

## Orest Steciw, Master of Science in Mathematics

### *Community Development*



Orestes Steciw was born on September 17, 1947 in Austria. After moving to Canada with his parents, he settled in St. Catharines, Ontario. After graduating from University of McMaster (B.A., M.Sc.,) and University of Toronto (M.Ed.,) he worked as a teacher of mathematics at St. Basil's Academy in Toronto, where he served as head of the Department of Mathematics.

Orest Steciw engaged in community life in the early 1970s through the Ukrainian Students Club at McMaster. Since then he has shown unparalleled organizational skills, business efficiency and dedication to various initiatives both in Canada and abroad.

As chairman of the Canadian branch of the Anti-Bolshevik Bloc of the Nations - ABN (an international political structure aimed at contributing to the overthrow of the USSR and communism) - in the 1970s and 1980s he made a significant contribution to consolidate activities in the international arena of the World Anti-Communist League which was then one from the most influential non-governmental (NGO) structures in the free world.

In the 1970s and 1980s, he was one of the leading figures in the coordination structures of the Eastern European ethno-cultural communities of Canada.

Furthermore, he was a leading activist in the Committee for the Protection of Ukrainian Political Prisoners in the USSR, acting under the patronage of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress (1970- 80). Within the framework of these organizations his activities have influenced various communities not only in Canada, but also internationally in the USA, Latin American countries, Europe and Asia.

Since 1980 until present Orest has been active in the League of Ukrainian Canadians (LUC), initially as a member of the LUC-Toronto chapter and later as a foreign affairs representative on the LUC National Executive. From 2011-2017 he served as the National President of LUC and played a key role in creating a successful exhibit called "Holodomor: Genocide by Famine". Currently he is the President of Ucrainica Research Institute, member of the Executive Committee for the Ukrainian Cultural Center in Toronto as well as LUC, and the curator of the Yuri Lypa Ukrainian Heritage Academy (Toronto) - one of the largest Saturday schools in Canada.

In the past two decades he has played a key role in coordinating a variety of projects related to the Holodomor. He lobbied on behalf of the Ukrainian community in the process of recognizing the Holodomor as Genocide at the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. Moreover, Orest was also responsible for the international distribution of the English-language exhibition "Holodomor: Genocide by Famine" created by the League of Ukrainian Canadians. The posters of the exhibit have been presented at various public institutions and as well during Holodomor Education Week which is a part of the National Holodomor Awareness Week under the auspices of the UCC.

He was awarded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine for his contribution to the consolidation of Ukrainian diaspora, and in particular, in the international recognition of the Holodomor of 1932-33 as a Genocide of Ukrainian people.