

CANADA-UKRAINE FOUNDATION FONDATION CANADA-UKRAINE КАНАДСЬКО-УКРАЇНСЬКА ФУНДАЦІЯ

A Message from the President of the Canada Ukraine Foundation

Dear Friends and Supporters of the Canada Ukraine Foundation,

As we approach the holiday season, it is my pleasure to give a brief update from the Canada Ukraine Foundation (CUF). It is my hope this update will remind you of the important role CUF plays in the Ukrainian Canadian community and overall supporting much needed projects and programs in Ukraine, give you a glimpse into how CUF is evolving, and motivate you to consider supporting CUF's continued work by making a donation today.

New faces on the CUF Board and Leadership Team

A year ago, CUF's board evolved and brought in several new faces, and I am delighted to have assumed the role of President partway through this year, at the AGM in June.

I have had the pleasure to work with many of you in the past. Some of our paths may have crossed as far back as my time with the Ukrainian Students' Club at U of T more than 20 years ago, or in various performing and leadership roles at the Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus of North America for over 3 decades. More recently, perhaps we collaborated during my time leading the committee in support of Ukrainian Schools at UCC Toronto and helping coordinate this key stakeholder group for UCC National. I have also had the privilege of serving on the Board of Directors of the Shevchenko Foundation over the past 5 years, contributing to the governance and nominating committee's accomplishments, as well as supporting important projects including: MITACS, The Tryzub Awards, and the REACH program.

I am excited about my new role with CUF and am honoured to help lead the organization over the next several years as President. **One of my early tasks in this role is to lead the creation of a new strategic plan to ensure CUF programs and projects are relevant in today's world, aligned to the needs of their recipients, and properly and appropriately coordinated as we play a lead role in the overall diaspora efforts in helping Ukraine.**

As I assume this role, it is my hope to bring my experiences from my professional career and my community involvement to build on CUF's reputation of excellence. Although there are new faces joining the board and assuming some of the leadership roles, we are blessed to have the support of not one, but three (!) former presidents of CUF on the board... a laudable example of dedication and care, as well as respect for the importance of institutional memory and succession planning. We are grateful to those who have come before us and those who continue to be involved in helping make CUF what it is today. What this means is that the executive will be steering the ship with the help of a strong and diverse board. I will also endeavour to support and enable the programming committees as they build, launch, and execute the identified priority programs to the best of my ability.

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Orest Sklierenko

President & CEO

In this issue of the CUF newsletter you'll find updates from:

- The Civil Society Committee and news of their endeavours in Ukraine to aid with flood relief
- The Education Committee with news on their partnership with Canadian and Ukrainian teachers through virtual means in the Covid era
- The Health Advisory Team and some newly implemented health initiatives from this year as well as
- The Holodomor National Awareness Tour Program, which has continued scaled back operations during the last year

Education Committee

It was another adventure for teachers in Canada working with their colleagues in Ukraine through Skype and ZOOM during the summer of 2020. With their counterparts in Ukraine, the Canadian teachers continued their creation and update of professional development programs for teachers in Ukraine during the summer.

Ukrainian-Canadian teachers, members of the Institute for Professional Development of Teachers with the Ukrainian World Congress, worked with partnered teachers in Ukraine to develop handbooks and other materials.

In previous years, the Canadian teachers came to Ukraine to hold summer courses certified and added to a Ukrainian teacher's qualifications. In 2019, as in prior years, the Canada-Ukraine Foundation made it financially possible for the Canadians to come to Ukraine. The Ukraine Boards of Education made it possible for all the local participants to be billeted and accommodated. The CUF courses were held in Lviv and Mukachevo.

Participation included 20 schools from the Lviv district, five schools from the Lviv region, and 17 schools from the Mukachevo-Transcarpathian school district. Each school sent a team of educators that included the principal, vice-principal in charge of student guidance, an elementary teacher, a science teacher, a language and literature teacher, a foreign language teacher, a mathematics teacher, and a school psychologist. In addition to the school-based teams, educational specialists from the Center of Educational Studies in Lviv and the Mukachevo Council of Education, Youth and Sport attended the courses.

The Institute of Professional Development, based in Toronto, Canada, has been collaborating with the Department of Humanitarian Affairs and the Department of Education of the Lviv City Council for 26 years. In 2019, the Institute collaborated for the first time with the Mukachevo City Council in the Transcarpathian Oblast.

Canadian team members were:

Summer Institute Director: Nadia Luciwi – Toronto

Principal's course: Bohdan Kolos – Toronto

Vice-Principal's course: Christina Yurchuk – Toronto

Elementary panel: Oksana Wynnickyj-Yusypovych – Lviv/Toronto

Ukrainian Language and Literature: Sophia Berezowsky – Toronto

School psychologists: Melania Kovaluk – Ottawa

Science: Borislav Bilash II – New Jersey / Winnipeg

Foreign languages: Iryna Perehinets – Toronto


Mathematics: Christine Zeltway – Toronto



The collaborative work goal was to prepare a new generation of teachers with a student-centred approach to teaching that fosters critical thinking and interactive, life-long creative learning.

During the first week of the Summer Institute in 2019, from July 1-5, 220 teachers and administrators from 25 schools from the Lviv region collaborated with their Canadian and Ukrainian colleagues and participated in workshops led by the Canadian and Ukrainian instructors.

In the second week of the Summer Institute, from July 8-12, 17 school-based teams, including 178 administrators, school psychologists and teachers from Mukachevo, participated in courses conducted by Canadian and Ukrainian educators. These

courses focused on innovative learning materials that allowed the teams to develop school-based action plans that ensure the New Ukrainian School curriculum's successful implementation. 

The CUF Civil Society Committee was formed as one of three programming committees to provide a framework for review and support of projects and programs that promote social justice and sustainable development in a free and democratic Ukraine. According to UNDP Ukraine, "A Civil society is a domain/area of social/civil relations beyond the household/family, state and business, where people get together to satisfy and/or promote joint interests and to defend common values."

Civil Society Committee

Our mission is to support, enable and empower individuals and organizations in Ukraine to implement just, transparent, inclusive and democratic national policies, in efforts to contribute to sustainable development and enhance a learning culture for a civil society.

During the pandemic our committee met through zoom to develop our charter and plan our activities for the next three years. We actively participated in CUF's Strategic Planning process to ensure that our committee's activities were aligned with CUF's overarching strategy. As part of our contribution to the Strategic Planning process, we invited a guest speaker from Ukraine, Natalia Nemyliwska, a Canadian-Ukrainian who has been living in Ukraine since 2004. Natalia is the Director of the Economic Prosperity and Investment Committee at the Ukrainian World Congress and headed the NATO Information and Documentation Centre in Kyiv from 2011-2017. Natalia's main areas of expertise include security and defence policy and strategic communication. Natalia updated our committee on the current status of civil society in Ukraine and provided insight into how we in the Canadian diaspora could contribute to their efforts.



Our work was impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic but we did not stop our efforts to provide support. In a collaborative effort with the Ukrainian Canadian Congress we were able to raise \$25K to support relief initiatives for residents affected by the devastating flooding of the Dnister, Prut and Cheremosh rivers. Partnering with Caritas we were able to provide building materials for the reconstruction and overhaul of flood damaged houses and their preparation for the upcoming winter. Household supplies and sanitary kits (bedding, cleaning supplies, medical masks, gloves and sanitizers) were some of the items provided to affected residents. 🇺🇦

From The Desk Of The Past President

Dear Donors and Friends of the Canada-Ukraine Foundation:

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

It is hard to believe that I have sent this greeting out for the past seven years. I first joined the Board of Directors of CUF in November 2013 and have served as President for six of them. What a time to take over! I will present in each future newsletter a snapshot of CUF's activities from 2013 to 2020 as they reflected my opening remarks at the 2012 AGM.

Here is an excerpt: "We, as individuals, a sector or society cannot be satisfied with business as usual. A review of literature about Not-for-Profit Organizations indicates a process of focussing on symptoms rather than on the underlying set of problems. In addition, it is developed in isolation rather than a part of an integrated system. The process is organized to administer a narrowly tailored program or benefit rather than generate a sustained, significant change in the person or community. As a result, change is incremental, not big enough to make a lasting and transformational impact. The result is often like filling the glass of water one drop at a time. Impact dissipates and evaporates, and the glass seems never to be more than half full. To solve big problems, we need strategies sufficient to fill the whole glass. To create transformational change, organizations must be willing to act as skeptics, questioning – often disrupting the norms among those affected and those who affect a social problem. Ultimately, the reason to disrupt the norms is to motivate a critical number of people to change their behaviour, leading to a new norm, and then advocate for standards or policies that can enforce the new norms. CUF 2.0 must have the courage to become that catalyst of change in Ukraine."

Since CUF was founded in 1995, we were going to recognize our 25th anniversary in 2020 with a gala event. Due to COVID-19, it will now be done virtually in 2021.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank personally all the Volunteer Directors of the Canada-Ukraine Foundation who worked with me these past six years. In particular, a shout out to Oleg Holowaty who filled the positions of Secretary and Treasurer simultaneously all six years. I could not have done my role without his steady patient backup. Thank you, Oleg!

The hard work of CUF over 25 years was recognized by the Ukrainian Canadian Congress with the Taras Shevchenko Medal Award for Community Development at the Ottawa AGM in 2019. It was an honour to share the ceremony with the first CUF President – Dr. Roman Petryshyn.

I was surprised to receive the first CUF Distinguished Service Award this June for my efforts. Thank you, Bohdan Onyschuk, for taking the lead.

I welcome the new Directors and Executive to further exciting challenges ahead in our programming for development in Ukraine.

In closing, on behalf of the Board of Directors and the actual recipients of the CUF programs, I would like to sincerely thank each Donor – without you – there would have been no success or hope of a better future for the thousands we touched over the years.

Stay Safe,
Victor Hetmanczuk
Христос Раддається! 🇺🇦



Health Advisory Team

The Canada-Ukraine Foundation's (CUF) Health Advisory Team (HAT) aims to be the partner of choice for Ukrainian healthcare institutions, NGOs, and various levels of government health ministries to build capability and capacity within Ukrainian healthcare systems and communities. Through CUF supported and sponsored programs and projects, we promote health by enabling organizations, healthcare practitioners and healthcare promotion advocates to improve the healthcare in the communities that they serve.

The Health Advisory Team was responsible for supporting and implementing a number of critical health initiatives in 2019-2020. Through its collaborations, partnerships and initiatives it was able to bring such programs as the Sunnybrook Ukraine Surgical Educational initiative formalized in September 2019, to hospitals in Lviv, Ukraine.

This three-year initiative partners the Sunnybrook Health Science Centre (through the support of the Sunnybrook Foundation and its donors, in particular, the Temerty Foundation and Ihnatowycz Foundations), Canada-Ukraine Foundation, and three hospitals in Lviv to provide education and training to medical specialists in Ukraine. Dr. Oleh Antonyshyn leads a team of surgeons, anesthesiologists and nurses in providing education and training to medical specialists in Ukraine in the fields of microsurgery, craniofacial reconstruction and upper extremity reconstruction.

The program is delivered through advisory missions, live surgery demonstrations, and focused symposia, workshops and educational observerships. The first mission was conducted in October 2019 with a team of six specialists. The Canadian team together, with their Ukrainian colleagues completed a total of 25 surgical procedures on patients ranging from 9 to 65 years of age. As part of the program, 138 participants, from various disciplines and from all parts of Ukraine participated in a nationwide symposium covering topics in craniofacial surgery and microsurgery organized by the Canadian team. In addition to the training provided, 460kg of medical equipment and supplies valued at \$250,000 CAD was left at the hospitals for their use.



Around the globe, the pandemic is first and foremost on everyone's mind, but the ongoing war with Russia in Eastern Ukraine isn't far from our thoughts. The war has left thousands of Ukrainian Veterans with physical and mental trauma that the country's health system is trying to treat. Through a generous donation by the Dnipro Cultural Centre Oshawa Fund, CUF was able to support the psychological treatment of 50 female veterans and soldiers at The Center of Psychological Counseling & Traumatherapy "Open Doors". At the start of the project, the mental health specialists at The Open Doors Center in Kyiv provided in-person treatment to the patients, but with the pandemic, they were able to adapt to the restrictions and provide on-line services as well as treatment in the military hospital for those hospitalized.



Health Advisory Team

The novel coronavirus pandemic disrupted plans to launch the second mission but work is on-going to develop the initiative and implement new programs.

The pandemic restrictions brought to light other needs that CUF was able to address and support. At the start of the quarantine almost 50,000 children were sent home from orphanages “Internaty” to their biological families who were ill-equipped to welcome their children home. CUF in cooperation with Help Us Help and supported by Ukrainian Canadian Congress and MEEST and in partnership with the Ombudsman for Children with the President of Ukraine provided food and hygiene kits to 250 families in the Zhytomyr Oblast whose children were sent home due to the pandemic.

The ultimate goal of the project was to help facilitate deinstitutionalization reforms in the country that will ensure every child grows up with their family or in a similar family-like setting. 🇺🇦



Holodomor Update

The 2020 COVID-19 pandemic has brought many changes to how organizations operate, and the Holodomor National Awareness Tour has seen its share of the change. Being a hands-on entity where visiting schools and hosting community events is a vital component of our work, we had to adapt to a larger on-line presence during these unprecedented times while the Holodomor Mobile Classroom awaits the clearance to be on the road once again.

Even though our monthly social media themed posts have a strong following, we needed to create something larger. One question often heard from students, teachers and the public is - “Why haven’t we heard about the Holodomor?” This is where our global campaign to have the word “Holodomor” added to dictionaries started. We created the “DeepTruth” (www.deeptruth.ca) campaign which used DeepFake technology to reveal the truth of former Soviet Leader Joseph’s Stalin role in the Holodomor, the goal being to have the word “Holodomor” added to English language dictionaries. We launched a petition on Change.org (<http://chnng.it/tbB7LJNZt5>) to have the word added into major-English language dictionaries and now have over 36,000 signatures from over 120 countries and counting. We have reached out to several major English language dictionaries requesting them to add “Holodomor” into their dictionaries.

Not being able to visit schools to engage students with our interactive lessons on board the Holodomor Mobile Classroom, we restructured our lessons so that they can be accessible to students on-line and still give students an introduction to the Holodomor. We are finalizing one of our lessons and hope to have it available to students and teachers in the new year. This element of on-line learning has added a further outreach to Holodomor awareness and education.

We look forward to once again being able to travel across Canada engaging students, teachers and Canadians about the Holodomor. From everyone at the Holodomor National Awareness Tour we wish you all the best for the holidays, a Merry Christmas and a healthy 2021. 🇺🇦



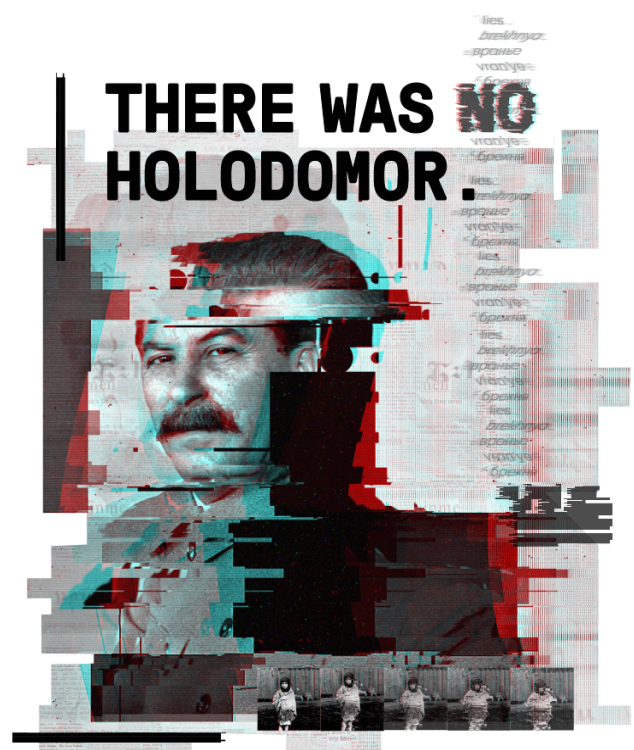
Holodomor Update

Holodomor Museum in Kyiv

In 2019, together with the Ukrainian World Congress the Canada-Ukraine Foundation joined the fundraising campaign started by the International Charitable Foundation for the Development of the Holodomor Victims Memorial, intending to raise funds for the second phase of the National Museum of the Holodomor Genocide in Kyiv, Ukraine.

Phase two of the project involved building out the memorial into a more fully featured museum, where the Government of Ukraine was responsible for the construction of the building, while the interior of the museum, including the main permanent exhibit and endowment fund, were the responsibility of the International Charitable Foundation for the Development of the Holodomor Victims' Memorial. The permanent exposition is intended to be designed jointly by world renowned museum design firms Haley Sharpe Design and Nizio Design International.

As of January 2020, work on the museum has progressed, with the artificial slopes and earthwork well underway, and other preparatory work being completed as well. Architectural designs for the elevator leading from the memory hall to the future museum building has been approved. Contracts approving the museum's design documents as well as the pedestrian bridge crossing Dniprovskyi Uzviz have been completed as well.



HELP US END NEARLY A CENTURY OF DENIAL, COVERUP,
AND LIES ABOUT THE HOLODOMOR GENOCIDE.
SIGN THE PETITION TO GET THE WORD 'HOLODOMOR'
INTO THE DICTIONARY AT [DEEPRTRUTH.CA](https://www.deeprtruth.ca)



#DEEPTRUTH CAMPAIGN

In 2020 the Holodomor National Awareness Tour put together an awareness campaign to inform the public of the 90 year-old fake news that has been spread without contention on the Holodomor itself, and the individual behind it: Joseph Stalin. Using deepfake technology, HNAT has revived Stalin using rare colour film footage in the video, where the Soviet dictator's features have been painstakingly mapped onto the face of a modern-day actor. In the video, Stalin lays claim to his right to be credited as the true originator of Fake News by denying the Holodomor and concealing the mass genocide of millions of Ukrainian men, women, and children. **an**

Sign the petition to get the word Holodomor included in all major English dictionaries:

holodomortour.ca/petition

Continued from front page

The Pandemic

As you know, in March, everything ground to a halt. The board called a snap meeting and decided to postpone all CUF-related travel until at least labour day. That was subsequently extended to end 2020 and beyond.

We need to recognize that many among us experienced a significant increase in workload in both professional and home schedules despite being home-bound through much of the ongoing pandemic. However, we have found a way to get it done...in many instances with the support of our partners, parents, children, and grandchildren. **And it is those youngest members of our community who have had to be the most resilient through this, those who unfortunately will be paying for this the longest, and at the end of the day, the reason we do what we do here at CUF. This is not "our foundation". Today's leadership is merely helping hand CUF over from those who made it what it is today, to the generations who follow us, who will make it greater than any of us would have ever imagined.**

Times of crisis bring out the best in people and the worst in people. At times of crisis we see some leaders shine while others crumble or fade into obscurity. We see evil thrive while good must galvanize to resist it. The need for the good work accomplished by our projects is greater than ever, and the external environment in which we must operate is more complex than ever. Although slowing and delaying some CUF programs and projects, the pandemic did present opportunities for launching and partnering on new projects which emerged from needs stemming from the pandemic. These projects are highlighted in this newsletter and in other stories/posts you can find at our website: www.cufoundation.ca and on our social media channels.

CUF Evolution

The pandemic also offered an opportunity to evolve CUF, do some housekeeping, and take advantage of being homebound. We focused on refreshing the strategic plan and I'd like to commend the board for their commitment over an extensive process, four planning sessions, three working sessions, 8 guest speakers and over 400 total man-hours spent between early July and October. A summary of the outputs of this process, CUF's strategic direction over the next 3-5 years, will be included in a separate post on our website.

In short, internally we will focus on capacity building and the requisite fundraising, improving communications and board engagement & succession planning. We have also identified external opportunities to expand collaboration, streamline the project funding process and leverage technological support across all our projects and programs. Finally, we have also started work on evolving our technological capabilities, our communications with stakeholders, and our financial systems and processes, so in short, lots of work underway...stay tuned!

As a part of our evolution, it is our intention to have more regular communications with our ever-growing pool of stakeholders. As such, you will see a CUF newsletter coming several times a year, with regular social media posts profiling key projects and programs, partner organizations and board members, as well as key events, commemorations, anniversaries, and milestones.

We thank you for your support over 25 years and look forward to your continued support over the next 25. Please visit www.cufoundation.ca to make a donation today.

On behalf of the leadership team of the Canada Ukraine Foundation, please accept our most sincere wishes for a safe, happy, and healthy holiday season, and a blessed, prosperous, and joyous 2021.

Христос раждається! Славимо Його!

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Orest Sklierenko
President, Canada-Ukraine Foundation

What You Can Expect In Future Newsletters

The purpose of these ongoing newsletters will be to keep you, our friends and supporters, up to date and in the know of our ongoing operations throughout the year. This newsletter will showcase the programs we work hard to put into action, and to give you a firsthand look at their impact! You can expect each newsletter to feature stories from our programming committees, highlighting progress made, as well as new projects we've started!

We hope you've enjoyed this first look at the inner workings of CUF, your support of and participation in our programs allow us to further our cause and continue expanding the reach and scope of the work we're able to do.

The Canada-Ukraine Foundation was presented with the 2019 Shevchenko Medal Award for community development at the XXVI Triennial Congress of Ukrainian Canadians held November 1-3, 2019.



SUPPORT THE CANADA-UKRAINE FOUNDATION

Your donation ensures our programs and committees receive the funding they need to provide life-changing aid to Ukraine. We appreciate any support for the continuing work of the Canada-Ukraine Foundation in delivering assistance projects, especially during these troubled times.

Donate online at:

www.cufoundation.ca/donate

Donate by mail:



Make your cheque out to:
"Canada-Ukraine Foundation"

If you would like to specify to which project you'd like to make a donation, please indicate so in the memo line.

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