



UKRAINIAN CANADIAN STUDENTS' UNION  
СОЮЗ УКРАЇНСЬКОГО СТУДЕНТСТВА КАНАДИ  
UNION DES ÉTUDIANTS UKRAINIENS CANADIENS

## KOLIADA TOOLKIT



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## A GUIDE TO UKRAINIAN CAROLING

**Carolling/Vertep/Koliada** is one of our oldest and cherished Ukrainian traditions. This event eclipses conventional caroling in many ways: it is a successful fundraiser (University of Saskatchewan and University of Manitoba both raising over \$1000 in a few days time), fun for the local USO, culturally aware, and deeply engages the local community.

- Consider the scope of your event: this could include local homes (more likely to donate) and campus locations.
- Determine which days you want to go caroling in advance (around/during Gregorian Christmas? Julian Christmas?). A newer USO may find one night enough of a tall order, whereas more established USOs may want to carol for 3-7 days to maximize fundraising opportunities.
- Announce your caroling as far in advance as possible. Your USO can start sharing a sign-up sheet as early as Holodomor Awareness Week to attract new potential hosts. Local Ukrainian hubs (churches, stores, museums, etc.) are great places to put up a sign-up sheet.
- To go caroling, you'll first need a list of hosts who are interested in having you in their homes. Suggestions include:
  - Local Ukrainian (ethnically Ukrainian or subject matter) professors
    - People from local churches
    - Ukrainian retirement homes
    - UCC Offices
    - Ukrainian Banks
    - Your personal community connections
    - USO family members
    - Alumni (if applicable)
  - We recommend you keep an online list of caroling hosts and include: their phone number, email address, which part of the city they live in, their address, and which years they hosted. This list can then be used for future years.
- Having costumes always helps! Local dance groups are willing to loan.
- For the more serious USOs, you can look into developing your caroling repertoire into a Vertep.
- Be receptive to newer members who have not learned these carols yet. Some did not grow up with these songs and may need additional time for practice. Remember that you as a group are inspiring *new* students to learn and celebrate these traditions to keep them going!