

**SUSK Congress in Edmonton:
 Students Rise Again**
*By: Andrew Wodoslawsky,
 University of Toronto*

The 52nd National Congress of the Ukrainian Canadian Students' Union (SUSK) occurred in Edmonton, Alberta on the weekend of February 12-14, 2010. This gathering brought together delegates representing student organizations from the U of Alberta, U of Calgary, U of Manitoba, U of Western Ontario, McMaster U, U of Toronto, York U, Ontario College of Arts and Design, Carleton U, U of Ottawa, McGill U, U de Montreal, and Concordia. Ryerson and Guelph, although not present in person, did contribute to the special Congress edition of Student, our newsmag.

The first evening (on Friday) of the Congress was an informal gathering at the

participating Campus Tour Hotel, on the University of Alberta campus. Each delegation had a chance to introduce themselves and show off the successes that their club had enjoyed in the previous year. Saturday morning, we ate a hearty breakfast, efficiently steamed through the points of order and constitutional amendments, and then moved onto nominations for the 2010-2011 executive and the new candidates speeches. The delegations then voted, and as the ballots were being counted, we broke out into focus groups that tackled the question: "What can SUSK do for you?" At the satisfactory conclusion of these activities, the delegates headed back to their hotel rooms to prepare for the Alumni Banquet at the Faculty Club.

After a nice dinner, Dr. Richard Hareychuk performed a keynote address regarding the sustainability (or not) of the allocation of the Ukrainian Canadian





SUSK Delegates leaving Edmonton International Airport. Zenon Ciz and Marko Jacuta embarking on their Vancouver adventure.

Diaspora's resources. The address was certainly effective at provoking discussions and controversy throughout the evening and following day. Next was the announcement of election results. The new executive is: Danylo Korbabicz (president), Zenon Ciz (executive vice president), Maryana Zayats (regional VP west), Olena Kit (regional VP central), Marta Cybulsky (regional VP east), Christine Bajus (secretary), Andrew Wodoslawsky (external relations director), Adia Sirsky (internal relations director), Anda Hirceaga (project director), Adia Luhovy (media director), Roman Storoshchuk (alumni director), and Marko Jacuta (immediate past president). The zabava after the banquet brought in yet more students from Edmonton, and we danced and sang the night away to the tune of Euphoria, a local student-run band.

On Sunday (mid) morning, we woke again to a hearty meal, then listened to Daria Luciw as she presented an inklet of her knowledge on fundraising. Her presentation was followed by a session to generate and discuss resolutions (or goals) for the next year. We took a break from

this to listen to Andy Hladyshevsky discuss the context and origins of the Ukrainian Canadian community, and the origins, goals and projects of the Shevchenko Foundation.

We concluded that day by deciding on our resolutions for the coming year, and by holding a quick meeting for the new executive. Those that could, would stay in Alberta for another 3 days of skiing and snowboarding, but otherwise, we parted ways – until next time...

A successful Congress cannot run smoothly and efficiently without a skilled organizer and dedicated volunteers: we would like to thank Roman Soltykevych, President of the University of Alberta Ukrainian Students' Society and his diligent Executive for exceptional execution of the Congress.

But even with the best help, this Congress would not have been possible without our sponsors. A special thank you to the Ukrainian Credit Union Ltd of Toronto, our Host Sponsor, for their very generous support. We would like to also thank the Shevchenko Foundation, Multicultural Marketing, Hudson's Tap House, Rosewood Estates Winery and Meadery, Fraser Minler Casgrain law firm, the Zaraska Family, Clarkson Sports & Physiotherapy Clinic, the University of Alberta and the University of Alberta Ukrainian Students' Society for their material support.

Please visit us online at www.susk.ca for a calendar of Ukrainian Student Organization events, for information about clubs, help for new clubs, alumni support, and much much more!





52nd CONGRESS SCHEDULE

Edmonton

Friday Feb 12, 2010

- Registration
- Club Presentations
- “Horilka Hoedown”

Saturday Feb 13, 2010

- Opening Ceremonies
- SUSK Executive Elections
- Professional Development Seminars
- SUSK Alumni Banquet & Congress Zabava

Sunday Feb 14, 2010

- Professional Development Seminars
- Resolutions

Responses to the Edmonton

Congress

Roman Storoshchuk (University of Calgary)

The 52nd SUSK national congress was a wonderful experience for me.

The congress more than met my expectations and I feel the organizers and hosts did an excellent job in putting it on. I feel that I came away from it having acquired useful new skills and knowledge that will aid me in my future Ukrainian community involvement. In my opinion SUSK currently possesses a very strong and capable membership. This membership continues to grow and gain momentum from year to year, this congress being proof of this. I believe that this trend indicates that SUSK is heading in the right direction and has many good things in store for the Ukrainian-Canadian student community as well as the Ukrainian-Canadian community as a whole.

SUSK: The Spark for

Acquaintanceship

By Adriana Sirskyj (University of Ottawa)

I simply did not know what to expect when I attended the 52nd Annual SUSK Congress in Edmonton, Alberta 2010 as a delegate and representative from the University of Ottawa Ukrainian Students' Club.

One could say that going into the Congress, I was practically oblivious in regards to my expectations for the range of constitutional amendments, election nominations, resolutions, and guest lecturers. Although these components of the congress were extremely helpful in providing me with new and informative outlooks on the world of SUSK, something in particular struck me once I returned back home to Ottawa. I can truthfully say that my expectations and goals of the congress were met. The constitutional amendments, election nominations, and resolutions throughout the congress sparked interesting discussion among the delegates. The diversity of lectures presented was both informative and insightful, and provided me with valuable material to bring back and share with my club.

In particular, the most symbolic aspect of the entire congress was the social networking and friendships formed among the delegates. Events such as the annual SUSK Congress provide a prime opportunity for Ukrainian students from across the country to reunite with old friends, as well as form new friendships. It is these never ending friendships which make events such as





the 52nd SUSK Congress memorable. Fortunately, I was able to meet several remarkable individuals from cities such as Toronto, Calgary, Winnipeg, and Montreal, and am greatly looking forward to reuniting with them in the near future.

I strongly encourage any students who have not had the opportunity to partake in a SUSK congress, to surely consider it in upcoming years.

Alyssa Paterson (McGill University)

Having never attended a SUSK Congress before, I arrived in Edmonton, armed only with a bright yellow hoodie, not knowing what to expect. Nevertheless, I had a great weekend, and I have since returned to Montreal with new friends from across Canada, new (and excellent) fundraising ideas, courtesy of Ms. Luciw, and a fresh (if controversial) perspective on Ukraine's current issues according to Dr. Hareychuk. I do feel that the congress could have been made more productive through the inclusion of more time spent in group discussion/brainstorming sessions, and hope that next year's congress will feature a greater amount of time spent in dialogue about the direction SUSK should take in the future.

Anda Hirceaga (University of Ottawa):

It was a great experience and honor for me to attend the 52nd SUSK Congress. As vice-president of the new Ukrainian Students' Club at the University of Ottawa, I have gained a lot of valuable knowledge when it comes to various aspects of running a students' club, and what challenges can be faced when you are just start-

ing out. It was great to share experiences with various clubs from across Canada, as well as hear some of the guest speakers' opinions and advice.

What I look forward to the most is applying what I have learned at the SUSK congress to our club. It is just the beginning and we have a long road ahead, but the existence and journey of SUSK proves that with hard work, much more can be accomplished. I am truly grateful for getting the opportunity to take part of this year's congress and having met a handful of amazing people. I look forward to the years to come!

SUSK does Vancouver!

*Zenon Ciz (Executive VP, SUSK,
University of Toronto)*

When most people think of SUSK, they immediately associate it with...what? That's the point. Our appeal is that we appeal to every-



Zenon Ciz in front of Ukraine House.

one, a concept that transcends a lot of organizations. Among our ranks we have people from SUM, PLAST, Orthodox, Catholics, Canadian-





born and Ukrainian-born, Liberals, Conservatives, and probably any other more obscure affiliation you can muster up. As a by-product of our objectivity, we can confidently say that we represent the interests of all Ukrainian students in Canada. But perhaps since we are in our infancy, this serves as little more than a lofty claim and not actual reality.

The SUSK executive wants as many different voices as possible heard. In an attempt to broaden our horizons and expose ourselves to as many people as possible, we started by approaching, to some degree, the most absent group in SUSK – the Sumivtsi. Being a Sumivtsi through and through, this void is particularly noticeable for me, since as an organization, SUM professes its ability to foster future leaders in our community. For the most part, this is true; the Presidents of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress, Ukrainian World Congress, League of Ukrainian Canadian Women, among others, all have roots in SUM. SUSK is perhaps the exception though, since relatively few members of SUM tend to participate in a leading role of a student organization.

For those unaware, SUM (which is a phonetic pronunciation of the acronym for “Ukrainian Youth Association” in Ukrainian) partook in a world-wide jamboree for members in their adolescent years in Vancouver during the reading week. After receiving warm regards from Stepan Duma (who was the administrator of the jamboree) for our SUSK congress, former president of SUSK Marco Jacuta and I realized that this was the perfect opportunity to bridge some of the gaps that we have been struggling



Zenon Ciz and Marko Jacuta with CYM Uprava

with since SUSK’s reestablishment in October of 2007. Here were not only SUM members from around Canada, but from all corners of the world, making our hopes of creating an international network of students for SUSK affiliates to benefit from much more realistic. Discussing SUSK at a gathering of this magnitude would greatly increase awareness of our efforts among an otherwise unaware audience. Therefore, we scrambled to find a way out there while we still had the means to do so. In our presentation to the Sumivtsi, we addressed the particular shortcomings of our organization, and despite SUSK being in a revival process, we are playing to our particular strengths as a universal forum for all students to have their voices heard. It functions best when we are privy to as many opinions as possible from our fellow students.

To a great extent, our jaunt to Vancouver was successful, and not only because of the wonderful reception that we got from the Sumivtsi. Another one of our collective goals for the short term is to establish a student club on the other side of the mountains in British Columbia. SUSK’s western reach extends only as





far as Alberta, and speaking to Ukrainian students in Vancouver, we learned a real potential for an organized student establishment across the Rocky Mountains exists. Logistically, this is difficult because these students are so geographically removed from other Ukrainian activity, something that many of us cannot relate to because we live in such dense Ukrainian populations. What's more is that the students themselves are divided across the various universities in B.C., namely, Simon Fraser University, University of British Columbia, and Victoria University. Nonetheless, SUSK is actively encouraging those students to come together under our national umbrella, since there are a myriad of benefits at our disposal that they can utilize. Only time will tell if it's possible!

This is simply a small step in our earnest attempt to fulfill SUSK's ultimate mandate – to truly represent all students in Canada. Regardless of your background, values and experience, every Ukrainian student has a place in our network. All that SUSK asks in return is that you make your voice heard!



(Left to Right) Andrew Hladyshvsky (President - Taras Shevchenko Foundation) Marco Jacuta (President- 2009-2010 SUSK), Paul Grod (President - Ukrainian Canadian Congress), Daria Luciw (President - UCC Alberta Provincial Council)

Montreal's Hip Hop Hopak Outstanding Success

CUSU/MUSA Montreal: The first ever dance competition between break-dancing and Ukrainian dancing, called "Hip Hop Hopak" was held in Montreal on Saturday, March 27, 2010, as a fundraiser for Help Us Help The Children for orphan children in Ukraine. The event was organized by the Concordia Ukrainian University Students' Union (CUSU), the McGill Ukrainian Students' Association (MUSA) with the Ukrainian National Youth Federation (MYHO). Over 300 people attended.



CUSU, MUSA, UNYF student coordinators and volunteers of Hip Hop Hopak Fundraiser Photo Credit: Yurij Luhovy

The idea originated with CUSU Media Coordinator, Adriana Luhovy, who was always struck by some similarities in the dancing moves within the two different dance styles and thought it would be interesting to bring the two together.

The Shevchenko Foundation and Caisse Populaire Desjardins Ukrainienne de Montreal generously supported Hip Hop Hopak. Their





quick commitment and financial contribution permitted the students to begin planning. Two professional groups were invited to participate, The Syzokryli Dance Ensemble from New York, and the Montreal breakdancers The Deadly Venoms. Both groups have traveled extensively with their dancing. The Ukrainian National Federation provided the hall at no charge. The venue was so effectively transformed with light and sound equipment arranged by Stefan Usyk that the interior décor added a special atmosphere to the event. Free radio publicity was given by Simon Kouklewsky of “Ukrajins’kyj Chas” radio program. Also supporting, were Zytynsky Deli for discounted verennyky, and Holiday Inn Midtown Montreal.



*Hop Hopak DJ Andrij Kostiv, working throughout the night
Photo Credit: Yurij Luhovy*

The dance competition had various components, which included an opening group dance, followed by the “battle” or challenges by groups, or one on one, each dance group displaying their most creative and difficult steps. At the end of the competition part, each group tried to teach each other three different step combinations, as the audience watched. It was an outreach and blending of two different cultures and the close-

ness that was created between the two dance groups was visible. This spilled out into the audience and a wonderful, exciting atmosphere was created throughout the entire evening. The winner was chosen by a judging committee as well as, by audience vote conducted by means of two separate buckets passed around to toss in their coins. The bucket with the most money in the end, indicated audience winner choice. These contributions went towards the fundraising.



NYC Syzokryli Dance Ensemble performing opening number for Hip Hop Hopak fundraiser Photo Credit: Yurij Luhovy

The master of ceremonies throughout the evening, speaking interchangeably in Ukrainian, English and French, were Anastasia Kyva, a law student at the University of Montreal and Tanya Bednarczyk a public relations student at McGill University.

Many volunteers from CUSU, MUSA and UNYF worked tirelessly during the entire day to ensure all went smoothly. The main organizing committee included event co-ordinator and communications student Adriana Luhovy, with Alyssa Paterson, Artem Luhovy, Vivian Zabuga, Marta Cybulska, Vera Zabeida, Bohdan Koval, Olesya Akhtemiychuk, Tanya Bednarczyk and Anastasia Kyva who worked with great dedication to the event. Among the other





volunteers included Andrij Kostiv as DJ for the entire evening, Kalyna Franko, Stephan Mota, Ostap Lyakh and Nick Saldan. Art work on the Hip Hop Hopak theme was painted by Andrij Kostiv from Argentina now living in Montreal, Stephan Fydyshyn, and Oriana Iwaniuta of Paris now studying in Montreal. Their works were displayed in the main entrance. Also assisting was Mykhailo Zelman, UNF caretaker, who helped solve any unforeseen needs in setting up the event.



Breakdancers and Ukrainian dancers ending the night

Photo Credit: Yurij Luhovy

Besides co-ordinating the event, Adriana Luhovy designed the poster, tickets, prepared the Hip Hop Hopak program booklet, special award plaques for the various categories of participants including dancers awards, and a video clip on Youtube. The program booklet included information about the history of Ukrainian dance in Quebec from the 1920's which began with the arrival of dance instructor and choreographer Vasyl Avremenko from Kyiv to Canada. The evening was filmed by Concordia University Television (CUTV) and Troyanda.net.

Prior to Hip Hop Hopak, Vivian Zabuga, president of CUSU, organized the annual wine and

cheese with entertainment, which lasted until the beginning of Hip Hop Hopak. Also performing were the local Montreal Marunczak and Troyanka dance groups. During the evening, verenyky were sold as part of the fundraising and raffle prizes were arranged with gifts bought at discount prices at major outlets.



Breakdancer "Bboy Neeko", executing a difficult move, exciting the crowd

Photo Credit: Allison Home-Douglas

Every summer, university students from CUSU and MUSA volunteer to work with orphan children in Ukraine. Past participants included Johanna Paquin, Melania Czolij, Anna Shabotyn-





sky and Artem Luhovy from MUSA and Adriana Luhovy and Tanya Bednarczyk from CUSU. Comments following the event praised the project. The audience found it daring, as never before was such an idea conceived and so professionally executed by university student volunteers. Montrealers are still talking about it, while many others are posting their comments on facebook. It was a unique experience for all that attended the unforgettable event. Toronto is now planning to organize a similar event this coming fall. For more information refer to CUSU's website: <http://orgserver.csu.qc.ca/~cusucon/CUSU/Welcome.html>

From the Archives:

Program of the 16th Congress – Edmonton

Friday, August 29 – Monday, September 1, 1975

Friday, August 29, 1975

9:00AM – 12:00 PM Report of the outgoing executive: Myron Spolsky, President; Sheila Slobodzian, Western Vice-President; Jurij Fedyk, Secretary-Treasurer. Report of the Controlling Committee: Bohdan Krucko. Motion of confidence for outgoing executive.

1:30 PM – 3:00 PM Presentations of working papers: Multiculturalism: Myron Spolsky; Community Fieldwork: Bohdan Popowych; Human Rights: Anhelyna Szuch; Club Development: Sheila Slobodzian.

4:00 – 6:00 PM Seminars on working papers.

7:00 PM Barbeque and sing-along.

Saturday, August 30, 1975

9:00AM - 11:00AM Presentation of working

paper on "Student": Lubomyr Szuch.

1:00PM - 12:30 PM Panel Discussion: The Ukrainian Canadian Woman: speakers to be announced.

1:30PM - 2:30 PM SUSK and the Ukrainian Canadian Committee: Boris Howzdulych and Jurij Fedyk.

2:30 PM – 4:00 PM SUSK Constitution: Myron Spolsky.

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM Where do students go after SUSK: Dr. M. Lupul, Edmonton; Dr. J. Bachynski, Western Vice-President, Ukrainian Canadian Business and Professional Federation.

7:00 PM 16th SUSK Banquet and Dance: Executive House Motor Inn.

Sunday, August 31, 1975.

11:30 AM – 5:00 PM General discussion on reports; discussions and adoption of motions from working sessions; discussions of financial position; new directions: contacts with Ukrainian and non-Ukrainian organizations; Report of the Verification Committee; Report of the Nominations Committee.

5:00 PM – 5:30 PM Snack Break.

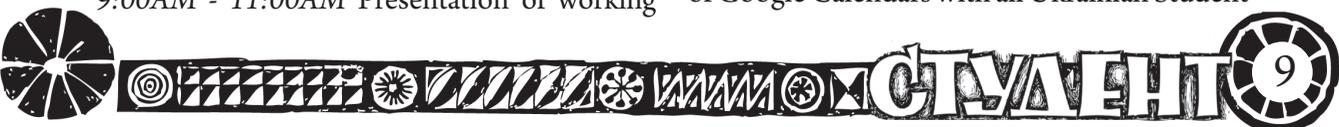
5:30 PM Unfinished business from previous session; election of new executive and editorial board; new business.

Monday, September 1, 1975.

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM Meeting of incoming and outgoing executives.

Looking for a good time?

Motivated by the resolutions at the Congress, the SUSK executive has set up and tested a set of Google Calendars with all Ukrainian Student





Organization events Canada-wide. Next time you are looking for something to do at your university, check out www.susk.ca/events.

The calendar shows Ukrainian student organizations have not been idle since the Congress. The largest recorded event was the McMaster Volleyball Tournament, held in Hamilton March 12-13, 2010. The same club also managed to put on a great dance performance at their university multicultural event, while other clubs organized a multitude of perogie making/selling events, pub nights, a bowling night and academic lectures.

Excerpts from Congress Resolutions (Goals of SUSK)

Resolution 3: BE IT RESOLVED that the incoming SUSK National Executive continue with the SUSK's "Student" digitization project.

Resolution 7: SUSK National Executive encourage Member Organization USO's to undertake to promote interest in Ukrainian studies through the organization of seminars, lectures, panels, and by other means available to them.

Resolution 8: BE IT RESOLVED that the SUSK National Executive make travel subsidies available for certain official SUSK Delegates for conferences and the Congress.

Resolution 9: BE IT RESOLVED that the incoming SUSK National Executive contact the former Member Organizations of CeSUS about the possibility of reorganizing an International

Ukrainian Students' Union and make CeSUS a viable organization in the future.

Resolution 10: BE IT RESOLVED that SUSK in cooperation with the Taras Shevchenko Foundation create a managed Contingency Reserve Fund to sustain the Ukrainian Canadian Students' Union.

Resolution 13: BE IT RESOLVED national improve communication between the SUSK Executive and member clubs, and among SUSK member clubs (by updating the website, including links to other clubs and a blog, distributing minutes and/or allowing auditing of executive meetings, and developing a national online calendar).

Resolution 16: BE IT RESOLVED SUSK coordinate Holodomor awareness nationally with SUSK Member Organizations.

Resolution 19: BE IT RESOLVED SUSK integrate recruitment with Ukrainian Youth Organizations (presentations, joint events, etc).

Resolution 20: BE IT RESOLVED SUSK develop a leadership program (possibly via regional SUSK conferences).

Resolution 21: BE IT RESOLVED SUSK publish a list of fundraising ideas, and events including contact information of the organizer of such events.





Resolution 22: BE IT RESOLVED a start up package (including information, flyers and a financial incentive) be prepared for new Ukrainian Student Organizations

**Wear your tryzub with pride!
Fundraising Initiative**



Two newly designed tryzub pendants are available for purchase. Each pendant is made of .925 Sterling Silver and features a raised tryzub with a decorative border on an antiqued background. A portion of all purchases will go to fund a Ukrainian Students club near you!

Contact your local Ukrainian Student Organization or
Myroslava Dubyk mdubyk@sympatico.ca

Mark Your Calendars!

XXIII Congress of Ukrainian Canadians
70th Anniversary of the UCC
November 5-7, 2010
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

Student newsmag was put together by:

Andrew Wodoslawsky, Content
Marta Iwanek, Editor
Orest Leschyshen, Layout

