

UKRAINIAN CANADIAN STUDENTS' UNION

СОЮЗ УКРАЇНСЬКОГО СТУДЕНТСТВА КАНАДИ

UNION DES ETUDIANTS UKRAINIENS CANADIENS

25th ANNIVERSARY



1953-1978

1978

Ukrainian Canadian University Students' Union

National Executive

11246-91 Street

Edmonton, Alberta

T5B 4A2

On the occasion of its 25th Anniversary, we wish to extend our congratulations to the Ukrainian Canadian University Students' Union (SUSK) for coordinating the work of Ukrainian student clubs across Canada. Ukrainian students have always been active in the community. We are sure that they will continue to do so in the future, and wish them every success.

Dr. Y. Darewych, member, Canadian Consultative Council on Multiculturalism.

Dr. M. Lupul, Director, Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies.

Dr. S. Radchuk, President, Ukrainian Canadian Committee.

Dr. P. Yuzyk, Senator, Parliament of Canada.

Centuries of Polish and Russian oppression once denied Ukrainians the fruits of knowledge. Education, therefore, was highly esteemed both as a means of improving oneself and as something obtained with difficulty. Moreover, education became the key to the Ukrainian national revival.

Knowledge was the means by which our people would lift themselves out of their quagmire, and students played an important role in the entire process.

Today, in Canada, our people have much greater access to education. Yet the importance of the students' role has not diminished. Students are constantly introducing new ideas and new strength into our communities, and in later walks of life they will become active members of the various organizations which support our national life.

The strength of the Ukrainian student movement in Canada and the support it receives is a good indicator of our community's health. After all, it is often students who test our ability to tolerate or make use of new concepts and methods.

The success of the Ukrainian student movement is based on two foundations. The first is the students themselves and their willingness to divert valuable time from their studies toward taking an active role in the community. The second is the amount of support — physical, financial, and moral — which our community can lend its students. While the latter may have rich, penetrating minds, they have but slim resources and limited practical experience.

I am glad to note that the Ukrainian Canadian Students' Union (SUSK) has had considerable support from both students and the community in the last twenty-five years. Because of this, we have been able to accomplish a great deal. We hope that such support will continue in the future and that SUSK will continue to play an important and vibrant role in the life of the Ukrainian-Canadian community.

Andrij Makuch, SUSK President, 1977-78

ORGANIZATION

SUSK is a non-profit, non-political coordinating national organization of Canadian university students of Ukrainian descent.

Membership in SUSK consists of Ukrainian clubs, associations, federations, etc. whose members are students of a Canadian university or other post-secondary institutions.

Contact with local club executives and members is maintained by means of newsletters, **Student** newspaper, club visitations by members of the SUSK executive, and regional conferences. The work of the past executive is examined and a new executive elected annually at a National Congress held near the end of the summer. Votes are assigned to club delegates on the basis of club membership and payment of membership dues. The Congress is the supreme legislating and guiding body of SUSK.

SUSK is a member of the Ukrainian Canadian Committee and of the World Congress of Free Ukrainians. It also maintains ties with CESUS (Central Union of Ukrainian Students) and Ukrainian student organizations throughout the world.

AIMS

To unite, assist and coordinate the activities of Ukrainian student organizations in Canada, and to facilitate cooperation among them.

To represent Ukrainian-Canadian students at various national and international, Ukrainian and non-Ukrainian forums.

To support and cooperate with all organisations, both Ukrainian-Canadian and non-Ukrainian-Canadian, in matters connected with the realization of a progressive multicultural and multilingual Canadian society.

To support and cooperate with those organizations, both Ukrainian-Canadian and non-Ukrainian-Canadian, in matters concerning the abrogation of human, civil, political, cultural and religious rights.

To organise, encourage, and sponsor conferences, congresses, tours, student exchanges, study groups, and exhibits which further the activities of SUSK.

To support Ukrainian-Canadian and Ukrainian studies at Canadian and other universities.

To encourage Ukrainian-Canadian students to become involved in the affairs of their community.

To publish a newspaper acting as a forum for the exchange of opinion and the development of a critical social and political analysis.

To support and cooperate with coordinating organisations of Ukrainian students outside of Ukraine.

To support and cooperate with the coordinating institutions of Ukrainian-Canadian public life.

To support institutions which promote the welfare and interest of Ukrainian students.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Ukrainian student activities in Canada date back to 1905, when the Ruthenian Training School was opened in Winnipeg to train English-Ukrainian bilingual teachers. The first official student association, however, was the Ukrainian Students' Club founded in Saskatoon in 1915. Other clubs were soon formed (often in association with "bursy" or boarding schools), in Winnipeg and Edmonton, and later student clubs were formed in smaller centres such as Dauphin, Yorkton, and Vegreville, and in eastern Canada (Montreal, Toronto, Kingston).

There was some cooperation between individual student clubs, and in 1927 a Central Council of Ukrainian Student Clubs (TUSK) was established; however, it encompassed only several student organisations. Likewise, in 1934 the Ukrainian Students' National Association was formed in an attempt to coordinate student life from a nationalist standpoint. The development of these coordinating bodies, however, was hampered by religious and political differences among Ukrainian student groups, and pressing socio-economic problems during the last few years of the Depression meant that almost all Ukrainian student activities were brought to a complete halt.

The Alpha Omega Society, a Ukrainian student organization at the University of Saskatchewan, did make a comeback in 1941, and in subsequent years Alpha Omega Societies were established at the Universities of Manitoba, Alberta, and British Columbia. Cooperation between these Alpha Omega Societies established the basis for closer and more permanent contacts, and in 1949 Isidor Hlynka and Paul Yuzyk laid the groundwork for a Ukrainian Students' Union by setting up a Central Committee of Ukrainian Canadian Students.

In the meantime, Ukrainian students then arriving from overseas were disappointed by the weak coordination among Ukrainian student organizations in Canada, and agreed that the establishment of a central executive for all Ukrainian student clubs was a priority. Bohdan Bociurkiw was active in promoting this idea, and proposed that an interim committee be established to prepare a constitution and rules and regulations for the first congress of a Ukrainian Canadian Students' Union. Vera Zarowski chaired this committee, and became the first president of the Union, commonly known as SUSK (*Soiuz Ukrainskykh Studentiv Kanady*), at its first Congress in Winnipeg on December 26-27, 1953. In attendance were delegates from Alpha Omega, Zarevo, Obnova, TUSM, CESUS, and student clubs in Montreal and Toronto.

Several articles in the 25th Anniversary issue of *Student* deal with the early period of SUSK's history. It is much easier to document SUSK activities from 1968 on, since *Student*, a newspaper for Ukrainian-Canadian students, has been appearing since that time.

The late sixties signified a period of greater community activism within

SUSK. This was sparked largely by the Tenth SUSK Congress in Vancouver in 1969, which was the first step forward in the creation of a genuine Ukrainian students' movement. Students were encouraged to abandon their "detached" positions, to play a more active role in community organizations, and to question some of the assumptions prevalent in the Ukrainian-Canadian community. Ideas and tactics were borrowed from the general student movement and applied to the Ukrainian student community. This led to the adoption of a fieldworker program, the proposal being that SUSK hire students and send them into various Ukrainian communities where they would live and encourage local students to become involved in the Ukrainian community and the issues it faced.

Beginning with the employment of one fieldworker in summer 1969, by summer 1971 SUSK had twenty students working on various projects within the Ukrainian community. These projects had a tremendous impact on the development of a more professional approach to organization in SUSK, and led to deeper thinking on a whole range of issues.

During the early seventies SUSK was active in mobilizing ethnic communities to demand that Canada be recognized as a multicultural country, in various media projects, and in defence of Ukrainian political prisoners. One of the great accomplishments of this period was the organization, in 1971, of a Ukrainian-Canadian Festival of the Arts held in Thunder Bay, where artists from across Canada met, discussed, and held seminars and workshops.

Since 1972-73 SUSK has assumed a somewhat lower profile. Some projects which have been undertaken in recent years include: CBC Action — designed to introduce multilingual broadcasting onto Canadian networks; support of and participation in hunger strikes and other actions in defence of Ukrainian political prisoners; and support for English-Ukrainian bilingual education programs in western Canada. SUSK has also continued to press for the realization of a progressive multicultural and multilingual Canadian society.

The national headquarters of SUSK, initially located in Winnipeg, Manitoba, shifted to Montreal in 1958 and to Toronto in 1960. In 1977 the headquarters were transferred to Edmonton, Alberta, reflecting the increasing activity of the Ukrainian community in that city. The SUSK priority for 1977-78 has been the regular publication of *Student*, and SUSK is continuing its activities in the areas of multiculturalism and support for English-Ukrainian bilingual education programs. It is currently engaged in a reevaluation of the role of students in the Ukrainian community. SUSK has also given as much support as possible to the work of the Canadian Institute of Canadian Studies, a coordinating body for Ukrainian studies in Canada established at the University of Alberta in 1976.

PRESIDENTS

1953-55	Vera Zarowski
1955-58	Vera Zarowski
1958-60	Leo Wynnyckyj
1960-60	Leo Wynnyckyj
1960-61	Roman Osadchuk
1961-63	George Borys
1963-66	Andrew Gregorovich
1966-68	Liubomyr Zyla
1968-69	Roman Serbyn
1969-70	Bohdan Krawchenko
1970-71	Marusia Kucharyshyn
1971-72	Marko Bojcun
1972-73	Andrij Semotiuk
1973-74	Yuri Dashko
1974-75	Myron Spolsky
1975-76	Sheila Slobodzian
1976-77	Marijka Hurko
1977-78	Andrij Makuch

MEMBER CLUBS

Vancouver	Alpha Omega (University of British Columbia)
Calgary	University of Calgary
Edmonton	University of Alberta
Saskatoon	University of Saskatchewan
Winnipeg	University of Manitoba
Toronto	University of Toronto
	Scarborough College
St. Catherines	Brock University
Guelph	University of Guelph
Hamilton	McMaster University
Waterloo	University of Waterloo
Kingston	Queen's University
Ottawa	Ukrainian Students' Federation of Ottawa (Carleton University, University of Ottawa, St. Paul University)

STUDENT

CANADA'S NEWSPAPER FOR UKRAINIAN-CANADIAN STUDENTS

Student is a trilingual monthly Ukrainian student newspaper published by the Ukrainian Students' Union. It first appeared in 1968 as a result of the program adopted by the 9th SUSK Congress. **Student** was assigned four major tasks:

- to provide information about the plans and activities of the SUSK executive;
- to provide information about the work of individual Ukrainian student clubs and their membership;
- to provide an analysis and critique of the social, religious, economic and political life of our community;
- to notify its readers of items that are of interest to them as students and as Ukrainian Canadians.

In its ten years of existence the various editors (or in some years editorial committees) of **Student** and their respective volunteer staffs have, with varying degrees of success, attempted to fulfill these objectives.

Although it is published under the auspices of SUSK and is responsible to the SUSK Congress, **Student** is an organ of neither. It is an independent newspaper. There is no censorship by SUSK and all points of view are welcome on its pages, even though these may not necessarily represent those of the editorial board. Four thousand copies per issue of **Student** are printed and distributed to Ukrainian communities in Canada, the United States, Europe, Australia, and South America.

Student's existence provides evidence of a strong urge on the part of young Ukrainian Canadians to continue to retain and develop their Ukrainian identity in a multicultural society. As such, **Student** is one of the most valuable projects SUSK has initiated. It can be viewed as an important historical document which not only reveals the attitudes, thoughts, aspirations and ideals of Ukrainian-Canadian students, but also demonstrates that, like the spoken word, the printed word can also be a carrier of culture.

STUDENT EDITORS

1968	Roman Serbyn
1969	Bohdan Krawchenko, Chrystia Chomiak
1970	Yury Boshyk
1970-71	Zenon Zwarych
1971-72	Irka Okipniuk
1972-73	Halya Kuchmij
1973-74	Myroslav Shkandrij
1974-75	Anhelyna Szuch
1975-76	Lubomyr Szuch
1976-77	Bohdan Kupycz
1977-78	Nestor Makuch

"During 1970, SUSK mounted a concerted campaign to mobilize grass-roots support, especially among the young and unorganized second- and third-generation Ukrainian Canadians, for the policy of multiculturalism, and to stimulate other ethnic groups to articulate their demands. With encouragement and support from the Department of the Secretary of State, it engaged some of its members as field workers and animators in different Ukrainian communities across Canada to organize a series of multicultural conferences, mostly at university campuses, to help focus public attention on the aspirations and demands of Canada's Ukrainian and other minority groups for governmental recognition and realization of their cultural-linguistic and social rights. In his 1972 paper on the "precarious situation" of Ukrainian Canadians, Professor Manoly Lupul of the University of Alberta evaluated highly the contribution of this "new and vibrant force" in spearheading an impressive assault on Ottawa:

The work of the students cannot be praised sufficiently. They had mastered some of the concepts and techniques of student power, two of which stood out: (1) the concept of community development to help the individual regain his dignity as a person; and (2) an audacity towards the powerful which even the latter could not help but admire"

Bohdan Bociurkiw, "The Federal Policy of Multiculturalism and the Ukrainian-Canadian Community," in Manoly R. Lupul, ed., **Ukrainian Canadians, Multiculturalism, and Separatism: An Assessment**, Edmonton, published by the University of Alberta Press for the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, 1978.