

2014 National SUSK Congress

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Conclusion of the 2014 National SUSK Congress

The Ukrainian Canadian Students' Union (SUSK) is pleased to report on the successful completion of the 2014 National SUSK Congress held in Toronto, Ontario from May 8th to 11th, 2014. Approximately 50 delegates from post-secondary institutions across Canada came together for this year's National Congress, themed #SUSKCongress: A Maidan for Ukrainian Canadian Students. "We certainly took inspiration from the Maidan events developing in Ukraine for this year's Congress, and aimed to challenge our members to consider and address emerging issues in today's community", said SUSK President Christine Czoli.

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 2014 National SUSK Congress included the following program elements:

- Reports from Ukrainian Students' Organizations (USOs)
- Reports from the outgoing SUSK National Executive
- Ukrainian Canadian Congress Case Study: Maidan Paul Grod, Ania Jacyniak, Myroslava Khomik, Krystina Waler
- USOs: Communication & Media Cassian Soltykevych, Nestor Gula, Andrea Chalupa, Roman Brytan
- USOs: Financial Management Yuri Broda
- SUSK Alumni Panel Halyna Kuchmij, Olya Kuplowska, Yuri Daschko, Taras Hetmanczuk, Paul Horbal Marco Jacuta



A unique element and highlight of this year's Congress was a Networking Event and Reception at the Eaton Chelsea hotel, co-hosted by SUSK and the Ukrainian Canadian Professional and Business Association of Toronto. Congress delegates, students and recent graduates were invited to leverage their Ukrainian heritage and network with Ukrainian Canadians who have achieved success in their professional and community lives. "A key aim of SUSK is to engage Ukrainian Canadian students and help them realize the full spectrum of benefits that come from active community involvement. We strongly believe such networking events can help connect our youth with our community leaders, establishing relationships that will motivate young professionals to give back to the community by fostering a sense of reciprocity" explained SUSK Alumni Director Olena Kit. SUSK aims to develop a national program to encourage networking and mentorship in the Ukrainian Canadian community by holding a series of networking events in major cities across the country this coming fall. This initiative represents 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. "My general impressions of SUSK Congress were very positive. I really liked that everything I learned throughout the weekend was very practical, and I plan to implement these lessons and skills in my actual involvement with my USO" said first-time Congress delegate Inga Bekbudova of Ryerson University in Toronto.

The SUSK Congress Banquet and Zabava was held at the Eaton Chelsea Hotel in downtown Toronto. SUSK delegates, alumni, and community members enjoyed a gourmet meal, a performance by local singing group KalynDar, and a keynote address by Mr. Markian Shwec, SUSK alumnus, former President of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress Toronto branch, and Euromaidan advocate. The address served as an inspiration to all present to continue working for the betterment of our community. A highlight of the Congress Banquet was the celebration of the 60th anniversary of SUSK. As a special tribute, the 2013-2014 National Executive completed the digitization of a series of SUSK publications, including our most prominent news magazine "Student / Студент". The digital archive (www.student.susk.ca) will allow students, community members, and the general public to access the rich repository of articles written by active Ukrainian Canadian students over the past six decades, and will serve as a home for all future "Student" issues. After the announcement of SUSK Executive election results, guests were treated to a special 60th anniversary cake and to the zabava melodies of local Toronto band Zapovid.

Returning President Christine Czoli from the University of Waterloo summarized the Congress as follows: "I'd like to thank the outgoing SUSK Executive – I had the great privilege of working alongside a group of incredibly dedicated and talented Ukrainian Canadian students this past year, and our experiences and memories are something we'll always have, just like all the SUSK Executives and alumni that came before us. I hope this year's Congress serves as an inspiration to our delegates – to sustain a vibrant and active Ukrainian Canadian student movement, to do our part and contribute to a stronger Ukrainian Canadian community, and to work for the betterment of Ukraine, particularly in such tumultuous times. We are the future, and our community needs us now more than ever."



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 SUSK National Executive		Incoming SUSK National Executive	
President	Christine Czoli	University of Waterloo	Christine Czoli	University of Waterloo
Executive Vice- President	Nadia Demko	McGill University	Cassian Soltykevych	University of Alberta
Vice-President Finances	Adrian Warchola	University of Alberta	Vacant	
Vice-President West	Sasha Vorotilenko	University of Alberta	Khrystyna Lazar	University of Manitoba
Vice-President Central	Emily Bayrachny	University of Toronto	Alex Prokopchuk	University of Western Ontario
Vice-President East	Alexandra Lewyckyj	McGill University	Borys Bilaniuk	Universite de Montreal
Secretary	Darya Naumova	McGill University	Anastasia Hnatyuk	University of Manitoba
External Relations Director	Artem Chaplynsky	University of Western Ontario	Emily Bayrachny	University of Toronto
Internal Relations Director	Mark Moroz	McMaster University	Mark Moroz	McMaster University
Project Director	Deanna Kibap	University of Alberta	Darya Naumova	McGill University
Media Director	Cassian Soltykevych	University of Alberta	Vacant	
Alumni Director	Olena Kit	McMaster University	Olena Kit	McMaster University
Immediate Past President	Danylo Korbabicz	University of Ottawa	Danylo Korbabicz	University of Ottawa



Photographs from the 2014 National SUSK Congress



UCC President Paul Grod speaks at the UCC Case Study session



Yuri Broda helps USOs manage their finances using proper accounting practices



The SUSK Alumni Panel at the St. Vladimir Institute



KalynDar performs at the SUSK Congress Banquet and Zabava



Mr. Markian Shwec delivers the keynote address at the SUSK Congress Banquet and Zabava



The 2014-2015 SUSK National Executive

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



Media Coverage of the 2014 National SUSK Congress

Kontakt TV: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wqceyCSHlzM&hd=1

Forum TV: @ 12:30

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=egveklmWSt0&list=UUf2UH8B6SJSOmO055UKI-GQ&hd=1

The Ukrainian Hour on Radio CHIN Ottawa FM 97.9: @ midpoint of May 18 program

http://www.chinradioottawa.com/index.php/podcast/ukrainian

Resolutions of the 2014 National SUSK Congress

Greetings

RESOLUTION 1

BE IT RESOLVED that the 2014 National SUSK Congress acknowledge the tireless and dedicated work of the 2014 National SUSK Congress Committee.

CARRIED

RESOLUTION 2

BE IT RESOLVED that the 2014 National SUSK Congress greet the outgoing SUSK National Executive with the successful completion of their term.

CARRIED

Administration

RESOLUTION 3

WHEREAS the 2014 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 2015 National SUSK Congress in the months from May-October, 2015.

CARRIED

RESOLUTION 5

WHEREAS the 2014 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 2014 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:

200th Anniversary of the birth of eminent Ukrainian poet Taras Shevchenko (2014) 100th Anniversary of the formation of the Ukrainian Sich Riflemen (2014) 10th Anniversary of the Orange Revolution (2014) 100th Anniversary of Canada's first National Internment Operations of 1914-1920 (2014) 200th 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

WHERAS the 2014 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 2014 National SUSK Congress recognizes the importance of maintaining bilateral relationships with its member USOs.

AND WHEREAS the 2014 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 2014 National SUSK Congress deems it important to preserve Ukrainian Canadian culture through the lens of the Ukrainian Canadian student,

AND WHEREAS the 2014 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 continues to add subsequent publications of "Student" to this online archive.

CARRIED

RESOLUTION 12

WHEREAS the 2014 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).

CARRIED

External Relations

RESOLUTION 13

WHEREAS the 2014 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 2014 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 2014 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 2014 National SUSK Congress sees it mutually beneficial to have active Ukrainian Student Organization umbrella organizations in North America,

AND WHEREAS the 2014 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 organize a joint Congress 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 mandate of the Ukrainian Canadian Professional and Business Federation (UCPBF) is to foster the growth and development of the Ukrainian Canadian professional and business community.

AND WHEREAS SUSK and the Toronto chapter of the UCPBF (Ukrainian Canadian Professional and Business Association of Toronto (UCPBA-Toronto)) have successfully organized two networking initiatives this past year,



BE IT RESOLVED that the incoming SUSK National Executive partner with the UCPBF and its local chapters to organize 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 discussed the strategic initiative of creating a SUSK National Coordinator position in the past,

AND WHEREAS the UCC has expressed its support for SUSK in relation to this initiative,

BE IT RESOLVED that the incoming SUSK National Executive work with the Ukrainian Canadian Congress to ensure the appropriate creation of a SUSK National Coordinator position to assist the SUSK National Executive with its responsibilities and tasks.

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 Students' Organizations (USOs),

BE IT RESOLVED that the incoming SUSK National Executive establish a process for SUSK member USOs to apply for and obtain seed funding for the implementation of local USO initiatives.

CARRIED Strategic Planning

RESOLUTION 19

WHEREAS the 2014 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.

AND WHEREAS the 2014 National SUSK Congress is aware of SUSK's limited exposure among Ukrainian students in colleges and technical institutes,

BE IT RESOLVED that the incoming SUSK National Executive make an attempt to reach out to students in colleges and technical institutes,

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 the representation of Member Organizations and their individual members is a crucial component of SUSK's mandate,

AND WHEREAS discussion at the 2014 National SUSK Congress has focused on the creation of clear goals and a concrete identity for SUSK,

BE IT RESOLVED that SUSK draft an anonymous survey in order to gain feedback and insight into both its members responses to SUSK today, as well as their visions for its future.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the incoming SUSK National Executive administer this survey during its mandate.

CARRIED

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