



Ukrainian Canadian Congress Конгрес Українців Канади

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Ukrainian Canadian Congress Annual Report

To Ukrainian Canadian Congress, Annual General Meeting (Montreal, Quebec)

Date December 8, 2018

Re: Activities of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress (October 2017 – December 2018)

Executive Summary – Year in Review

The following report provides a high-level overview of the accomplishments, challenges and forward focus of UCC and the community we bring together, coordinate and represent.

Ukraine continues to be a focus point of UCC's efforts. We appreciate that both a focus on Ukraine and building strong institutional capability in Canada go hand in hand. Ukraine will always have strong international support only if we maintain and continue to develop a conscientious, organized, sophisticated and influential Ukrainian Canadian community.

UCC continues to be a unifying force in our community and within the worldwide diaspora. This is the reason why our community's democratically elected leaders have been target directly by the Kremlin. Let's not take that lightly. Efforts are ongoing to undermine the unity and effectiveness of UCC both within Canada by groups that pretend to represent the Russian Canadian community as well as those who wrap themselves in the Ukrainian flag. We must continue to stand on guard against disinformation or attempts to undermine UCC's leadership or our community's unity.

Three Strategy Pillars

The 25th (2016) Triennial Congress held in Regina set key priorities for the Board and Executive. We organized those resolutions to define the focus of the UCC into three major pillars:

1. Celebrate and advance the Ukrainian Canadian Ukrainian Identity
2. Enable the growth of the Ukrainian Community in Canada
3. Enhance capacity to continue to Support Ukraine

Key Initiatives

Based on the three major pillars, the UCC Board and Executive over the past year focused on three major initiatives, namely:

1. Parliamentary Internship – Opportunities for Ukrainian Canadian recent graduates to gain valuable experience in public service and Canada's political process. UCC managed to double the size of their program for one to two interns in 2018/19.
2. Link – Connecting Ukrainian Canadian constituents with their Parliamentarians
3. Endowment UCC 2050 and beyond – proud of our past – excited about our future.

Work with Other Ethnocultural Communities in Canada

UCC and me as President work with many ethnocultural communities in Canada. We have a strong bilateral working relationship with the Center of Jewish and Israeli Affairs and on a multilateral basis we work very closely with the Central and Eastern European Council and the Canadian Ethnocultural Council

Ukrainian World Congress

UCC is an active member of the Ukrainian World Congress. From UCC Paul Grod and Olena Koszarny are Vice Presidents of UWC. UCC has also made an annual commitment of \$30,000 to support the UWC Mission in Ukraine headed by former UCC Executive Committee member Serhiy Kasyanchuk.

The UWC held its 11th World Congress of Ukrainians in Kyiv Ukraine (November 25-27) with over 300 participants from approximately 30 countries. I am honoured to have been elected its president for the next four years. Alexandra Chyczij and Olena Koszarny were elected as the two Vice Presidents from the UCC.

Under the strong leadership of UWC's President Eugene Czolij, the UWC had advocated for Ukraine's interests around the world; has coordinated Ukrainian communities in 61 countries around the world; and represented the interest of 20 million Ukrainians living outside Ukraine.

Election Observation

The Ukrainian World Congress has announced a commitment to monitor the upcoming presidential and parliamentary elections in Ukraine and UCC has committed to participate in this UWC initiative.

Government Relations – Canada

1. Successes
 - (a) Technical Assistance for Ukraine - Thanks to UCC's effective advocacy efforts of the Government of Canada through International Development as part of Global Affairs Canada have recommitted to continue to maintain the same level of fund for technical and other assistance programs for Ukraine (approximately \$35-50M annually).
 - (b) Support for Ukraine's Democracy – On December 6, 2018 Canada is committed \$24 million to support "elections and democracy" in Ukraine, including money to counter Russian disinformation. Up to \$2.5 million is going towards "countering disinformation," specifically from Russia. A background document provided by

Foreign Minister Chrystia Freeland's office expresses Canada's position bluntly: "Russia's objective is to disrupt the stability of the Ukrainian state and throw into question the very legitimacy of democracy in the eyes of Ukrainian citizens."

- (c) Trade and Investment - Through the effective work of UCC's member, the Canada Ukraine Chamber of Commerce through their Canada Ukraine Investment and Trade Support program, continue a variety of ongoing initiatives to promote trade and investment between Canada and Ukraine.
- (d) Standing Committee on National Defence – UCC to make strong representations to the committee and our positions were widely cited in the report which was table in Parliament.

2. Challenges

- (a) Renewal of Operation UNIFIER – we have received positive signals, however, it is critical that UCC and our constituents continue to encourage the renewal of Canada's military training mission to Ukraine.
- (b) Sanctions Policy - unfortunately Canada has become a laggard in imposing new sanctions and enforcing those sanctions in place upon Russia.
- (c) Export Development Corporation continues to view Ukraine as a country with a high risk profile. As a result, many of the support that EDC provides to Canadian companies doing business abroad are not available for Ukraine.
- (d) International Trade – meaningful commitment by department officials needed.

3. Opportunities

- (a) Defence – very supportive Minister of Defense; Canada's leadership in UN peacekeeping mission; reform of military logistics (implementation of SAP system); reform of military; systems to overcome corrupt schemes.
- (b) Foreign Affairs – excellent cooperation with Minister Freeland.
- (c) Ukraine Reform Conference – UCC has been in discussions with both Canadian and Ukrainian government officials to provide input into and actively become engaged in the Ukraine Reform Conference being hosted by the Government of Canada in June 2019 in Toronto.

Canada-Ukraine Relations

As Ukraine endures the fourth year of protracted crisis brought on by the Russian invasion and occupation of Crimea and Russia's war against Ukraine in Donetsk and Luhansk oblast, the priority of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress has been to focus efforts on assisting Ukraine.

We are working intensely to:

- Coordinate community reaction and response;
- Coordinate community efforts to provide aid and assistance to Ukraine;
- Keep the Government of Canada and Canadian politicians properly informed about events in Ukraine;
- Advise the Government of Canada on providing concrete and tangible responses to the crisis;

- Advise and advocate to the Government of Canada on increased assistance to Ukraine;
- Provide accurate and thoughtful commentary to Canadian media on these events;
- Provide daily briefings and weekly to politicians, the press and the community.

UCC has and continues to work with all political parties as well as provincial and municipal governments to maximize support for the people of Ukraine. We regularly meet and brief with high-ranking officials of the federal government. UCC either directly or by facilitating participation by Ukrainian government officials or think tanks such as the Atlantic Council we continue to provide representations to various Parliamentary Standing Committees in Ottawa.

UCC Parliamentary Internship Program

In 2018 the UCC continued the UCC Parliamentary Internship Program aimed at providing Ukrainian Canadian youth with meaningful political experience. The Ukrainian National Federation of Canada (UNF) as a partner continues to provide the interns training through the Paul Yuzyk Institute for Youth Leadership.

Beginning in September, interns work in Ottawa with Members of Parliament for 10 months on policy research, communications, legislative affairs and constituency work. They will learn firsthand about Canada's Parliament and all aspects of the legislative and governmental process. Upon completion of the internship, UCC assists the interns in securing full-time rolls with Members of Parliament, Ministerial Offices, or other public service roles within Government of Canada.

Project Link

Project Link is a Canada-wide project to engage our community in a more formal fashion with their local Member of Parliament so that we have an active information network across the country. This network addresses address key issues of concern to the Ukrainian Canadian community. The UCC continues to build out its network of 338 Community Representatives to liaise with 338 MPs across the country. These UCC Representatives meet with their MPs on a quarterly basis in order to provide briefings on key issues that are important to our community.

UCC Supports Defenders of Ukraine

On January 19, 2018 the UCC and Canada Ukraine Foundation (CUF) issued a call for applications for the Defenders of Ukraine Fund for projects to assist Ukraine war veterans. This follows the recent signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between UCC and CUF.

Thanks to the generous support of donors during the Gala Reception for Invictus Team Ukraine, the UCC will be able to support projects that work for the benefit of Ukraine's wounded soldiers and veterans. As Russia continues to wage war on Ukraine, we have a duty to Ukraine's defenders to provide them with support. The UCC is honoured to help these brave men and women, who are an inspiration to us all.

On June 14, 2018 UCC and CUF announced the successful grant recipients from the Defenders of Ukraine Fund. The projects were selected based upon their efficacy to assist war veterans who bravely defend their country against Russia’s ongoing military aggression in Ukraine.

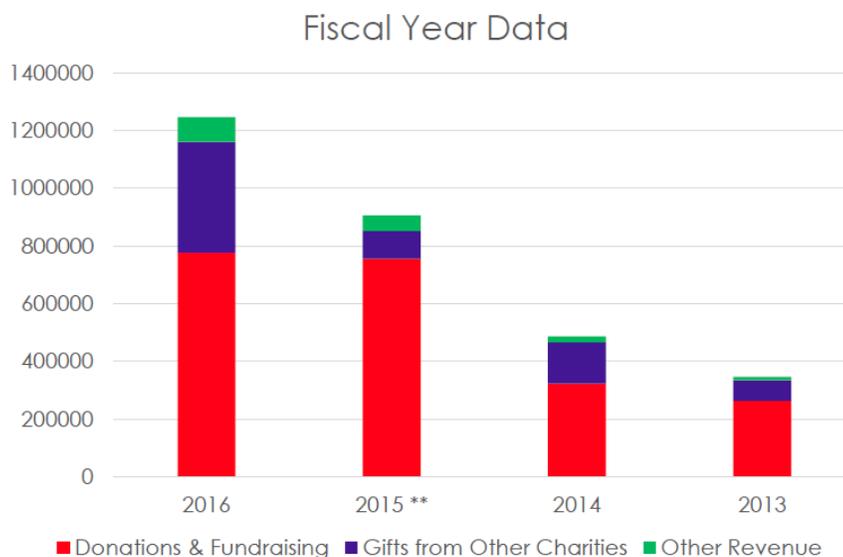
A total of \$100,000 will be distributed among four projects, to be used for the rehabilitation and benefit of Ukraine’s wounded soldiers and veterans. The successful recipients are:

- (i) Ukrainian Social Academy for “Boots to Business” entrepreneurship training program for veteran
- (ii) Donbas ATO Veterans Union, Centre Poruch for psychological support of veterans and their families
- (iii) Veterans House for ATO veterans providing temporary shelter and rehabilitation programs
- (iv) Pobratymy & Dopomoha Ukraini, “Training in Overcoming Combat Shock Trauma and Preventing PTSD for Veterans”

Financial Stability

Over the past 10 years, UCC has demonstrated fiscal prudence and maintained a positive financial position (no deficits). At the same time our revenues have risen demonstrated strong support from our community members. This has enable us to provide greater services to our community. To support our ongoing fundraising efforts, we have hired Janine (Asya) Kuzma as UCC’s National Fund Manager.

UCC’s 4-year revenue history *



* Source – Canada Revenue Agency T3010 Reports

** 15 month data: April 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015

The challenge remains that UCC relies solely on our annual fundraising efforts from our community. To ensure a solid financial future for UCC and our community, we must establish an appropriate endowment. After much deliberation and planning, the UCC Board of Directors made the decision to launch a \$25 million endowment campaign. Much of the preliminary work has been completed, including an RFP for a fundraising consultant. We hope to be in a position to secure commitments for half of the endowment at which point we would publicly launch our endowment campaign early in 201.

UCC's Leadership

The Congress is governed by its Board of Directors. The Executive Committee of the Board is mandated to run the day-to-day activities of the Congress. The Board and the Executive Committee are all volunteers and collect no compensation for the work they do for the Congress. The UCC Board of Directors, appointed by the XXV Triennial Congress in October 2016 are:

Executive Committee & Board members

- Paul Grod UCC President
- Alexandra Chyczij UCC 1st Vice President
- Andrea Kopylech, UCC 2nd Vice President
- Walter Dlugosh, UCC Treasurer
- Romana Latenko, UCC Treasurer (effective September, 2017)
- Olesia Luciwi-Andryjowycz, UCC Alberta
- Marc Shwec - UCC Toronto
- Cassian Soltykevych Ukrainian Canadian Students Union (SUSK)
- Olya Grod - Ukrainian Canadian Social Services of Canada HQ (UCSS)

I want to thank Slawko Borys, UCC Secretary and Krystina Waler who resigned from the Executive this year as Slawko was elected as the Chairman of the Ukrainian Credit Union and Krystia was nominated as the Conservative candidate for Niagara Falls and will run for Member of Parliament in the next federal election. They both made a tremendous contribution and we wish them much success in their new pursuits.

National Board

- Zenon Potichny - Canada Ukraine Chamber of Commerce
- Victor Hetmanczuk - Canada Ukraine Foundation
- Roman Stefan Kolos - Canadian Lemko Association
- Eugen Duvalko - Canadian Ukrainian Immigrant Aid Society
- Eugene Czolij, Council of Ukr. Credit Union of Canada (CUCUC)
- Oksana Kuzyshyn, League of Ukrainian Canadian Women (LUCW)
- Myroslava Pidhirnyj, League of Ukrainian Canadians (LUC)
- Ann Szyptur, Ukrainian Youth Association (PLAST)
- Dr. Tanya Dzulynsky, Shevchenko Scientific Society
- Yaro Gavrylko, UCC British Columbia
- Oksana Bondarchuk, UCC Manitoba

- Anna Kuprieieva, UCC Ontario
- Halyna Holowka, UCC Quebec
- MaryAnn Trischuk, UCC Saskatchewan
- Dr. Markian Shulakewych, Ukrainian Free Academy of Arts and Sciences (UVAN)
- Jason Woycheshyn, Ukrainian Canadian Bar Association (UCBA)
- Andrew Hladyshevsky Q.C., Ukrainian Canadian Foundation of Taras Shevchenko (UCFTS)
- Taras Hetmanczuk, Ukrainian Canadian Professional & Business Federation (UCPBF)
- Nicholas A Derzko, Ukrainian Canadian Research & Documentation Centre (UCRDC)
- Orest Boychuk, Ukrainian Catholic Brotherhood of Canada (BUK)
- Marion Barszczyk, Ukr. Catholic Women's League of Canada (UCWLC)
- Dr. Denis Hlynka, Ukrainian Fraternal Society of Canada
- Renata Roman, Ukrainian National Federation of Canada (UNF)
- Liza Zienchuk, Ukrainian Orthodox Youth of Canada (CYMK)
- Jaroslaw Balan, Ukrainian Self-Reliance League of Canada (SUS)
- Dennis Kuchta, Ukrainian Self-Reliance Association of Canada (TYC)
- Zora Lucyk-Jackson, Ukrainian Women's Association of Canada
- Olya Sheweli, Ukrainian Women's Organization of Canada
- Roman Brytan, Ukrainian Youth Association (CYM)

We are very sad that Mr. Roman Brytan passed away in November of 2018. We express our heartfelt condolences to his family and friends. He was a very active leader in the Ukrainian Canadian community and will be dearly missed. Вічна Пам'ять.

Committees of the Congress

The activities of the Congress are largely run through a variety of committees and task forces. These include:

Advisory Council (James Temerty)
Awards & Recognitions (Oksana Bondarchuk)
Canada Ukraine Stakeholder Advisory Council (Paul Migus)
Education & School Council (Oksana Levytsky)
Finance Committee (Walter Dlugosh)
Fundraising Committee (Andrea Kopylech)
Governance (Alexandra Chyczij)
Invictus Host Committee (Renata Roman)
Holodomor Awareness (Irka Mycak)
Holodomor Education (Valentina Kuryliw)
Museums, Archives and Research Institutions (Lydia Migus)
Parliamentary Internship Program (Krystina Walter)
Project Link (Marc Shwec)
Religious Affairs (Rev. Taras Udod)
UCC-Ukraine Advisory Council (Bohdan Kupych)

Staff

- CEO, Ihor Michalchyshyn
- Senior Policy Advisory, Orest Zakydalsky

- National Youth Coordinator, Connor Moen
- Development Coordinator, Janine Kuzma
- Administrative Coordinator, Lesia Demkowicz
- Katrusia Chuchman, Accountant

Focus on the Future

1. Strengthening support for Ukraine by the Government of Canada, Provincial Governments and municipalities; Canadian NGOs; and the Ukrainian Canadian Community.
2. Community Development
 - a. Project ЛІНК – developing a strong network of community representatives who live in the constituency of each Member of Parliament
 - b. Parliamentary Internship – expand the funding base to increase the number of interns for 2018/19.
 - c. \$25M Endowment Campaign
 - d. Strengthening Community Institutions – Cradle to Grave – focusing on developing organizational and financial capacity of our member organizations and ensure new organizations flourish across Canada.
3. Holodomor - 85th Anniversary (2018) – honouring our history and understanding its significance today.
 - a. Memorial in Toronto
 - b. Unveiling of the Memorial to the Victims of Communism. Ground breaking will occur on November 2, 2018 near the Garden of the Provinces (Parliamentary precinct) in Ottawa, ON.
 - c. Recognition of Holodomor in British Columbia and potential memorial – Holodomor memorial bill has been reintroduced in the BC legislature.

Resignation

I was honoured to have been elected as the President of the Ukrainian World Congress in Kyiv on November 27, 2018. As such, effective today at the UCC Board meeting and Annual General Meeting in Montreal, I am stepping down from the position of President of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress so that I can devote my time to building strong Ukrainian communities around the world that will be able to support the people of Ukraine as they defend themselves against Russian aggression. I commit to continuing to support the new UCC President as Immediate Past-President and as Co-Chair of UCC's Endowment Campaign. I am very proud of the many accomplishments the UCC has achieved over the past 11 years. That is thanks to a professional and dedicated volunteer leadership team and staff that will continue from where I leave the UCC. The organization is stronger than I found it and I am confident it will continue on that same trajectory.

Respectfully,

Paul M. Grod, President, Ukrainian Canadian Congress (2007-2018)