



2016 National SUSK Congress

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Conclusion of the 2016 National SUSK Congress

The Ukrainian Canadian Students' Union (SUSK) is pleased to report on the successful completion of the 2016 National SUSK Congress held in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan from May 5th to 8th, 2016. Approximately 40 delegates from post-secondary institutions across Canada came together for this year's National Congress, themed *SUSKatoon*.

"This year one of our main objectives was to commemorate the 125th anniversary of Ukrainian Immigration to Canada. This is reflected in our Congress program: from the first wave of Ukrainian immigration to Canada via a Historical Settlement Tour, to the WWI Internment, to a dialogue concerning the immigration experience for recent newcomers, and finally by participating in the historic Vesna Festival in Saskatoon. I firmly believe we have achieved this goal", said SUSK Congress Director Connor Moen.



The 2016 SUSKatoon Congress delegates in front of the Lesia Ukrainka Monument, University of Saskatchewan campus.



Historical Tour in Hafford, Saskatchewan – where bilingualism means both English and Ukrainian.



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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 2016 National SUSK Congress included the following program elements:

- Media Workshop
Andrea Chalupa
- USO Toolkit Launch
Darya Naumova
- Being a Newcomer to Canada: A Recent Ukrainian Experience
Iryna Matsiuk
- Canada's First National Internment and "Enemy Aliens"
Ryan Boyko
- Canada Ukraine Foundation: Holodomor National Awareness Tour
Roma Dzerowicz
- Ukrainian Canadian Historical Settlement Tour
Radomir Bilash, UCC National Historian



2016 Congress speakers (from left to right): Roma Dzerowicz, Ryan Boyko, and Iryna Matsiuk.

The 2016 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 description on a "pitch event". This event could have been something that the group was proud of accomplishing during the past year or was very successful. In addition, each group shared one challenge their USO faced during the past year and some solutions and recommendations for dealing with similar situations in the future.



Kicking off the 2016 SUSK Congress at Winston's Basement with USO presentations.

Over the past year, the descriptions and ideas from the 2015 National SUSK Congress USO presentations were compiled into a Best Practices Toolkit for USOs across Canada. During this year's Congress, SUSK Outgoing Vice-President External Darya Naumova led an interactive workshop in which the Best Practice Toolkit was officially launched. The Toolkit is one of the components of the bid made for the Ukrainian Canadian Congress Dragons Competition in November 2013, for which SUSK was awarded \$25,000 to implement.



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Participants were truly impressed with the size, scope, and professionalism of the conference and Congress. First-time Congress delegate from MacEwan University Alicia Slusarchuk said, *"The SUSK Congress was a fantastic experience that I would encourage all students to experience. It allowed me to gain ideas on what Ukrainian Canadian students across the country are doing so I can incorporate them into my own Ukrainian Students' Club, as well as share what my local Club is doing with others. The Congress workshops were a great opportunity to gain knowledge and inspiration. It was also an awesome opportunity to build friendships with people who are just like me in that they love Ukrainian culture, customs and traditions."*

Oksana Kaczala, Congress delegate from Guelph University, stated: *"SUSK Congress was definitely a weekend to remember! The opportunity to meet Ukrainian students across Canada and make unbreakable bonds was amazing. Learning about all the events hosted by Ukrainian Students' Clubs over the last year was a great way to collect inspiring ideas. We also had the chance to listen to some great guest speakers, such as Ryan Boyko and his ongoing work in raising awareness about Canada's First National Internment Operations through his film "Enemy Aliens". I'm so glad that I was a part of this year's SUSK Congress in Saskatoon!"*

SUSK Congress delegates had the opportunity to commemorate the 125th anniversary of Ukrainian immigration to Canada by attending the Vesna Festival, whose vibrant program was dedicated to celebrating this anniversary by showcasing Ukrainian culture. After enjoying the performances of various Ukrainian choirs and dance groups, guests enjoyed a zabava played by Saskatoon band "Тут і Там".

"The 2016 Congress in SUSKatoon was truly a weekend to remember. The camaraderie that was built up over the Congress was absolutely incredible. Students from East and West were able to share a great deal of ideas and suggestions with one another, as well as learn from several engaging Congress workshops and sessions. I was also very pleased with opening up a few parts of the Congress to the general public. SUSK is fortunate to bring in phenomenal speakers, and it is a pleasure when those speakers can be shared with more than just the delegates. Although the past year has not been without its challenges, I look forward to everything that the 2016-2017 Executive will bring. The next year will be instrumental in continuing to grow and support SUSK and its member organizations for many years to come. I look forward to meeting and collaborating with Ukrainian students across the country in any way possible and encourage all students to work together as well as with the broader Ukrainian Canadian community" – incoming President Cassian Solytykevych from the University of Alberta describing the 2016 National SUSK Congress.



The 2016/2017 SUSK National Executive!
From left to right: Ivanka Soletsky, Christine Czoli, Oksana Kaczala, Cassian Solytykevych, Danylo Moussienko, Kimberly Gargus, Stephanie Nedoshytko.

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:

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Incoming and Outgoing Executives

Position	Outgoing Executive	Incoming Executive
<i>President</i>	Cassian Soltykevych University of Alberta	Cassian Soltykevych University of Alberta
<i>Executive Vice-President</i>	Andriy Katyukha Western University	Danylo Moussienko University of Calgary
<i>Vice-President Finance</i>	Anastasia Hnatyuk University of Manitoba	<i>Vacant</i>
<i>Vice-President West</i>	Andrea Dacko University of Alberta	Natalia Radyo University of Alberta
<i>Vice-President Central</i>	Alex Prokopchuk Western University	Oksana Kaczala University of Guelph
<i>Vice-President East</i>	Borys Bilaniuk Université de Montreal	<i>Vacant</i>
<i>Secretary</i>	Kateryna Gordiychuk McGill University	Ivanka Soletsky University of Alberta
<i>External Relations Director</i>	Darya Naumova McGill University	Stephanie Nedoshytko MacEwan University
<i>Internal Relations Director</i>	Anton Waschuk McMaster University	Kimberly Gargus MacEwan University
<i>Project Director</i>	Connor Moen University of Saskatchewan	<i>Vacant</i>
<i>Media Director</i>	Inga Bekbudova Ryerson University	<i>Vacant</i>
<i>Alumni Director</i>	Nadia Demko McGill University	Ashley Halko-Addley University of Saskatchewan
<i>Immediate Past President</i>	Christine Czoli University of Waterloo	Christine Czoli University of Waterloo



Resolutions of the 2016 National SUSK Congress

Greetings

RESOLUTION 1

BE IT RESOLVED that the 2016 National SUSK Congress acknowledge the tireless and dedicated work of the 2016 National SUSK Congress Committee.

Carried

RESOLUTION 2

BE IT RESOLVED that the 2016 National SUSK Congress greet the outgoing SUSK National Executive with the successful completion of their term.

Carried

Administration

RESOLUTION 3

WHEREAS the 2016 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 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.

Carried

RESOLUTION 4

BE IT RESOLVED that the incoming SUSK National Executive hold the 2017 National SUSK Congress in the months between April and September, 2017.

Carried

RESOLUTION 5

WHEREAS the 2016 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.



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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the incoming SUSK National Executive consider obtaining professional expertise and assistance in compiling its financial report.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the incoming SUSK National Executive consider changing its fiscal year to the calendar year (January 1st to December 31st).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the incoming SUSK National Executive update its member organizations regarding the current financial status of SUSK.

Carried

RESOLUTION 6

WHEREAS the 2016 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 Ukrainian Student Organizations (USOs).

Carried

Commemorations

RESOLUTION 7

WHEREAS the subsequent year commemorates the following anniversaries:

125th Anniversary of Ukrainian immigration to Canada (2016)

25th Anniversary of Ukraine's independence (2016)

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 2016 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 FURTHER 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 2016 National SUSK Congress recognizes the importance of maintaining bilateral relationships with its member USOs,

AND WHEREAS the 2016 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.

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 2016 National SUSK Congress deems it important to preserve Ukrainian Canadian culture through the lens of the Ukrainian Canadian student,

AND WHEREAS the 2016 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.

Carried



RESOLUTION 12

WHEREAS the 2016 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 member USOs with the objectives of the SUSK constitution,

AND WHEREAS SUSK endeavors to promote a sense of unity and solidarity between local USOs across Canada,

BE IT RESOLVED that the incoming SUSK National Executive recommend to all member 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).

Carried

External Relations

RESOLUTION 13

WHEREAS the 2016 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 (filled by the SUSK President, as representative of the Ukrainian Canadian student body)

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.

Carried

RESOLUTION 14

WHEREAS the 2016 National SUSK Congress sees the value of having an international coordinating body for Ukrainian youth and student 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 Ukrainian youth and student organizations in the past, e.g., Federation of Ukrainian Student Organizations of America (SUSTA),

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

Carried



RESOLUTION 15

WHEREAS the 2016 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

UCC Dragons Competition

RESOLUTION 16

WHEREAS SUSK was successful in securing funding from the UCC 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,
AND WHEREAS the 2015-2016 National SUSK Executive successfully supported its member USOs at McGill University, University of Saskatchewan, University of Alberta, McMaster University, University of Toronto at Mississauga, and Ryerson University, with seed funding opportunities for the implementation of local USO initiatives ("USO Project Fund").
AND WHEREAS SUSK and the UCC have partnered to create a SUSK National Coordinator position to assist the SUSK National Executive with its responsibilities and tasks, for which the 2015-2016 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 UCC and past SUSK Presidents (Danylo Korbabicz and Christine Czoli) to ensure the full implementation of a SUSK National Coordinator,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the incoming SUSK National Executive ensure a final report on the implementation of the Dragons Competition be submitted to the UCC.

Carried

Strategic Planning

RESOLUTION 17

WHEREAS the 2016 National SUSK Congress holds the financial longevity of SUSK crucial to its long-term continuity,
AND WHEREAS SUSK suffers shortages in operational funding,

BE IT RESOLVED that SUSK develop a national fundraising strategy, a key pillar of which would be an Endowment Fund, managed by the Taras Shevchenko Foundation, to sustain the projects and ventures of SUSK in perpetuity,



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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a reasonable portion of the income garnered from such a fund be allocated for the support of appropriate projects by SUSK's member USOs.

Carried

RESOLUTION 18

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

AND WHEREAS the 2016 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.

Carried

RESOLUTION 19

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

AND WHEREAS the 2015-2016 National SUSK Executive successfully launched the "USO Best Practices Toolkit" at the 2016 National SUSK Congress as a way of sharing best practices with its member USOs,

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

Carried

RESOLUTION 20

WHEREAS Ukrainian students are arriving to Canada and post-secondary institutions across the country,

BE IT RESOLVED that the National SUSK Executive formulate a strategic plan to encourage and attract recent Ukrainian immigrants to local USOs.

Carried

RESOLUTION 21

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

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

Carried



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Media



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