



## 2015 National SUSK Congress

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### Conclusion of the 2015 National SUSK Congress

The Ukrainian Canadian Students' Union (SUSK) is pleased to report on the successful completion of the 2015 National SUSK Congress held in Montréal, Québec, from May 7<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup>, 2015. Approximately 45 delegates from post-secondary institutions across Canada came together for this year's National Congress, themed *Vive le SUSK!*. "This year one of our goals was to give the delegates an opportunity to explore the rich and unique history of the Ukrainian community in Quebec. This is reflected in the Congress theme '*Vive le SUSK!*' and one of the Congress Sessions 'Ukrainians in Quebec'. I believe we have achieved this goal", said SUSK Outgoing Congress Director Darya Naumova.

The 4-day event was dedicated to encouraging and challenging leaders of the Ukrainian Canadian student community to come together, to discuss and deliberate relevant questions and issues, and to spearhead the future of youth leadership and involvement in Canada and Ukraine. The 2015 National SUSK Congress included the following program elements:

- Sharing of best practices from Ukrainian Students' Organizations (USOs)
- Reports from the outgoing SUSK National Executive
- Current Ukraine: Historical, Economic and Social Story  
*Dr. Roman Serbyn, Dr. Natalka Patsiurko*
- Current Ukraine: Observations from the Field  
*Michael Bociurkiw*
- Social Media Strategies for USOs  
*Cassian Soltykevych, Romana Suchy*
- Management and Motivation Skills for Students  
*Katherine Smolynec*
- Ukrainians in Québec  
*Simon Kouklevsky*



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The 2015 Congress opened with presentations by each Ukrainian Student Organization (USO) from across the country. Each USO spoke for a few minutes about their fall and winter events that were held on their respective campus before presenting a 2-minute presentation on a “pitch event”. This event could have been something that the group was really proud of accomplishing during the past year or was very successful. Over the summer, the descriptions and ideas from each of these events will be compiled into a Best Practices Toolkit for USOs across Canada to use for similar events in their respective regions. This initiative is a component of the bid made for the Ukrainian Canadian Congress Dragons Competition in November 2013, for which SUSK was awarded \$25,000 to implement.

Participants were truly impressed with the size, scope, and professionalism of the conference and Congress. First-time Congress delegate from the University of Alberta Christina Radyo said, “The SUSK 2015 Congress was an amazing opportunity to see what other Ukrainian student groups are doing across the country to uphold our customs and traditions in a new and creative way. We also had the chance to learn about and discuss the current situation in Ukraine; this allowed us to hear and to raise fresh perspectives on Ukraine’s crisis, something that was only possible by being with other youth.” Michael Jewczynko, Congress delegate from Ryerson University, stated: "SUSK Congress was fantastic. Between meeting new people from USOs across the country and learning new skills that can be applied towards projects at local clubs, SUSK Congress is a great outlet for any Ukrainian student."

The SUSK Congress Reception was held at Thomson House on McGill University campus. SUSK delegates, alumni, and community members listened to a keynote address by Mr. Artem Luhovy, SUSK Past President, while enjoying hors d’oeuvres. The address served as an inspiration to all present to continue working for the betterment of our community. After the announcement of SUSK Executive election results, guests enjoyed a zabava played by Toronto band Skopa.

“For the past few years I’ve had the pleasure of being part of incredible SUSK Executives. Last year was no different – we gained a number of supporters online along with several new USOs officially registered with SUSK. This could not have been done without the tireless effort of the 2014-2015 National SUSK Executive. I’m excited to work with the newly elected Executive with some returning Exec’s and some fresh faces. Early May is always an exciting time of year, where students from across the country are able to connect and share ideas about what has been happening around their campus and city. The upcoming year will bring a full time National Coordinator position working for SUSK, along with a number of organization supports for USOs. I encourage all students to stay connected throughout the year, collaborate on projects, and support the Ukrainian community locally, nationally, and internationally.” – Incoming President Cassian Soltykevych from the University of Alberta describing the 2015 National SUSK Congress



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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:

Christine Czoli  
Outgoing President  
(416) 453-4865  
[christine.czoli@gmail.com](mailto:christine.czoli@gmail.com)

Cassian Soltykevych  
Incoming President  
(780) 218-6286  
[c.soltykevych@gmail.com](mailto:c.soltykevych@gmail.com)



**Incoming and Outgoing Executives**

<b>Position</b>	<b>Outgoing SUSK National Executive</b>		<b>Incoming SUSK National Executive</b>	
<b><i>President</i></b>	Christine Czoli	University of Waterloo	Cassian Soltykevych	University of Alberta
<b><i>Executive Vice- President</i></b>	Cassian Soltykevych	University of Alberta	Vacant	
<b><i>Vice-President Finances</i></b>	Stefan Kruhlak	University of Alberta	Anastasia Hnatyuk	University of Manitoba
<b><i>Vice-President West</i></b>	Khrystyna Lazar	University of Manitoba	Andrea Dacko	University of Alberta
<b><i>Vice-President Central</i></b>	Alex Prokopchuk	University of Western Ontario	Alex Prokopchuk	University of Western Ontario
<b><i>Vice-President East</i></b>	Borys Bilaniuk	Universite de Montreal	Borys Bilaniuk	Universite de Montreal
<b><i>Secretary</i></b>	Anastasia Hnatyuk	University of Manitoba	Vacant	
<b><i>External Relations Director</i></b>	Emily Bayrachny	University of Toronto	Darya Naumova	McGill University
<b><i>Internal Relations Director</i></b>	Mark Moroz	McMaster University	Anton Waschuk	McMaster University
<b><i>Project Director</i></b>	Darya Naumova	McGill University	Connor Moen	University of Saskatchewan
<b><i>Media Director</i></b>	Romana Suchy	University of Manitoba	Inga Bekbudova	Ryerson University
<b><i>Alumni Director</i></b>	Olena Kit	McMaster University	Nadia Demko	McGill University
<b><i>Immediate Past President</i></b>	Danylo Korbabicz	University of Ottawa	Christine Czoli	University of Waterloo



**Photographs from the 2015 National SUSK Congress**



*Concordia Ukrainian Students' Union presenting their year's events and activities during USO presentations*



*Mr. Eugene Czolij, President of the Ukrainian World Congress - Світовий Конгрес Українців, answering students' and community members' questions during the Networking Event*



*Dr Roman Serbyn (SUSK President 1968-1969) and Dr Natalka Patsiurko leading a discussion on historical perspectives and influences on the current crisis in Ukraine*



*Michael Bociurkiw (SUSK President 1982-1983 and 1983-1984), current Spokesperson for the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine, shares insights fresh from the field in Ukraine*



*Ukrainian Canadian students of Montreal hosting us at the Congress Reception*



*The incoming 2015-2016 National SUSK Executive*

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



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## **Media Coverage of the 2015 National SUSK Congress**

### **Ukrainian Time on Radio CFMB Montreal 1280 AM:**

Interview with SUSK Project Director Darya Naumova: 2 травня 2015 @ 31:25  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=no3818lWTUk&t=31m25s>

Interview with SUSK President Cassian Soltykevych: 30 травня 2015 @ 41:59  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YZI\\_6\\_3U6A&t=41m59s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YZI_6_3U6A&t=41m59s)



## **Resolutions of the 2015 National SUSK Congress**

### ***Greetings***

#### **RESOLUTION 1**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the 2015 National SUSK Congress acknowledge the tireless and dedicated work of the 2015 National SUSK Congress Committee.

**CARRIED**

#### **RESOLUTION 2**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the 2015 National SUSK Congress greet the outgoing SUSK National Executive with the successful completion of their term.

**CARRIED**

### ***Administration***

#### **RESOLUTION 3**

**WHEREAS** the 2015 National SUSK Congress sees it important to maintain the long term continuity of SUSK,

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the incoming SUSK National Executive continues using the UCC National address in Ottawa, Ontario as the central mailing address, and have any SUSK mail/correspondence forwarded to the concerned individual.

**CARRIED**

#### **RESOLUTION 4**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the incoming SUSK National Executive hold the 2016 National SUSK Congress in the months from April-September, 2016.

**CARRIED**



#### RESOLUTION 5

**WHEREAS** the 2015 National SUSK Congress understands the importance of maintaining fiscal accountability and transparency in any community organization,

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the incoming SUSK National Executive continues to abide by generally accepted accounting principles for not-for-profit organizations to compile its financial report.

**CARRIED**

#### RESOLUTION 6

**WHEREAS** the 2015 National SUSK Congress sees the importance of financial accountability,

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the incoming SUSK National Executive enforce the payment of membership dues from Member Organizations.

**CARRIED**

#### *Commemorations*

#### RESOLUTION 7

**WHEREAS** the subsequent year commemorates the following anniversaries:

200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the birth of Mykhailo Verbytsky, composer of Ukraine's national anthem (2015)

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

**CARRIED**



***Policy***

**RESOLUTION 8**

**WHEREAS** the 2015 National SUSK Congress *recognizes that the priorities of the SUSK National Executive shift as time progresses and circumstances change,*  
**AND WHEREAS** *it is in the best interest of the SUSK National Executive to make clear to stakeholders and interested parties in the community what the priorities of the SUSK National Executive are,*

*BE IT RESOLVED that the incoming SUSK National Executive review the existing SUSK Position Paper developed by the outgoing SUSK National Executive annually,*  
*BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED that the incoming SUSK National Executive tailor the Position Paper to conform with the issues that affect the broader membership of SUSK at that given time,*  
*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that until such a time that the document is revised and approved by a current SUSK National Executive, let the existing Position Paper serve as the overarching guideline for SUSK priorities.*

**CARRIED**

***Internal Relations***

**RESOLUTION 9**

**WHEREAS** the 2015 National SUSK Congress recognizes the importance of maintaining bilateral relationships with its member USOs,  
**AND WHEREAS** the 2015 National SUSK Congress finds that electronic communication through email, SUSK websites, and SUSK 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 with member USOs,

**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.

**CARRIED**

**RESOLUTION 10**

**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.

**CARRIED**

#### **RESOLUTION 11**

**WHEREAS** the 2015 National SUSK Congress deems it important to preserve Ukrainian Canadian culture through the lens of the Ukrainian Canadian student,

**AND WHEREAS** the 2015 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](http://www.student.susk.ca)),

**BE IT 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 begin to responsibly preserve paper copies of “Student” and other artifacts.

**CARRIED**

#### **RESOLUTION 12**

**WHEREAS** the 2015 National SUSK Congress holds SUSK to be a constituted federation, and shall remain as such for the foreseeable future,

**AND WHEREAS** SUSK recognizes the compatibility of all Ukrainian Student Organizations with the objectives of the SUSK constitution,

**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 that have not done so already to adopt the name “SUSK” in conjunction with their local name as the official name of their Ukrainian Student Organization (Club, Society, Association, Union).

**NOT CARRIED**



### ***External Relations***

#### **RESOLUTION 13**

**WHEREAS** the 2015 National SUSK Congress sees the necessity of having an international body coordinating youth activity,

**AND WHEREAS** the Central Union of Ukrainian Students (CeSUS) has fallen inactive,

**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 youth organizations in the past,

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the incoming SUSK National Executive work with SKUMO and affiliated youth organizations throughout Ukraine and the diaspora to coordinate Ukrainian youth.

**CARRIED**

#### **RESOLUTION 14**

**WHEREAS** the 2015 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.

**CARRIED**

#### **RESOLUTION 15**

**WHEREAS** the 2015 National SUSK Congress sees importance to further cooperation between the Ukrainian Canadian Students Union and the Federation of Ukrainian Student Organizations of America (SUSTA), the Organizational Committee of the Ukrainian Student Association of Mykola Mikhnovskiy, and other governing student bodies,

**AND WHEREAS** the 2015 National SUSK Congress sees it mutually beneficial to have active Ukrainian Student Organization umbrella organizations in North America,

**AND WHEREAS** the 2015 National SUSK Congress is aware of other National Ukrainian Student Organizations outside of SUSK's respective jurisdiction and where there may be a Ukrainian diaspora with students,



**BE IT RESOLVED** that the incoming SUSK National Executive make an active effort to foster cooperative relationships with any affiliated organizations that are willing.

**CARRIED**

### ***UCC Dragons Competition***

#### **RESOLUTION 16**

**WHEREAS** SUSK was successful in securing funding from the Ukrainian Canadian Congress Dragons Competition,

**AND WHEREAS** the 2014-2015 National SUSK Executive successfully supported the organization of networking events in Edmonton, Saskatoon, Winnipeg, Toronto, and Montreal with its member Ukrainian Student Organizations and local Ukrainian Canadian professional partners,

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the incoming SUSK National Executive continue to support networking events and professional development workshops to benefit their membership.

**CARRIED**

#### **RESOLUTION 17**

**WHEREAS** SUSK was successful in securing funding from the Ukrainian Canadian Congress Dragons Competition,

**AND WHEREAS** SUSK and the Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC) have partnered to create a SUSK National Coordinator position to assist the SUSK National Executive with its responsibilities and tasks,

**AND WHEREAS** the 2014-2015 SUSK National Executive released a call for applications to fill such a position,

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the incoming SUSK National Executive work with the Ukrainian Canadian Congress and past SUSK Presidents (Danylo Korbabicz and Christine Czoli) to ensure the full implementation of a SUSK National Coordinator.

**CARRIED**

#### **RESOLUTION 18**

**WHEREAS** SUSK was successful in securing funding from the Ukrainian Canadian Congress Dragons Competition,



**AND WHEREAS** SUSK strives to build strong relationships with its member Ukrainian Student Organizations (USOs),

**AND WHEREAS** the 2014-2015 National SUSK Executive established a process for SUSK member USOs to apply for and obtain seed funding for the implementation of local USO initiatives ("USO Project Fund"),

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the incoming SUSK National Executive ensure the full implementation of this initiative ("USO Project Fund").

**CARRIED**

### ***Strategic Planning***

#### **RESOLUTION 19**

**WHEREAS** the 2015 National SUSK Congress holds 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 projects and ventures of the Ukrainian Canadian Students' Union in perpetuity,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a reasonable portion of the income garnered from such a fund be allocated to the development of appropriate projects in Ukraine.

**CARRIED**

#### **RESOLUTION 20**

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

**AND WHEREAS** the 2015 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 in colleges and technical institutes in Canada,

**AND BE IT RESOLVED** that the incoming SUSK National Executive work to establish USOs in colleges and technical institutes wherever possible.

**CARRIED**



## RESOLUTION 21

**WHEREAS** individual members of SUSK include students from Ukraine and students from the international diaspora, in addition to Ukrainian-Canadian students,  
**AND WHEREAS** the current English and French translations of SUSK's name do not reflect the meaning of the Ukrainian name,

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the incoming SUSK National Executive explore the possibility of re-translating 'Союз Українського Студентства Канади' to better reflect the meaning of the Ukrainian name.

**CARRIED**

## RESOLUTION 22

**WHEREAS** it is important for SUSK to facilitate sharing of ideas and materials among its member USOs,

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the incoming SUSK National Executive collect best practices, documents, and archival materials of its member USOs and make them accessible to its member organizations.

**CARRIED**



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Caisse populaire Ukrainienne de Montréal  
Українська Народна Каса у Монреалі

3250 Est rue Beaubien, Montréal, QC H1X 3C9  
Tél.: (514) 727-9456 Fax.: (514) 727-5886

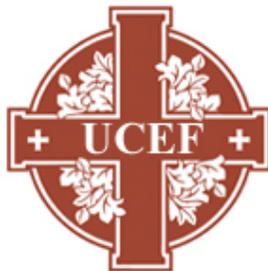


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