



2018 National SUSK Congress

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Conclusion of the 2018 National SUSK Congress

The Ukrainian Canadian Students' Union (SUSK) is pleased to report on the successful completion of the 2018 National SUSK Congress held in Banff, Alberta from May 3rd to 6th, 2018. Over 60 student delegates and alumni gathered for this year's National Congress, titled *Rediscovering the Past*. This year's Congress focused on the themes of the First World War Internment Operations and Human Rights. The conference was generously supported by the Endowment Council of the Canadian First World Fund ([CFWWIRF](#)) and the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Foundation ([UCCLF](#)) and featured guests from other communities affected by the First World War Internment Operations – including the Armenian and Bulgarian communities.

“Rediscovering the Past marks one of the largest SUSK Congresses in recent memory,” said SUSK President Stephanie Nedoshytko, “We are honoured to have been able to host our conference at the prestigious Banff Centre, have representation from other ethnocultural communities, and learn about the Internment Operations from the First World War in the backdrop of Canada’s Rocky Mountains.”



The 2018 SUSK Congress delegation at the Castle Mountain Internment Statue, Alberta.



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The 4-day event was dedicated to encouraging and challenging student leaders to come together, discuss and deliberate relevant questions and issues, and spearhead the future of youth leadership and involvement in Canada while also learning about the First World War Internment Operations on site. The 2018 National SUSK Congress included the following program elements:

- No Free Man, Canada, the Great War, and the Enemy Alien Experience
Dr. Bohdan Kordan

- The Redress Campaign
Andrew Hladyshesky Q.C., Shevchenko Foundation
Dr. Lubomyr Luciuk, Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Foundation

- Panel: New Research on Canada's First World War Internment Operations
Dr Rhonda Hinthier (Moderator)
Kassandra Luciuk, Doctoral Candidate: "A Ukrainian Internee Remembers: A Kapuskasing Camp Diary"
Dr Mikhail Bjorge: "From Internee to Inmate: New Research on the Prisoners of Kingston Penitentiary, 1917-1920"
Sarah Beaulieu: "Remembering the Forgotten: Archaeology at the Morrissey WWI Internment Camp"

- The Shevchenko Foundation and Grant-writing
Andrew Hladyshesky Q.C., Shevchenko Foundation
Connor Moen, SUSK National Coordinator

- Constitution 101
Stephanie Nedoshytko, SUSK President

- Advocacy 101
Paul Grod, UCC President
Ihor Michalchyshyn, UCC CEO

- Excursion: Castle Mountain Internment Site and Cave and Basin
Dr. Bohdan Kordan

- Panel: Understanding Through the Arts: Recognizing an Historic Injustice
Warren Woytuck (Moderator), Critical Thinking Consortium
Kerri Parnell: National Internment Art Exhibit
John Boxtel, Internment Statues Legacy
Ryan Boyko, Armistice Films – The Camps Webseries



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The 2018 Congress opened at the Banff Centre with Vice President Michael Code, who spoke about how the Banff Centre strives to inspire artists and leaders to make their unique contribution to society. The welcoming address was followed by icebreakers, Ukrainian Student Organizations (USOs) presentations, and SUSK executive reports. Each USO spoke for a few minutes about their fall and winter events that were held on their respective campuses. USOs were assessed according to three categories: Best New Up-and-Coming USO, Best Event, and Best Story. Three awards were given to USOs who made outstanding contributions: The Ukrainian Student Club of Barrie (New USO), Western Ukrainian Students' Club (Best Story) and the University of Saskatchewan Ukrainian Students' Association (Best Event).



2018 SUSK Congress Keynote Speaker Mark O'Neill (Canadian Museum of History) delivers speech

New participants were truly impressed with the size, scope, and professionalism of the conference and Congress. "Immediately upon commencing the SUSK Congress, I was struck by the professionalism, organization and dedication of the Ukrainian Canadian students," remarked Bulgarian Canadian student Nicole Minkova, "To see so many young leaders keenly interested in the history of internment in Canada was humbling. The commitment to maintaining culture and heritage was also truly inspiring, and I am thrilled to have been a part of it!"

The formal programming concluded with a Banquet & Zabava event on Saturday evening, which featured over 120 guests including SUSK alumni and representatives from the Ukrainian Canadian community. The banquet featured keynote speaker Mark O'Neill of the Canadian History Museum and the Canadian War Museum, who spoke about current and future initiatives to commemorate the Internment Operations of the First World War.

"The Endowment Council of the Canadian First World War Internment Recognition Fund (CFWWIRF) is pleased to provide funding to SUSK. This is the first student conference in Canada focusing on Canada's first national internment operations from 1914 to 1920. The Endowment Council of the CFWWIRF is working hard on shedding light on this tragic yet little known chapter in our Canadian history," expressed Program Manager Andrea Malysh.



The 2018/2018 SUSK National Executive
From left to right: Natalia Blyzniuk, Nykola Dovggy, Raya Dzulynsky, Stephanie Nedoshytko, Mattay Dubczak, Devon Goldie, Roman Grod, Andriy Katyukha, Cassian Soltykevych

Additional photographs may be viewed here: <https://www.facebook.com/SUSKNational>



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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, please contact:

Stephanie Nedoshytko
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Incoming and Outgoing Executives

Position	Outgoing Executive	Incoming Executive
<i>President</i>	Stephanie Nedoshytko MacEwan University	Stephanie Nedoshytko University of Ottawa
<i>Vice-President National</i> <i>(formally Executive Vice-President)</i>	Ashley Halko-Addley University of Alberta	Mattay Dubczak Western University
<i>Vice-President Finance</i>	Andriy Katyukha Western University	Roman Grod Wilfrid Laurier University
<i>Vice-President West</i>	Kimberly Gargus University of Alberta	Devon Goldie University of Victoria
<i>Vice-President Central</i>	Mattay Dubczak Western University	<i>Vacant</i>
<i>Vice-President East</i>	Boyan Woychyshyn McGill University	Maxym Dubczak Queen's University
<i>Secretary</i>	Mikaila Ortynsky University of Saskatchewan	Natalia Blyzniuk Western University
<i>External Relations Director</i>	Adelia Shwec University of Ottawa	Raya Dzulynsky Western University
<i>Internal Relations Director</i>	Raya Dzulynsky Western University	Andriy Katyukha Queen's University
<i>Project Director</i>	Orycia Karpa University of Winnipeg	Nykole Dovgyy University of Saskatchewan
<i>Media Director</i>	Zenia Michno University of Winnipeg	<i>Vacant</i>
<i>Student Editor</i> <i>(New Position)</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>Vacant</i>
<i>Alumni Director</i>	Roman Grod Wilfrid Laurier University	<i>Vacant</i>
<i>Immediate Past President</i>	Cassian Soltykevych University of Alberta	Cassian Soltykevych University of Alberta



Resolutions of the 2018 National SUSK Congress

Greetings

RESOLUTION 1

BE IT RESOLVED that the 2018 National SUSK Congress acknowledge the tireless and dedicated work of the 2018 National SUSK Congress Committee.

RESOLUTION 2

BE IT RESOLVED that the 2018 National SUSK Congress greet the outgoing SUSK National Executive with the successful completion of their term.

Administration

RESOLUTION 3

WHEREAS the 2018 National SUSK Congress sees it important to maintain the long-term continuity of SUSK,

BE IT RESOLVED that the incoming SUSK National Executive continue using the Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC) national office address in Ottawa, Ontario as the central mailing address, and have any SUSK mail/correspondence forwarded to the concerned individual.

Commemorations

RESOLUTION 4

WHEREAS the subsequent year commemorates the following anniversaries:

65th Anniversary of SUSK

50th Anniversary of the national publication "Student"

85th Anniversary of the Holodomor

100th Anniversary of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada (UOCC)

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

Internal Relations

RESOLUTION 5

WHEREAS the 2018 National SUSK Congress recognizes the importance of maintaining bilateral relationships with its member USOs,

AND WHEREAS the 2018 National SUSK Congress finds that electronic communication through email, SUSK websites, newsletters, and social media accounts; and joint meetings



and/or regional conferences of the SUSK National Executive and its member USOs constitute the most effective means of communication,

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the incoming SUSK National Executive make an effort to hold quarterly meetings with leading representatives of its member USOs to exchange and discuss ideas, challenges, and opportunities for Ukrainian Canadian students.

RESOLUTION 6

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 National Executive encourage its direct and indirect membership to provide sufficient content to publish quarterly issues of “Student” at minimum.

RESOLUTION 7

WHEREAS the 2018 National SUSK Congress deems it important to preserve Ukrainian Canadian culture through the lens of the Ukrainian Canadian student,

AND WHEREAS the 2018 National SUSK Congress holds that archiving publications of “Student” is the most effective means of preserving this,

AND WHEREAS the 2013-2014 National SUSK Executive completed the SUSK “Student” Digitization project and created a searchable digital archive of publications (www.student.susk.ca),

BE IT RESOLVED that the incoming SUSK National Executive seek to obtain issues of “Student” that are missing in the online archive from SUSK alumni or past “Student” editors,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the incoming SUSK National Executive continues to add subsequent publications of “Student” to this online archive,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the incoming SUSK National Executive responsibly preserve paper copies of “Student” and other artifacts.

Policy

RESOLUTION 8

WHEREAS the 2018 National SUSK Congress holds SUSK to continue developing consistent policies and operating procedures as an incorporated federal non-profit.

BE IT RESOLVED that the incoming SUSK National Executive strike a committee focused on improving governance and financial practices.



External Relations

RESOLUTION 9

WHEREAS the 2018 National SUSK Congress recognizes the importance and value of having a national coordinating umbrella for Ukrainian Canadian organizations (in the spirit of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC))

AND WHEREAS SUSK is a registered national member organization of the UCC, with a designated seat on the UCC Board of Directors

BE IT RESOLVED that the incoming SUSK National Executive and its member USOs continue to work together with the UCC (and its provincial councils and local branches) in the interests of the Ukrainian Canadian community.

RESOLUTION 10

WHEREAS SUSK acknowledges the importance of representing the voice of students and ensuring their priorities are heard

BE IT RESOLVED that the incoming SUSK National Executive develop consistent advocacy strategies representative of Ukrainian Canadian students.

RESOLUTION 11

WHEREAS the 2018 National SUSK Congress sees the value of having an international coordinating body for Ukrainian youth and student activity,

AND WHEREAS the World Congress of Ukrainian Youth Organizations (SKUMO) was formally established in Ternopil, Ukraine in August 2013,

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

BE IT RESOLVED that the incoming SUSK National Executive acknowledge the aforementioned organizations throughout Ukraine and the diaspora to engage Ukrainian youth and students.

RESOLUTION 12

WHEREAS the 2018 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 National Executive undertake at least one tangible and actionable project that is implemented in conjunction with youth and student groups in Ukraine.



Strategic Planning

RESOLUTION 13

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

AND WHEREAS the 2018 National SUSK Congress is aware of SUSK's limited exposure among Ukrainian students in colleges and technical institutes in Canada,

BE IT RESOLVED that the incoming SUSK National Executive make an attempt to reach out to students and establish USOs in colleges and technical institutes in Canada, wherever possible.

RESOLUTION 14

WHEREAS the strength and membership of SUSK and its member USOs depend upon continuous recruitment of new students,

BE IT RESOLVED that SUSK actively encourage its member USOs to reach out to local community organizations, such as youth and cultural groups, to raise awareness about SUSK and its activities.

RESOLUTION 15

WHEREAS the continued success of SUSK is reliant upon creating increased networks with the wider Canadian community,

BE IT RESOLVED that SUSK engage students from various ethnocultural communities through cross collaboration, sharing of best practices, and attending events.

RESOLUTION 16

WHEREAS the 2018 National SUSK Congress recognizes the importance of raising awareness for the First World War National Internment Operations of Canada and working with ethnocultural communities,

BE IT RESOLVED that SUSK and member USOs take action in raising awareness for the First World War National Internment Operations of Canada through facilitating letter writing campaigns, sharing and signing petitions, and by encouraging and/or hosting other initiatives.

RESOLUTION 17

WHEREAS continuity of USOs fluctuates overtime,

AND WHEREAS SUSK continues even when clubs fall dormant,

AND WHEREAS having a record of past clubs helps new clubs revive and preserve organizational memory,



BE IT RESOLVED that SUSK create a plan for USOs to archive past materials (e.g. event posters, promotional materials, etc) and encourage clubs to be active archivists for the preservation and continuity of their organization.

RESOLUTION 18

WHEREAS member USOs are geographically located far apart,
AND WHEREAS member USOs benefit from mutual collaboration,
BE IT RESOLVED that SUSK assist in the facilitation of multi USO collaborate events or meetings at least once per academic year.

RESOLUTION 19

WHEREAS Russia has illegally imprisoned dozens of citizens of Ukraine and other countries,
BE IT RESOLVED that SUSK encourage member USOs to participate in campaigns to support political prisoners held against their will by Russia.

RESOLUTION 20

WHEREAS the continuity of SUSK is reliant on financial stability,
BE IT RESOLVED that SUSK and member USOs work together on the “Finding Belonging, Creating Leaders” fundraising campaign to build a strong foundation through the SUSK Endowment Fund and ensure financial stability in perpetuity,
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the 2018 National SUSK Congress thank the endowment fund committee of the 2017/18 National SUSK Executive for their tireless and hard work in establishing the SUSK Endowment Fund and launching the “Finding Belonging, Creating Leaders” campaign.

RESOLUTION 21

WHEREAS strategic planning is important for the stability and future success of SUSK,
BE IT RESOLVED that SUSK establish a strategic plan to outline SUSK’s long term objectives and plans for the future.

RESOLUTION 22

WHEREAS succession planning is important to manage turnover in USOs,
BE IT RESOLVED that SUSK assists in creating financial contingency plans in the case of a USO dissolving.



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Alberta Provincial Council &
Edmonton Branch

Bronze



At the Forefront of Ukrainian Issues

League of Ukrainian Canadians
Edmonton Branch



Calgary Branch

In-Kind

