



## President's Message

Welcome readers to the second edition of *Student* for the 2015-16 academic year. Since the last issue, the SUSK Executive has been hard at work on several new projects. The first was the digitization of an old SUSK vinyl, the second a cool new infographic, and lastly the early stages of planning next year's Congress.

In the previous issue I mentioned the "Band in the USSR" vinyl that was graciously donated to the SUSK Executive by Bohdan Kupysh. I am very excited to announce that the vinyl is now available online for purchase and streaming! We sent it to several music distributors, so search up the album on iTunes or on Spotify and enjoy a throwback to some great music from 1974.

The second project being worked on is an infographic about SUSK. Frequently our Executive is asked "what does SUSK do?" or "what is the role of SUSK in the community?" To address this, we hired a graphic designer from Ukraine to help create a simple one-page document to help explain what our organization does. The document is in the final stages of revisions and will be shared on our Facebook page, website, and newsletter as soon as it is completed.

Lastly, the Executive has begun preparations for the upcoming 2016 SUSK Congress, which will be held in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan on May 5-8<sup>th</sup>. We are really excited to have the University of Saskatchewan Ukrainian Students' Association (USUSA) helping SUSK host this incredible event. More details to come in the coming months, but please mark your calendars for СУСКатун 2016!!

If you would like to receive email updates from SUSK on all of its activities, please contact myself at [president@susk.ca](mailto:president@susk.ca).

We hope you enjoy the second issue of *Student* of the 2015-16 year.

Всього найкращого,  
Cassian Soltykevych  
Касян Солтикевич  
SUSK President





## Lessons of the Holodomor remain relevant today

In Fyodor Dostoyevsky's *Crime and Punishment*, the main character Raskolnikov commits a great sin because he believes that the life of a petty old woman can be sacrificed for a greater cause. Like Raskolnikov's sin, Holodomor was also a great sin, committed by the Soviet leader Joseph Stalin. He believed that the lives of Ukrainians are less important than achieving the grandeur plan of transforming the Soviet Union (USSR) into a modern, industrious nation. As a result, millions of Ukrainians had their lands confiscated and forced to live in the collective farms. Many perished during the great famine in between 1932 and 1933. Sadly, Russia as the USSR's successor has yet learned a lesson from neither and continues to act as if it is just to sacrifice people for an ideal. The ongoing Russian aggression in Ukraine is the evidence to this sad truth.

The tragedy of Holodomor was masterminded by Stalin and his close associates. In 1928, the Communist Party proudly announced the initiation of the first Five-Year Plan to transform the USSR into an industrial powerhouse. Stalin believed that industrialization was essential for the triumph of the socialist revolution in the USSR. He predicted that it was impossible the Soviet statehood from the capitalist invasion without an economic output that can overwhelm the capitalist world.

Stalin saw confiscating land and crops was essential to industrialization because he needed to acquire cheap grains for export and to feed the workers. He thought the Party must have a monopoly in agricultural production if his dreams were to come true. To bring his dream into the reality, he used brute force to confiscate land—the very means of survival for most Ukrainians.

Stalin saw the kulaks—farmers who owned land—as the greatest enemy of the socialist revolution. The kulaks were seen as a threat because they had gained economic power under Lenin's New Economic Policy (NEP) in the 1920s, which allowed the private ownership of farmland. Giving people the right to own land and crops meant that people had a great incentive to work.

Since the Soviet state needed to acquire food at a low price to feed the workers, Stalin intended to take away the farmers' right to own land and relocate them to collective farms where everything is planned by the Party members who had little knowledge in agriculture. Nevertheless, Stalin wanted to destroy the kulaks as a class and initiated “dekulakization.” He portrayed the kulaks a “class enemy” that exploits peasants who do not own land. In reality, the term was used to label almost everyone who made a living by farming.

With the military, thousands of the zealous Party members were sent to Ukraine in 1929 to push for the “dekulakization.” Soon, Ukraine became the major battlefield of the Party and Ukrainians. For centuries, Ukrainians have prided



themselves on being an agricultural expert and having a strong attachment to their land. Ukrainians fought bitterly against the collectivization as they saw it as a deliberate attempt to destroy their livelihood. But Stalin refused to step back. In his eyes, Ukrainian was an “enemy nation” that needed to be purged. Wrestling land from Ukrainians and forcing them into the collective farms were the Party’s deliberate effort to exterminate the core of Ukrainian national identity.

Norman M. Naimark writes in *Stalin’s Genocide* that the numbers of evidence suggests that Holodomor was a genocide. First, dekulakization was Stalin’s deliberate attempt to destroy a specific group—the Ukrainian farmers. Numbers of documents show that Stalin had given a direct order to confiscate as much land and grain from Ukrainians by any means necessary. Stalin ignored the request to send relief while millions were starving to death and insisted that all collective farms must meet the production quota that was completely unrealistic. Roadblocks were set up to prevent Ukrainians from escaping from the collective farms. The evidence showing Stalin’s intent of mass murder are nearly limitless. It is estimated that as many as 10 million had perished in between 1932 and 1933.

Like Raskolnikov in *Crime and Punishment*, the one who would dearly sacrifice peoples’ lives for a delusional ideal would inevitably commit a great sin. History shows that any deliberate attempt to radically change the society without the respect for the human life has often wrecked a havoc. Unfortunately, Russia—the successor to the USSR— has been oblivious to the lesson. As demonstrated by the Russian occupation of Crimea and the Russian-backed separatism in Eastern Ukraine, Russian elites’ delusional hope to revive the past glory of the USSR by expanding Russia’s territory into Ukraine has brought nothing but death and destruction. The lessons of the Holodomor remains relevant to what is happening in Ukraine today.

Elliot Cho  
*University of Saskatchewan*



## Why become a member of Ukrainian Credit Union Limited?

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## There's more to online marketing than Facebook

While looking at various job postings, I frequently come across social media responsibilities being tacked onto all sorts of positions from marketing to secretarial work. Now, I agree that not every company or organization needs to be as invested on social media channels as others, but there is more to the online world than just Facebook or Twitter. Think about what your organization is trying to tell or sell the public. Now think about where you have found information about that product, organization, or company. Was it always Facebook? Most likely not.

My commerce degree had me prepare a number of business plans and pitches that had to be rehearsed and well thought out to better prepare me for the business world. During the marketing portion of most presentations, many of my fellow peers would simply state something along the lines of "and we'll use Facebook and Twitter to promote this product". This can be an excellent resource to appeal to some customers, but you have to think further than just the two biggest social media platforms. Think about where your customer would go looking for information about your product beyond a first impression. My first choice? Google.

How many times do we Google something a day? Five? Ten? One hundred and twenty three? I search up dozens of topics, products, companies, and airports (I like planes) a day. Think about those search results. In an ideal world, you would have the company website first, Facebook page second, Wikipedia page third, then the rest of the social media sites the company utilizes. In addition, if you're on a laptop/desktop/iPad, Google will provide you with a Google Maps information panel on the right hand side of your search results with things such as telephone number, hours of operation, and for some businesses, when the busiest times are.

All those things are incredible when they appear automatically, but terrible if they are not there, and even worse if the information is incorrect. Have you ever searched up a business on Google Maps and instead were taken to somewhere completely different? It is not a pleasant experience, and despite it usually not being the company's fault, it can seriously damage their reputation. This is the same for Wikipedia pages. I have found companies that have hundreds of employees and not a single line on Wikipedia - critical when an individual is trying to find out more about the organization.



While Facebook and Twitter are used by hundreds of millions of people each day, it is imperative to think about what other methods are used to find out more about a company. This is not, and should not, be limited to only businesses. A test should be used for community groups and organizations as well, especially in the Ukrainian community. Look for a company or group you want to know more about. See how they are present online, see what they post, find out how easy it is to get more information. My rule? The more they have online, the better their marketing department, and the better chance they'll get my business.

Cassian Soltykevych  
Касян Солтикевич  
SUSK President

### **STUDENT #TBT**

We dove back in our Student Archives and found an interesting article on immigrants from Ukraine from SUSK's 1980's days. If you're having trouble reading it in this issue of "Student", please visit <http://student.susk.ca/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/STUDENT-1988-November-December.pdf>

Hope you enjoy this #wayback and we'll keep digging through to find more cool stuff!

SUSK National Executive 2015/2016

### **Community ignores Ukrainian immigrants Ukrainians**

Ukrainians in Toronto have, in the past, contributed generously towards worthwhile projects which service the needs of the community. Yet, last month, ^, Canadian Ukrainian Immigrant Aid Society (CUIAS) solicited Ukrainian businesses for merchandise to be used as prizes in its upcoming fundraising lottery, it received only some meager cash donations a few small prizes and, adding insult to injury, an electric toothbrush for its considerable time and effort Lack of material support for Immigrant Aid is not a new phenomenon. Since its inception in 1974 CUIAS has been waging a constant uphill battle to remain a functioning, viable organization.







Comprised of about thirty volunteer members, CUIAS has remained steadfast in its commitment both to assist Ukrainian immigrants and refugees in entering Canada and to facilitate their settlement within the country. Now more than ever, the dire financial straits the society finds itself in threaten its very existence. According to Bohdan Mykytiuk, CUIAS president the society currently has assets of only \$400 - \$600. Direct aid to refugees and immigrants annually costs from \$6,000 - \$9,000 depending on the case load. The widening gulf between required and available funds is threatening to submerge Immigrant Aid. Yet appeals for donations made continually through newspapers and, most recently, on MTV's Ukrainian Program in Toronto, cause barely a ripple in the community. A mere \$300 was received after the MTV appeal. Two years ago, the society spent \$600 advertising in local community papers in an attempt to raise money for twenty-one Ukrainians stranded in Vienna after having fled Poland. Ukrainians in Toronto managed to drum up \$25 that time. "There's a tremendous apathy," says Mykytiuk. The person who possibly came in as a refugee himself or went through the D.P. camps, people who were in the underground, or the *dyvyzitivnyky*'- they just don't care about the present day refugee, or appear not to care. "Immigrant Aid makes it a point to care. A national organization with offices in Montreal, Ottawa, Winnipeg, and Edmonton, its main branch is located in Toronto. Not only is Toronto a major Ukrainian centre of Canada, but its Ukrainian population is comprised mostly of post-second World War immigrants – persons one might expect to be more readily sympathetic to the plight of the latter-day immigrant. Yet Mykytiuk claims to have had more direct monetary support from Ukrainians in Western Canada. A month after advertising in Toronto papers had produced a paltry \$25 for the refugees stranded in Vienna the ad was repeated in the Western Ukrainian papers *Ukrainian Voice*, *New Pathway*, and *Canadian Farmer*. This time more than \$4,000 was received, enabling CUIAS to bring ten of these refugees into Canada. Ironically, it is in Toronto that the majority of Ukrainian refugees and immigrants surface and expect to settle. But if they hope to find a receptive community, they may be disappointed, according to Mykytiuk, Toronto's Ukrainian population will more likely treat them with a strange mixture of indifference to their plight bordering on resentment to their presence. A typical response from some community members is 'why don't we send them out to the farms, or to the bush, the same thing that happened to me,' says Mykytiuk. "This is the wrong attitude. If you did have an influx of these people and you sent them God



knows where you immediately lose that first step in the climb up the Canadian mosaic, both for them and their children. This is what we're trying to avoid. We're attempting to give them the best of everything, so that their children can get into school, and university, and eventually have better opportunities. If our parents had had that same sort of assistance, a lot of Ukrainians would be at a different level now. Our group in Canada, as an economic and political force would be much stronger in that respect. The prevailing apathy toward today's immigrants and refugees has serious ramifications for the future of the Ukrainians in Canada. In a report presented to the Ukrainian Canadian Committee (UCC) annual meeting held in October 1979, CUIAS attempted to impress upon the UCC national executive the crucial necessity of lobbying the government to increase its quotas of Ukrainian immigrants, as well to revise its present policies toward Ukrainians in the granting of refugee status – a necessity (or the sheer cultural survival of Ukrainians within Canada. Although in the 1971 census Ukrainians numbered 1 59,830 (sixth in rank of Ontario ethnic groups), a mere 280 Ukrainian immigrants were accepted into the Province during the period 1972 – 78. At the same time, 6,120 Poles, 65,020 Portuguese, and 88,940 blacks from the Caribbean Islands entered Ontario. "It becomes obvious from the above," concluded the report. "That within a few short years Ukrainians, not only in Ontario but in Canada, will drop from 6th to 12th place on the numbers scale. The above does not take into consideration the ongoing problems of assimilation nor the average decrease in birth rate." Alarming facts, yet Mykytiuk claims that the community is oblivious to the impending consequences of low immigrant quotas for Ukrainians in Canada. "We are still living with laurels of 500,000 Ukrainians in Canada", he says. "If we don't get immigration in, as a minority group politicians will not regard us very seriously in five or ten years simply because minimum we won't have the political clout. Unless we get a minimum of 500 or 1000 a year, somehow, or somewhere, we can forget about Ukrainianism. If you don't have a flow of immigrants out West for instance to stimulate them, except for a small core they'll gradually assimilate completely. If you look at government records the assimilation rate is over 3% for the core group of Ukrainians. Ukrainians refuse to believe that, but that's the way it is."

If Ukrainians refuse to believe the facts the UCC is showing itself to be derelict in its obligation to rank-and-file members both in acknowledging and acting upon the facts. The pressing need for more Ukrainian immigrants and bona fide





refugees accepted into Canada is clear, and might be expected to count as a number one priority in UCC deliberations. Yet Mykytiuk reports that at the October meeting the UCC executive completely ignored CUIAS' exhortations in misregard. "We spoke for about half an hour," Mykytiuk recalls. They didn't even record us in the minutes. They just refuse to have anything to do with these problems"

Mykytiuk's feeling is that the UCC could best serve all concerned by giving Immigrant Aid the mandate to negotiate all immigrant and refugee-related problems with the federal government. At least until it (presumably a new administration) proves itself capable of dealing with the issue. In the meantime he stresses the UCC should assist the society by providing funds which would enable CUIAS to continue its work in government by lobbying, legal action, and settlement of Ukrainian immigrants and refugees in Canada. He points out that unless bureaucrats and government officials constantly feel pressure from a strong, organized, and unrelenting Ukrainian lobby group, changes in discriminatory policies will never be effected. "Our work is hindered by a lack of funds. If we had the funds we could have the workers, we could prepare the materials, go to Ottawa to lobby - keep those politicians active." Good faith and financial backing from the UCC is part of the formula. The other side of the coin is strong moral support and immediate monetary assistance from individual members of the community. Their efforts cannot consistently continue indefinitely in the vacuum of moral and material support evidenced within the Ukrainian community to date. To date the sole accomplishment of the UCC in this issue has been the much touted "Refugee Sponsorship Agreement" with the immigration authorities. An agreement that, in effect, has virtually no significance in solving the dilemma of prospective Ukrainian refugees who cannot pursue normal routes of appeal within Soviet Ukraine or Eastern Europe. Even more distressing is that the agreement completely disregards the special case of Ukrainian refugees who enter Canada on visitor's visas or by less conventional means, and attempt to apply for refugee status from within the country. These cases are more numerous and certainly more pressing than those covered by the UCC sponsorship pact, yet nothing was achieved on their behalf. The agreement goes on record as a blatant indictment of the UCC's leadership. But incompetence is what the UCC seems most adept at. At a subsequent meeting between UCC executive members and the Department of External Affairs in Ottawa last January, Mykytiuk was appalled to discover that UCC executives had arrived at the meeting



totally unprepared and, by all appearances, even unaware of its purpose. "They went there without one printed word, nothing, they didn't know why they were there. All they were going to do was pose for some pictures and probably write some 'velyka interventsia' or something. We had a bit of a squabble that night and then we just took over the meeting. We had to run it ... but to come to Ottawa without an agenda, introduction of names, any idea of how a meeting is run — let alone speak English..."

If Mykytiuk seems disdainful of the UCC national executive, i.e. has ample justification. While other ethnic groups have been lobbying for representation on the consequential "Refugee Status Advisory Committee" and the "Immigration Appeal Board" (both of which make crucial decisions concerning refugees), the UCC has too often done little more than hamper the work of CUIAS, even thwarting their efforts upon occasion. "There's so much to do," says Mykytiuk. "The Department of External Affairs has asked us to compile a total list of family reunification cases for presentation at the Madrid Helsinki Review in November. We need posters, we have to send them out all over, we're going to have to phone all those families by the end of September. That's going to cost close to \$1, 000 alone. What are we going to do it with? An electric toothbrush, it seems, is far from enough.

- (vlnl, July-Aug. 1969)

### Millions of people died from an artificial famine under Stalin's regime and most people don't know about it

Estimates range from 7-10 million people, mostly Ukrainians, perished under the man-made famine that was forced onto the people in 1932-1933.





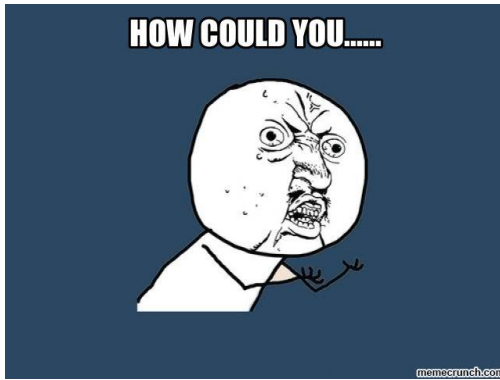
This famine is referred to as Holodomor, which literally means “death by forced starvation” in Ukrainian. Stalin came into power in 1928 and forced a collectivization system upon the citizens, meaning that they had to relinquish their private land and join collective farms owned by the state.



When the Soviet government increased crop production quotas to exceedingly unrealistic levels, starvation became rampant. A 1932 decree stated that any man, woman, or child may be arrested or executed if they are caught with even a few stalks of wheat or food from where they work. This was a form of ethnic cleansing; an abhorrent attempt to eradicate the Ukrainian culture. In 1933, at the height of the famine, people were dying at a rate of **THIRTY THOUSAND PER DAY**.

There are survivors of this famine-genocide that can tell you in excruciating detail that this tragedy occurred. Eyewitness accounts can be read here: <http://www.holodomorct.org/accounts.html>

Many nations, such as Australia, Brazil, Canada, Columbia, Estonia, Ecuador, Georgia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Poland and the United States have recognized that this was a deliberate act of genocide against the Ukrainian people. To this day, Russia denies this event ever occurred.



Tamara Soltykevych  
*Alberta, Canada*

### Twelve Dishes ft. A Boozevar (бузвар)



My local student group, the U of S Ukrainian Students' Association (USUSA), gets together at the end of every December for a wind up. This year we decided to do a potluck based on the Twelve Dishes for *rizzdvo*. I signed myself up for uzvar, a dish of stewed dried fruits. To be honest, I have never cared for the dish (especially the variant in Ukraine in which the fruits are smoke-dried). I took this as



an opportunity for myself to re-imagine the dish in a way that any student could enjoy it: with alcohol. Hence, I present to you: **boozevar (бузвар)**.

### Ingredients

- 4 parts Apple Cider (preferably homemade)
- 4 parts Pear Zhyvchyk/ЖИВЧИК\*
- 2 part Plum Vodka\*\*



In a pitcher, add the cider and vodka together. Then slowly pour the zhyvchyk down the sides of the pitcher (to keep carbonation).

\*ЖИВЧИК is a sparkling juice from Ukraine found in specialty Ukrainian stores. If unavailable, simply purchase a sparkling apple juice and replace the apple cider with a pear cider.

\*\*Plum Vodka: take 1lb of plums, add 3/4 cup sugar and a splash of water, and cook until the plums begin to break down. Add mixture to mason jars and fill the remaining space with vodka. Steep for two months (or if you are in a rush, steep for a week, shaking the jars once a day).

Веселих свят from my USO to yours. I can not wait to see you all in May for SUSKatoon!



Connor Moen,  
Project Director (SUSK) & President (USUSA)





Do you want to be heard? Do you have something you want to share? Submit it to [student@susk.ca](mailto:student@susk.ca) today!

