



2017 National SUSK Congress

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Conclusion of the 2017 National SUSK Congress

The Ukrainian Canadian Students' Union (SUSK) is pleased to report on the successful completion of the 2017 National SUSK Congress held in Ottawa, Ontario from May 4th to 7th, 2017. Approximately 50 delegates from post-secondary institutions across Canada came together for this year's National Congress, titled *True North SUSK And Free*.

"The 2017 Congress marked an unforgettable weekend experience. Celebrating Canada's sesquicentennial anniversary, our Congress attracted guests from other ethnocultural communities as well as delegates from previously unengaged cities. From collaborating with our partners, the Ukrainian Canadian Congress and the Ukrainian Embassy in Canada, we are thrilled to have offered our delegates an experience unique only to the nation's capital", said SUSK Congress Director Connor Moen.



The 2017 SUSK Congress delegates on Parliament Hill.



2017 Congress delegates pictured with His Excellency Ambassador Andriy Shevchenko

The 4-day event was dedicated to encouraging and challenging leaders of the Ukrainian Canadian student community to come together, discuss and deliberate relevant questions and issues, and spearhead the future of youth leadership and involvement in Canada and Ukraine. The 2017 National SUSK Congress included the following program elements:



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- Motivating Volunteers
Maria Lahiffe, Volunteer Ottawa
- Ukrainian Student Organization 101
Connor Moen, SUSK National Coordinator
- Engaging Your Community
Ihor Michalchyshyn, UCC CEO
- Grants & Fundraising
Orest Sklierenko
- Marketing
Kate Headley, Principal MsCommuniKate PR

The 2017 Congress opened with special guest John Velinga, CEO of Multiculture Bevco, who unveiled the exclusive launch of the company's rebranded product through a vodka-tasting event. This icebreaker was shortly followed by presentations from Ukrainian Student Organizations (USOs) 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. Our winning USO, the McGill Ukrainian Students' Association, were awarded two complimentary passes to Canada's National Ukrainian Festival in Dauphin, Manitoba.



Kicking off the 2017 SUSK Congress with a Vodka Tasting with Multiculture Bevco CEO John Velinga.

Participants were truly impressed with the size, scope, and professionalism of the conference and Congress. First-time Congress Delegate from the University of Guelph, Sophia Pidzamecky said, "This year marks my first time at a SUSK congress. In as short of a time as the Congress lasted, I felt that I as an individual, as well as a member of my club team, we were able to draw inspiration from experienced speakers and other clubs across Canada. There was an excellent program that included engaging activities spanning various levels of participation - from lectures to networking opportunities to zabavas - in conjunction with dynamic venues. The best venue was very much a tie between the Ukrainian Canadian Embassy and the Lago Bar & Grill overlooking Dow's Lake! I was also amazed by the take-away lessons I learned in my four days, as well as the sight-seeing and touring that was expertly integrated to diversify the program! I cannot wait until next year to reconnect on the national level. Until then, the Guelph Ukrainian Student's Club will implement themes from this year's congress. Thank you to all the people who made SUSK 2017 a great experience!"



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Dayna Konopelny, Congress delegate from the recently revived club at the University of Winnipeg, shared: "When we started our club in the fall, none of us would have imagined that four of us would be attending the SUSK Congress in Ottawa. The Congress was an awesome opportunity for us to see how our club could continue to grow, reassured what we already started at our university, and was a great way to meet students from across the country. The foundation of our club at the University of Winnipeg was so important in bringing Ukrainian students together at our university. With the support of SUSK, we had access valuable resources. I can't wait to see what the UWUKRSA and SUSK can do together next year!"

SUSK Congress delegates had the opportunity to commemorate Canada's 150th anniversary first through a networking reception hosted at the Ukrainian Embassy to Canada on Friday May 5th, where His Excellency Ambassador Andriy Shevchenko spoke about youth empowerment in the diaspora. Delegates were then invited to participate in a collaborative event on Saturday May 6th with the Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC), where delegates joined with other ethnocultural communities to produce a video project depicting the multicultural experience in Canada. Saturday evening brought a zabava, aptly named 'Zabava 150'. The zabava was accompanied by live music from Rossa from Montreal and Hloptsi z Mista from Toronto.

"The 2017 Congress in Ottawa was truly a weekend to remember. The fellowship created over the Congress was completely phenomenal. We successfully gathered students from East and West, shared a plethora of ideas and practices with one another, and learned immensely from engaging Congress sessions. Last year was an exciting period of growth for SUSK, and I look forward to furthering that growth together with my 2017-2018 Executive. The next few year is critical fostering continual grow and support SUSK and its member organizations for many years to come. I cannot wait to meet and collaborate with our diverse range of 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 Stephanie Nedoshytko from MacEwan University recalling the 2017 National SUSK Congress.



The 2017/2018 SUSK National Executive!
From left to right: Ashley Halko-Addley, Hannal Picklyk, Adelia Shwec, Raya Dzulynsky, Kimberl Gargus, Cassian Soltykevych, Stephanie Nedoshytko, Mattay Dubczak, Boyan Woychyshy
Missing: Orycia Karpa

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
President
(780) 616-4652
president@susk.ca



Incoming and Outgoing Executives

Position	Outgoing Executive	Incoming Executive
<i>President</i>	Cassian Soltykevych University of Alberta	Stephanie Nedoshytko MacEwan University
<i>Executive Vice-President</i>	Danylo Moussienko University of Calgary	Ashley Halko-Addley University of Alberta
<i>Vice-President Finance</i>	Andriy Katyukha Western University	<i>Vacant</i>
<i>Vice-President West</i>	Natalia Radyo University of Alberta	Kimberly Gargus University of Alberta
<i>Vice-President Central</i>	Oksana Kaczala University of Guelph	Mattay Dubczak Western University
<i>Vice-President East</i>	Adelia Shwec University of Ottawa	Boyan Woychyshyn McGill University
<i>Secretary</i>	Ivanka Soletsky University of Alberta	<i>Vacant</i>
<i>External Relations Director</i>	Stephanie Nedoshytko MacEwan University	Adelia Shwec University of Ottawa
<i>Internal Relations Director</i>	Kimberly Gargus MacEwan University	Raya Dzulynsky Western University
<i>Project Director</i>	<i>Vacant</i>	Orycia Karpa University of Winnipeg
<i>Media Director</i>	Maria Boyko University of Saskatchewan	Hannah Picklyk University of Winnipeg
<i>Alumni Director</i>	Ashley Halko-Addley University of Saskatchewan	<i>Vacant</i>
<i>Immediate Past President</i>	Christine Czoli University of Waterloo	Cassian Soltykevych University of Alberta



Resolutions of the 2017 National SUSK Congress

Greetings

RESOLUTION 1

BE IT RESOLVED that the 2017 National SUSK Congress acknowledge the tireless and dedicated work of the 2017 National SUSK Congress Committee.

Carried

RESOLUTION 2

BE IT RESOLVED that the 2017 National SUSK Congress greet the outgoing SUSK National Executive with the successful completion of their term.

Carried

Administration

RESOLUTION 3

WHEREAS the 2017 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 2018 National SUSK Congress in the months between April and September, 2018.

Carried

RESOLUTION 5

WHEREAS the 2017 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.

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

Carried

RESOLUTION 6

WHEREAS the 2017 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:

150th Anniversary of Canada

100th Anniversary of Ukrainian Orthodoxy in Canada

65th Anniversary of SUSK

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 2017 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 2017 National SUSK Congress recognizes the importance of maintaining bilateral relationships with its member USOs,

AND WHEREAS the 2017 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 2017 National SUSK Congress deems it important to preserve Ukrainian Canadian culture through the lens of the Ukrainian Canadian student,

AND WHEREAS the 2017 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", other archives and artifacts.

Carried

RESOLUTION 12

WHEREAS the 2017 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).

Defeated

External Relations

RESOLUTION 13

WHEREAS the 2017 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.

Carried

RESOLUTION 14

WHEREAS the 2017 National SUSK Congress sees the value of having an international coordinating body for Ukrainian youth and student activity,

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 2017 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

Strategic Planning

RESOLUTION 16

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

AND WHEREAS the 2017 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 17

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 18

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 Ukrainian newcomers to Canada into local USOs.

Carried

RESOLUTION 19

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

Resolution 20

WHEREAS, the concern for the ongoing war in Eastern Ukraine is a major priority for Ukrainian Canadian Community,

AND WHEREAS, Canada has been providing humanitarian and medical aid to Ukraine,



AND WHEREAS, little media attention is given to this situation in Ukraine with its catastrophic impact,

AND WHEREAS, there is a need to heighten public awareness and pressure government representatives to attend to this issue,

BE IT RESOLVED that SUSK and its member USOs support the recently completed feature documentary film “Recovery Room”, directed by former SUSK member Adriana Luhova and help organize screenings across Canada.

Carried

Resolution 21

WHEREAS the 2016-2017 National SUSK Executive established a designated fund under the auspices of the Ukrainian Canadian Foundation of Taras Shevchenko,
AND WHEREAS, SUSK has an extensive history and alumni base,

BE IT RESOLVED that the 2017-2018 National SUSK Executive actively engage alumni and the broader Ukrainian Canadian community to financially support the SUSK Endowment Fund to ensure funding for SUSK and its member USOs in perpetuity.

Carried



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Silver



Ontario Provincial Council &
Ottawa Branch

Bronze



Ukrainian National Federation of Canada
Українське Національне Об'єднання Канади
La Fédération Nationale Ukrainienne du Canada
Ottawa-Gatineau Branch



At the Forefront of Ukrainian Issues

In-Kind

