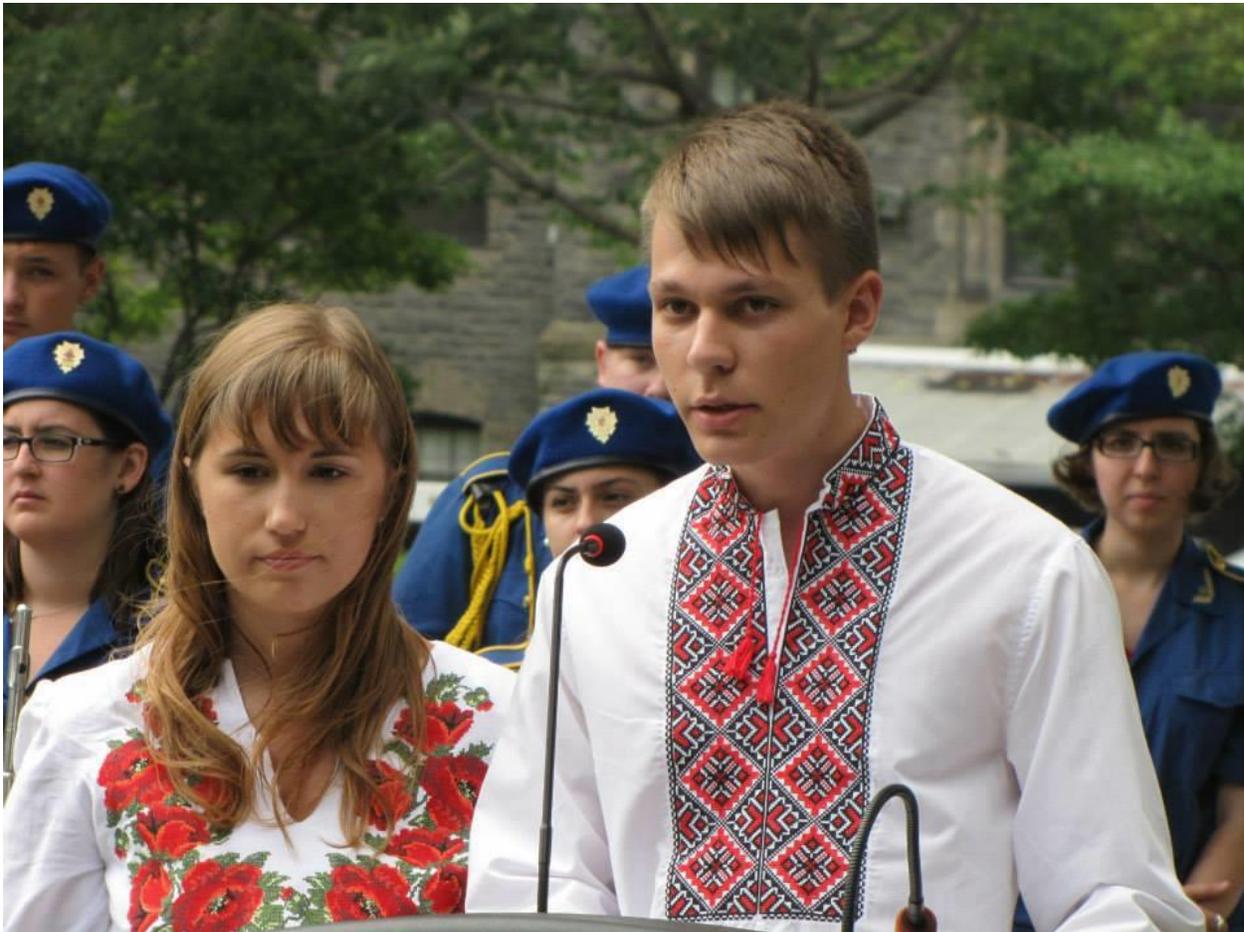




UKRAINIAN CANADIAN STUDENTS' UNION
СОЮЗ УКРАЇНСЬКОГО СТУДЕНТСТВА КАНАДИ
UNION DES ÉTUDIANTS UKRAINIENS CANADIENS

Greetings on the occasion of the 22nd Anniversary of Ukraine's Independence

The Ukrainian Canadian Students' Union (SUSK) congratulates all Ukrainians on the occasion of the 22nd anniversary of Ukraine's Independence! In support of Ukraine's Independence and its further development as a democratic state, SUSK participated in the Ukrainian Flag Raising Ceremony on August 22, 2013 at Queen's Park in Toronto, Ontario, hosted by the League of Ukrainian Canadians, the League of Ukrainian Canadian Women, the Ukrainian Youth Association, Veterans of UPA, and Homin Publishing.



Emily Bayrachny and Artem Chaplynsky



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Over the past 22 years, Ukraine has come a long way as an independent state. We as students of Ukrainian descent are very fortunate that Ukraine's independence was won during our lifetime. However, this independence comes with the responsibility to continue to support its efforts to develop and maintain its political, economic, and socio-cultural integrity. We must remain vigilant. Ukraine will never truly be free and independent until human rights, the rule of law, political institutions and sovereignty are upheld by the Ukrainian government.

Students have always been the proponents of change. Because of the commitment of prior generations to maintaining their identity as Ukrainians, today's generation of Ukrainian Canadian youth continues to develop a sense of identity by discovering its history, language and culture, and by actively participating in the community. This year is no exception, as Ukrainian Canadian students prepare to acknowledge and commemorate the 60th anniversary of the founding of the Ukrainian Canadian Students' Union, the 80th anniversary of the Holodomor, and the 200th anniversary of the birth of the renowned Ukrainian poet, Taras Shevchenko.

As a generation, we must confront the challenges of the future and address the issues fundamental to Ukrainians in Ukraine, Canada, and worldwide. This will help encourage involvement and continue to foster growth in the Ukrainian Canadian community, as well as support a sovereign and stable Ukraine for generations to come. SUSK is committed to remaining vigilant regarding issues of concern to Ukrainian Canadian students: this year, our Director of External Relations took on an active role in developing strong relationships between Ukrainian students in Canada and Ukrainian students in Ukraine. We have worked with groups of students who have protested several government initiatives, particularly in the areas of freedom of speech and education. Through learning their aims and coming to understand the pressures and issues they face, we have created a strong partnership between our organizations to help support their cause in Ukraine.

З Днем Народження, Україно!

Christine Czoli
President

Emily Bayrachny
Vice-President Central

Artem Chaplynsky
External Relations Director