of a particular state begins with a citizen's faith in basic democratic processes. With evidence of a) blatant vote rigging and b) the exertion of various socio-economic pressure tactics by certain political parties in Ukraine upon citizenry, this integrity has been rightfully placed under scrutiny. SUSK echoes the statements released by Canadian and other international observer missions to Ukraine, which unequivocally state that the reliability of Ukrainian election results has been compromised. SUSK expresses deep concern for this malfeasance, and calls for the Ukrainian government to cease any wrongful activities.

2. Human Rights Violations in Ukraine

In recent years, there has been a suppression and degradation of basic individual rights in Ukraine. Specifically, we note several high profile cases, like those of Yuriy Lutsenko, Yuliya Tymoshenko, Roman Krutysyk, and Ruslan Zabilyj. Lack of due process and attack on basic freedoms is a common occurrence in Ukraine. SUSK rebukes the Ukrainian government's treatment of academics, historians, politicians, and indirect attacks on students and all others who question existing power structures. Furthermore, SUSK has and will continue to lobby on behalf of those Ukrainians unable to do so themselves.

3. Holodomor Awareness in Ukraine and in the Diaspora

The Holodomor-genocide of 1932-1933 was one of the worst tragedies to befall the Ukrainian people. Despite considerable documentation and historical observation, unfounded criticisms and denials still persist. On the eve of the 80th anniversary of the Holodomor, SUSK will continue its efforts to commemorate and promote education on the subject among Canadian students. SUSK also supports the Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC) and the broader Ukrainian Canadian community in its collective effort to install a permanent and prominent Holodomor exhibit in the Canadian Museum for Human Rights in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

4. National Memory and Ukraine's Struggle for Independence

Ukrainian independence in 1991 was the culmination of a centuries-long effort to secure its own sovereignty and statehood. As a perpetual victim of oppressive regimes, Ukraine and its history have been subjected to obfuscation and misrepresentation. SUSK supports academics and members of civil society (or civil society groups or non-governmental organizations) who work to establish an objective and non-partisan perspective of Ukraine's storied history. SUSK pays a solemn respect to the sacrifices of our ancestors, and vows to diligently keep their memory alive.



5. Ukraine's Integration in the EU and NATO

Ukraine holds strategic geopolitical influence in Europe, straddling the border between Eastern and Western Europe. In recent years, external influences have caused Ukraine to gravitate eastward. SUSK believes that Ukraine's long term prosperity and security very much depend on strong economic, military, and political ties with Western Europe and the Western hemisphere, which would best be fortified by its induction into NATO and the EU. We will continue, in concert with our Ukrainian Canadian partners, to lobby the Government of Canada for these outcomes.

6. Canada's Diplomatic Relations with Ukraine

From the outset, Canada has maintained a strong relationship with the nascent Ukrainian state. The Canadian government has extended an immeasurable amount of support and has been forthright in promoting democratic activity in Ukraine. Canadian diplomatic missions, parliamentary hearings, and government calls to action have all greatly helped bring issues affecting Ukraine to the forefront of Canadian Foreign Policy. As such, Canada's stalwart support has garnered Ukraine its due international attention. SUSK applauds the Canadian government for its sincerity and its leadership in trying times, and is proud to call itself, first and foremost, a Canadian institution. SUSK will continue to do all it can to ensure this relationship persists for years to come.

7. Proactive Relationship with Ukrainian Students in Ukraine

SUSK recognizes that true and genuine democracy can ultimately be achieved in Ukraine only through the action of its own citizens. As a student organization in the Ukrainian diaspora, SUSK stands shoulder to shoulder with our counterparts in Ukraine who fight for its well-being as well as for their own individual and academic rights. In particular, SUSK does not support the appointment and activities of Dmytro Tabachnyk as Minister of Education and Science in Ukraine, given his public humiliations of the Ukrainian language and culture. Tabachnyk is also responsible for unsatisfactory retreats to the Soviet era, including the re-introduction of Soviet-era terms into history textbooks and removal of nationally relevant events, such as the battle of Kruty and the role of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army in Ukraine's struggle for independence. His proposals for educational reform would push Ukraine's educational system further into the past, paralyzing students' interdisciplinary mobility and curtailing the autonomy of Ukrainian universities by centralizing curricula decision-making in the Ministry of Education. Tabachnyk's reforms also hinder the foreign credential recognition of Ukrainian degrees. SUSK actively seeks to forge lasting relationships with student organizations in Ukraine to work towards ameliorating this poor state of affairs.

8. Ukrainian Language

The passing of the new language law in Ukraine, which enshrined Russian as a regional language in various parts of Ukraine, marks a serious threat to the security of Ukraine's national identity. In the interest of national sovereignty, solidarity, and the natural process of de-russification which took place in the majority of post-Soviet republics, SUSK strongly holds that Ukrainian remain the only language utilized by state-sponsored entities. Though SUSK holds minority and cultural rights as hallmarks of any advanced society, the organs of the state in a nascent nation such as Ukraine, which is constantly struggling to recapture its identity, should be focused on promoting the national language rather than

discouraging it. SUSK acknowledges that for Ukraine to wrest itself from its troubled past, its citizens must universally hold Ukrainian as the only nationally recognized language.

*Ukrainian Canadian Students' Union (SUSK) National Executive
2013-2014*

*Встане Україна.
І розвіє тьму неволі,
Світ правди засвітить,
І помоляться на волі
Невольничі діти!..*

- Тарас Шевченко

*Ukraine will rise,
And shrug off the shadow of captivity,
A world of truth will shine,
And those who were once oppressed,
Will bask in their newfound freedom!*

- Taras Shevchenko