



SUSK MEDIA PACKAGE 2012

1. Conclusion of 54th National SUSK Congress
 2. Incoming and Outgoing Executives
 3. Photographs from the 54th National SUSK Congress
 4. Resolutions
 5. Sponsors of the 54th National SUSK Congress
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Conclusion of 54th National SUSK Congress

The 54th National Ukrainian Canadian Students' Union (SUSK) Congress convened in Hamilton, Ontario on May 10, 2012. The four-day conference, hosted by the local McMaster Ukrainian Students' Association, concluded with tangible proposals that delegates will use to evolve Ukrainian Student Organizations nationwide. "The 54th National SUSK Congress served as an opportunity for students to network with other students from across the country as well as develop leadership skills necessary to execute their role as future leaders in the *hromada*" said Immediate Past President Olena Kit. "Many new ideas, opinions, and criticisms were brought forward. The delegates immersed themselves in full debate and devoted themselves to exploring, learning, and sharing their knowledge. It became evident that there are many areas in which SUSK can improve its focus and steps taken at this year's Congress will help forge a new path for Ukrainian students in Canada," concluded Kit.

Over thirty representatives from twelve Canadian post-secondary institutions attended the National Congress, along with community observers. The professional seminars featured: Orysia Sushko who addressed the reality of human trafficking; Taras Zalusky who expressed the role of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress and its relationship with SUSK; Zenon Potichny, Alex Ochrym, Markian Silecky, Michael Zienchuck and Dr. George Foty who proposed a Canada Ukraine Chamber of Commerce (CUCC) Youth Initiative; Dr. Walter Zaryckyj who described the Ukrainian Diaspora as a force multiplier in Ukraine's quest for mature national statehood; and Paul Grod, Eugene Roman, and Renata Roman who revealed linked business success with community involvement in the *hromada* as concepts reliant on each other.

The Annual SUSK Banquet and Zabava was held at the historic Liuna Station where guests enjoyed a gourmet meal, a performance by Kalyna Dance Ensemble, a Keynote Address from the Honourable William J. Festeryga Q.C., and entertainment of lively polka tunes by Zirka! SUSK extends the warmest appreciation to the local Ukrainian community for their tremendous support as the Banquet and Zabava serviced a crowd of nearly two hundred people!



This year's Congress also featured a "Meet & Greet" Networking Night, a blue and yellow themed pub-crawl, a private tour of Rosewood Winery Estates in Beamsville, Ontario that included a tasting, and sessions on personal finance.

Marta Cybulsky, a McGill University student was delighted with her experience:

"Returning to my fifth SUSK Congress, it was a pleasure to see so many new faces. SUSK has definitely been doing a great job at mobilizing and connecting Ukrainian youth across Canada. This year's congress stood out in particular, as the speakers were extremely enthusiastic and stimulated many discussions amongst the delegates."

The 54th National SUSK Congress culminated with a strategic planning seminar facilitated by Yvan Baker, who asked delegates to: determine the issues SUSK's faces; prioritize them; solve one of these issues in groups; and identify the most realistic solutions. "This exercise served to be invaluable. I found the experience rewarding as the process could be applied to any organization," said Pavel Waszczur a delegate from McMaster University.

Incoming President Danylo Korbabicz from the University of Ottawa, who had previously served in this capacity for the 2010-2011 term, looks forward to the continued growth of SUSK and helping shape the future direction of the large and important Ukrainian Community in Canada:

"I am humbled to lead SUSK once again in this crucial time of its renaissance. Our community faces immediate challenges in Canada but is also concerned by the deteriorating situation in Ukraine. It is important that more of our youth take an active leadership role in both arenas as conventional resolutions to various challenges are becoming less and less effective," said Korbabicz. "That being said, I would like to commend those who have committed themselves to SUSK this past executive term as well as those incoming members. Without them, SUSK would languish and an important community voice would not be heard. I would especially like to thank outgoing President Olena Kit for her personal sacrifice, commitment, and many years of service to SUSK. I know her contribution is highly valued by the community at large," concluded Korbabicz.

About SUSK

SUSK is a national student organization comprised of Ukrainian Student 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, October 2007. SUSK's mandate is to advocate concerns relevant to Ukrainian Canadian students. SUSK serves as a national forum in which these concerns are discuss and acted upon. It is the coordinating body for Ukrainian students' organizations throughout Canada.



2012/2013 Incoming 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)

2011/2012 Outgoing SUSK National Executive

- President: Olena Kit (McMaster University)
- Executive Vice President: Daniel Kostruba (University of Western Ontario)
- Vice President Finances: Stephan Bociurkiw (University of Alberta)
- Vice President West: Mila Luchak (University of Alberta)
- Vice President Central: Deana Drozdowsky (University of Western Ontario)
- Vice President East: Tamara Caris (University of Ottawa)
- Secretary: Nadia Demko (McGill University)
- External Relations Director: Mike Hrycak (McMaster University)
- Internal Relations Director: Augustine Krawchenko (McMaster University)
- Project Director: Larissa Schieven (Carleton University)
- Media Director: Anda Hirceaga (University of Ottawa)
- Alumni Director: Roman Storoshchuk (University of Calgary)
- Immediate Past President: Danylo Korbabicz (Carleton University)

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

Danylo Korbabicz,
Incoming President
(613) 783-9608
president@susk.ca

Olena Kit
Immediate Past President
(905) 518-3596
info@susk.ca



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SUSK Delegates with Eugene Roman, Renata Roman, and Paul Grod at Rosewood Estates Winery



Delegates work together during a seminar



Yvan Baker facilitates the prioritization of the proposed solutions, using a matrix



A panel of CUCC members speak to delegates about a CUCC Youth Initiative



Paul Grod, President of Ukrainian Canadian Congress, speaks to delegates



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Incoming President Danylo Korbabicz with Outgoing President Olena Kit



Hopak performance by Kalyna Dance Ensemble



The Honourable William J. Festeryga Q.C addresses guests at the SUSK Banquet



Various SUSK Alumni



Members of the 2012/2013 SUSK National Executive

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At the 54th National SUSK Congress, the following resolutions were adopted:

Resolution 1

- **WHEREAS** the 54th National SUSK Congress sees it important to maintain the long term continuity of SUSK
- **WHEREAS** the UCC National address in Ottawa is used as SUSK's mailing address.
 - **BE IT RESOLVED** that the incoming SUSK National Executive continue using the UCC National address in Ottawa, Ontario as a central mailing address and have any SUSK mail/correspondence forwarded to the concerned individuals

Resolution 2

- **BE IT RESOLVED** that the 54th National SUSK Congress acknowledge the hard work of the 54th SUSK National Congress committee, and its host the McMaster Ukrainian Students' Association at McMaster University.

Resolution 3

- **BE IT RESOLVED** that the incoming SUSK National Executive hold the 55th National SUSK Congress in the months from May-October 2013.

Resolution 4

- **BE IT RESOLVED** that the incoming SUSK National Executive maintain communication between representatives of Ukrainian Student Organizations and facilitate outside SUSK Executive Meetings including but not limited to (1) Regional Conferences, (2) National Teleconferences, and (3) Open Meetings with USO Representatives

Resolution 5

- **WHEREAS** the 54th National SUSK Congress sees it important of preserving tangible Ukrainian Canadian Culture is important to further development of a Ukrainian Canadian consciousness and identity;
- **AND WHEREAS** the 54th National SUSK Congress sees it important of instituting a standard and practice for archiving future publications of "Student";
- **AND WHEREAS** the 54th National SUSK Congress sees it important of promoting a contextual and historical understanding of Ukrainian Canadian Students;
 - **BE IT RESOLVED** that the incoming SUSK National Executive continue with the 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.



Resolution 6

- **WHEREAS** the 54th National SUSK Congress sees SUSK as a constituted federation, and shall remain so;
- **AND WHEREAS** SUSK recognizes the identification 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 to adopt the name “SUSK” in conjunction with their local name as the official name of their Ukrainian Student Organization (Club, Society, Association, Union)
 - **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the incoming SUSK National Executive continue to work towards finalizing the proposal of the “SUSK Cohesion Project”, which was first drafted by the outgoing SUSK National Executive

Resolution 7

- **WHEREAS** the 54th National SUSK Congress sees the importance of Ukrainian Courses at post-secondary institutions across Canada;
- **AND WHERE AS** Ukrainian courses/departments are in a situation of dropping enrolment and potential threat of funding cuts.
 - **BE IT RESOLVED** that the incoming SUSK National Executive encourage each Member Organization to distribute information regarding available courses in Ukrainian Studies by outlining the benefits of these courses to students
 - **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that in those post-secondary institutions where no Ukrainian courses exist, that the incoming SUSK National Executive encourage Member Organization USO's to undertake to promote interest in Ukrainian studies through the organization of seminars, lectures, panels, and by other means available to them

Resolution 8

- **WHEREAS** the 54th National SUSK Congress sees the importance of an international organization of Ukrainian Students' is needed to facilitate communication among Ukrainian students worldwide;
- **AND WHEREAS** the Central Union of Ukrainian Students (CeSUS) has fallen inactive and not fulfilled its mandate in recent years;
- **AND WHEREAS** the Ukrainian World Congress has established the Conference of Ukrainian Youth Organizations (KUMO).
 - **BE IT RESOLVED** that the incoming SUSK National Executive contact the former Member Organization of CeSUS about the possibility of reorganizing an International Ukrainian Students' Union and make CeSUS a viable organization in the future.



- **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the incoming SUSK National Executive communicate with the Chairman of KUMO for support or guidance on international affairs.

Resolution 9

- **WHEREAS** the 54th National SUSK Congress sees importance to further cooperation between both Ukrainian Canadian Students Union and the Federation of Ukrainian Student Organizations of America (SUSTA);
- **AND WHEREAS** the 54th National SUSK Congress sees it mutually beneficial to have active Ukrainian Student Organization umbrella organizations in North America;
- **AND WHEREAS** the 54th National SUSK Congress is aware of other National Ukrainian Student Organizations outside of SUSK's respective jurisdiction such as the Ukrainian German Students' Union (SUSN) and where there may be a Ukrainian diaspora with students
 - **BE IT RESOLVED** that the incoming SUSK National Executive consider and make an active effort to organize a dual Congress for the SUSK and SUSTA, but not limited to these two organizations.

Resolution 10

- **WHEREAS** the 54th National SUSK Congress sees 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 Ukrainian Canadian Students' Union

Resolution 11

- **WHEREAS** the 54th National SUSK Congress sees it important to maintain financial integrity at any level of organization
 - **BE IT RESOLVED** that the incoming SUSK National Executive use widely accepted financial procedures as indicated in the 2011-2012 Financial Report.
 - **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the incoming SUSK National Executive see the fiscal year as May 1- April 30 and continue to use this fiscal year for all future financial statements.

Resolution 12

- **WHEREAS** the 54th National SUSK Congress sees importance in financial accountability
 - **BE IT RESOLVED** that the incoming SUSK National Executive enforce the payment of membership dues from Member Organizations



Resolution 13

- **WHEREAS** the Ukrainian Canadian Congress has opened an office in Ottawa, Ontario.
 - **BE IT RESOLVED** that the incoming SUSK National Executive negotiate with the Ukrainian Canadian Congress exclusive rights to mainstreaming students into an internship/mentorship program.

Resolution 14

- **WHEREAS** the year 2013 marks the 60th Anniversary of the creation of the Ukrainian Canadian Students' Union
- **AND WHEREAS** the year 2014 marks the 200th Anniversary of the birth of Taras Shevchenko
 - **BE IT RESOLVED** that the incoming SUSK National Executive call upon the Ukrainian Canadian Congress and Ukrainian Canadian Students' Union Member Organizations to plan and execute an inclusive and cohesive event to promote Ukrainian consciousness.

Resolution 15

- **WHEREAS** SUSK's history, achievements, and evolution is not overtly known.
 - **BE IT RESOLVED** that the incoming SUSK National Executive endeavor to compile a historical database of alumni, past congresses, achievements, and other defining moments.



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The Ukrainian Canadian Students' Union acknowledges and extends our sincere appreciation to the following organizations for their support of the 54th National SUSK Congress.

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