

UCC Teleconference Report on the Archives Committee – June 17, 2020

Thanks for giving me this opportunity to quickly discuss the principles behind archives and the Ukrainian community in Canada; stressing its importance. I am sure you are mostly familiar with what I will say. Consider this is just a refresher or reminder.

Usually libraries will house books and other forms of media, maps, AV, magazines.

Archives, on the other hand, usually hold photographs, interviews, minutes and all sorts of other documents of our communities. This is the history that gets buried and becomes hard to find, but as long as it is protected and safeguarded for future researchers at your archives, this is key.

Safekeeping and discoverability is important and also to not lose the knowledge of what we had in our communities. We know that we learn from our past.

Archival institutes can be found throughout Canada within municipal (city archives), provincial and of course federal facilities, but they can also be held in educational facilities (universities), private institutes and even corporate headquarters. Actually, I just found out that LULULEMON has their own archival unit, housing every example of their historic stock!

Please know that archives facilities are there for our institutional memory. To be explored for a future date. We may think that our organizations, our dance groups and choirs will last forever, but sometimes there comes a time to wrap things up.

What happens to all the documents and pictures besides ending up in a basement or store-room or from one past member to the next, like a hot potato, it's up to the conscientious individual. Sadly, sometimes that history and all that information ends up in the dump, lost forever. Let's ensure that THAT does not happen!

Most here, on this call, know that the first KYK congress was held in Winnipeg in 1943, but who knew that the second was held in Toronto in 1946? Attendee registers, minutes, even menus of the meals can be found. Who knew so many Ukrainian-Canadians owned, operated and managed so many hotels in Toronto back then! It can be explored at Library and Archives Canada here in Ottawa.

So coming back to your own archives. When you need some consultation or advice to decide what to do, please feel free to contact us.

Our archives committee is a small team of dedicated members focused on preserving our community memories. I am co-sharing the responsibilities with Maryna Chernyavska in Alberta. You can reach us at archives@ucc.ca. If you have any questions or need some guidance on anything concerning archives, please feel free to contact us. We should be able to steer you in the right direction.

If you decide that it is time to donate even a part of your organization's history, we can help you through this. It is important that you sort out those 16 boxes of receipts, minutes and photographs as an archivist can only piece together what they were given and how they were given it. You are the best person to sort this information for the future researcher.

We are here To Preserve Your Past for Our Future.

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