



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

SUSK participates in XXIV Triennial Congress of Ukrainian Canadians

On November 8-10, 2013, representatives of the Ukrainian community in Canada gathered in Toronto to participate in the XXIV Triennial Congress of Ukrainian Canadians. The Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC) has been the unifying voice of our community for 70 years, bringing under one umbrella all Ukrainian Canadian organizations. The high caliber of the Triennial Congress was a testament to the experience of the UCC in leading and coordinating our community.



SUSK delegates: Mark Moroz (SUSK Director of Internal Relations), Nadia Demko (SUSK Executive Vice-President), Danylo Korbabicz (SUSK Past President), Christine Czoli (SUSK President), Olena Kit (SUSK Alumni Director), Emily Bayrachny (SUSK Vice-President Central), and Alexandra Kobylecky (McMaster Ukrainian Students' Association Co-President)



“Conversation with the Prime Minister” led by Mr. Jurij Klufas

Special guests of the Triennial Congress included the Right Honourable Prime Minister Stephen Harper, Minister of Employment and Social Development and Minister for Multiculturalism Jason Kenney, Leader of the Official Opposition Thomas Mulcair, and Leader of the Liberal Party of Canada Justin Trudeau. During the Congress, various issues important to our community were addressed, including integration of new immigrants into the community, Ukrainian language and culture, engagement of the next generation of Ukrainian Canadians, restoration of Ukraine’s national memory, Ukrainian Jewish relations in Ukraine, and Canada-Ukraine relations.

“It was an incredible experience, a chance to meet with the Ukrainian Canadian community as a whole and discuss key issues vital to our community: the Canadian Museum for Human Rights, relations with Ukraine, engaging the next generation, and much more. Very inspiring to see our community turn out in such numbers, it really confirms the fact that we are a strong group capable of change”

- Emily Bayrachny, SUSK Vice-President Central

“As a youth delegate who has attended the previous UCC Triennial Congress in Edmonton, attending this year’s Congress was a particularly captivating experience as it brought together leaders of the Ukrainian Canadian community as well as distinguished guests who have a sincere interest in issues facing Ukraine and the hromada here in Canada. It was a privilege to witness several high-quality speakers in the same room, participating in diverse breakout sessions, and stimulating constructive discussions. This opportunity provided an engaging environment to challenge, educate, and develop my own opinions. An important message was that the notion of our ethnic community is changing and youth need to be inspired and motivated to be future leaders”

- Olena Kit, SUSK Alumni Director



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"I found the Congress both fun and informative. I was able to meet and learn from many leaders of the Canadian government, and the Ukrainian Canadian community. I was very impressed with the discussion panels, and the Ukrainian Dragons event from which SUSK received \$25,000. This money comes with a great sense of responsibility and I am very proud to be a member of the SUSK National Executive, which will ensure it is used to its maximum potential in forging the future leaders of the Ukrainian Canadian community"

- Mark Moroz, SUSK Director of Internal Relations

SUSK delegates actively participated in the Triennial Congress, including a special event – the Ukrainian Dragons Competition. SUSK, along with 4 other finalists, pitched ideas for community development projects to a panel of 6 Ukrainian Dragons – leading Ukrainian Canadian entrepreneurs and philanthropists – including Mr. Borys Chabursky, Mr. Ian Ihnatowycz, Mr. John Iwaniura, Ms. Nadia Jacyk, Mr. Eugene Melnyk, and Mr. James Temerty. SUSK is very proud of the important bridging role it plays in our community, and intends to further this role by using the \$25,000 awarded to it by the Ukrainian Dragons to foster the development of the future leaders of the Ukrainian Canadian community.



SUSK team for the Ukrainian Dragons Competition: Olena Kit (SUSK Alumni Director), Danylo Korbacz (SUSK Past President), and Christine Czoli (SUSK President)



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The XXIV Ukrainian Canadian Congress provided the chance to meet with Ukrainian Canadians nationwide, discuss topics relevant to our community, and ultimately vote on key policies and for the next executive. From the changing face of Ukrainian immigrants in Canada to the greater fusion of Ukrainian and Canadian arts and culture, there was truly a workshop to suit everyone's tastes. However, youth from other provinces were underrepresented and I hope that we can create a greater incentive to draw them to the next Congress. Nevertheless, with high-ranking politicians from both Canada and Ukraine, this was an impactful Congress marking a paradigm shift for the Ukrainian Canadian community.

- Nadia Demko, SUSK Executive Vice-President

Notably, two members of the SUSK National Executive were also recognized for outstanding leadership which significantly contributed to the broader Ukrainian community and the betterment of Canada. SUSK congratulates Christine Czoli (SUSK President), and Danylo Korbabicz (SUSK Past President) on receipt of the Ukrainian Canadian Youth Leadership Award of Excellence.

"The thing I enjoyed the most about the UCC Congress was being surrounded by hundreds of other Ukrainians who share the same passion I do in preserving and enhancing the Ukrainian community in Canada. It was a great opportunity for networking. One of the topics I enjoyed the most was the seminar about maintaining and sharing our Ukrainian culture in Canada. The speakers presented their work in a modern and captivating way, one that has me brainstorming what events I can plan with my USO that will showcase how rich our culture is. I definitely plan to advertise the Congress to the rest of the McMaster USO Executive and hope to stay as involved within the Ukrainian community as possible"

- Alexandra Kobylecky, McMaster Ukrainian Students' Association Co-President

The Triennial Congress concluded with the re-election of Mr. Paul Grod as its President. SUSK commends and congratulates Mr. Grod (a former SUSK President) for continuing to provide sound leadership and countless hours of dedicated service for the benefit of all Ukrainian Canadians. SUSK eagerly awaits the next Triennial Congress, which will be held in Saskatchewan in 2016.

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

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