



# Highlights of the UCC 2021 Community Engagement Survey

The Ukrainian Canadian Congress conducted the first-ever national survey of Ukrainian Canadians in 2021. This research is intended to provide a comprehensive portrait of the community to help guide future programs and initiatives.

An important objective of this research is to identify motivating factors for staying connected to the community, as well as obstacles to participation and inclusion.

The survey was conducted online, with 4,031 individuals across Canada ages 18 years of age or older who self-identified as Ukrainian, Ukrainian Canadian or as a Canadian with Ukrainian roots or descent.

This research provides the first-ever survey-based national portrait of Ukrainian Canadians that extends beyond basic demographics to reveal their perspectives and priorities in terms of identity, connection to culture and involvement in the local Ukrainian Canadian community.

The survey focused on five themes:

## Highlights of Findings:

### Ukrainian Canadian identity and values

- Two-thirds of the participants surveyed say their Ukrainian Canadian identity is a very important part of their life, with very few of the remainder considering it to be of little or no importance.
- Participants identify a number of attributes that define what it means to be Ukrainian Canadian, but most apt to be considered essential is caring or knowing about the history and experience of Ukrainians in Canada, caring about Ukraine, and having Ukrainian ancestry.

### Ukrainian education and language

- About half of the participants surveyed have had some form of formal Ukrainian education (in the public or Catholic school system) or through evening and weekend programs.
- Among parents, just over half report that one of more of their children have attended (or are attending) a Ukrainian school or evening/weekend program.
- The Ukrainian language continues to have a strong presence in Canada but is not the predominant one used in most homes.

### Connection to Ukraine

- Three-quarters of those surveyed say they feel very or somewhat attached to Ukraine, with very few expressing no such connection.
- About half of those surveyed follow the news on a daily or weekly basis, with others doing so monthly or at least a few times a year.

## **Involvement in the Ukrainian Canadian community**

- Among survey participants, six in ten report being an active member of a Ukrainian Canadian organization or charity in the past five years.
- Among survey participants, seven in ten report they or someone in their household made a financial donation to a Ukrainian Canadian organization or charity in the past five years.

## **Sense of connection to the Ukrainian Canadian community**

- Six in ten survey participants say they feel very or somewhat connected to the local Ukrainian Canadian community.
- For one in five participants, language fluency represents an obstacle to membership and inclusion in the local community.
- What is most likely to attract greater engagement are programs involving cultural activities (such as dance, arts, movies, plays and concerts), followed by educational events (lectures, book clubs), and social activities (charitable, sports).

## **Perspectives on the future**

- When asked to identify important priorities for the Ukrainian Canadian community as a whole, survey participants are most likely to emphasize greater development of arts, culture and folk programs, followed by programs for children and youth, and Ukrainian language education.
- When asked to express their hopes for what the Ukrainian Canadian community will be like in 10 years time, survey participants identify a number of changes or aspirations. Most prominent among them are a community that is growing in size and becoming stronger, one that celebrates culture, is more accepting and inclusive, and is active and dynamic.