

CANADA-UKRAINE FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER



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A Message from CUF's President & CEO, Orest Sklierenko



(from left to right): Orest Sklierenko, President and CEO of CUF, Major (Retired) Oksana Kuzyshyn, COO at CUF, and Doug Ettinger, President and CEO of Canada Post. Canada Post has issued a fundraising stamp that gives Canadians a way to support Ukrainians. Funds raised through the purchase of this stamp will be distributed through the Canada-Ukraine Foundation. Photo: Denis Drever.

Slava Ukraini!

Dear friends and supporters of the Canada-Ukraine Foundation,

Our world changed overnight on February 24th when Russian missiles hit countless cities across Ukraine. Despite the initial shock, the assistance provided through

the Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal was immediate – our first shipment of food boxes and medicine was delivered to Ukraine on the fourth day of the full-scale invasion. This swift response would not have been possible without the 27-year history of CUF, the long-standing devotion of its members, and its strong ties with partners in Canada, Ukraine, and its western neighbours.

In the days, weeks, and months that followed, we saw an overwhelming outpouring of support from across Canada. I am beyond thankful for everyone who donated, volunteered, organized fundraisers, and raised awareness for Ukraine over the past months. I'm also very grateful to all our CUF members and dedicated supporters for your continuous efforts, sacrifices, time, and energy! Everyone's generous support and commitment enabled the Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal to deliver aid and assistance – both in Ukraine and to Ukrainians who have sought refuge in bordering countries and in Canada.

Helping with this type of humanitarian catastrophe aligns with CUF's founding mission; the pieces put in place by those who came before us enabled us to become the recognized appeal endorsed by the entire Ukrainian Canadian community. The support of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress and CUF's track record of delivering aid are two key reasons for that recognition. CUF was a known entity to just a few thousand people at the start of this year, but in the past five months, our brand has touched hundreds of thousands, if not millions. CUF has been here for Ukraine for almost 30 years and will be here as long as we are needed; due to Russia's continued assaults on Ukrainian cities and the growing demand for humanitarian aid, this need will extend far into the future. We must all keep moving forward to continue to deliver much needed humanitarian relief, including:

- Emergency food, hygiene kits, and medicine
- Support for displaced Ukrainian families in Canada
- Medical support for the Ukrainian healthcare system
- Education-related support; and a myriad of other projects

This crisis is an opportunity to galvanize our community, CUF in particular. Our hard work in defining and pursuing our strategic objectives – fundraising, expanding our presence on the ground in Ukraine, and developing smart partnerships, as well as shoring up governance and financial oversight, and building out the office – is paying off. We are accelerating our progress despite the war, and in the face of all those who would like to see us falter.

I would like to take a moment and thank the three departing directors: Tania Melnyk, Boris Kishchuk and Bob Onyschuk as they retire from the board, and express my gratitude for their commitment and exceptional contributions to shaping the foundation to what it is today. At the recent Annual General Meeting of the Canada-Ukraine Foundation, we welcomed three new member organization representatives replacing their predecessors and six new independent directors, strengthening CUF's skillset in the areas of governance, healthcare, and education (the new directors are named in a separate column in this newsletter). These additions result in a 10% increase on the board and a 25% turnover of directors from three years ago. These actions demonstrate a thoughtful and deliberate balance between ensuring a continuous strengthening of core skills and a renewal of energy and ideas to CUF, while ensuring continuity of projects and preservation of institutional memory combined with sound governance and financial oversight.

I am also pleased to announce our newly formed Medical Advisory Committee – a team of Ukrainian-Canadian doctors (and Canadians who are friends of Ukraine) from across Canada, representing a multitude of specialties. The committee will act as subject matter experts, advising the Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal (UHA) committee and CUF's own Healthcare Advisory Team on proposals for medical support during the humanitarian crisis and into the future. Thank you to Dr. Michelle Hladunewich, MD, BSc(Med), MSc, FRCP, Chief of Medicine at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre, who will serve as a lead of this committee.

We welcome the new directors as well as the members of the Medical Advisory committee to our Foundation's ever-growing community. With these professionals joining CUF's family, we will be able to respond to growing critical humanitarian needs with renewed energy and extensive expertise.

Finally, we must acknowledge the hard work of everyone involved in delivering CUF's mission on a daily basis: our staff, summer students, countless volunteers, and our volunteer directors from across Canada. A special note of gratitude to our office staff – Julia, Marianna, Ksenia, Solomiya, and Sofia – who tie everything together and

are the true heart and soul of the Canada-Ukraine Foundation.

I am honoured to work with such an amazing group of people, and look forward to continuing to deliver many great things together.

Heroyam slava!!!

Orest Sklierenko
President & CEO
Canada-Ukraine Foundation

CUF Welcomes New Directors to Its Board!

At CUF's Annual General Meeting, held on June 4, 2022, CUF welcomed three new representatives of our member organizations as directors:

1. Help Us Help – Tamara Bolotenko
2. Ukrainian Canadian Social Services – Anna Semotiuk
3. Ukrainian Self-Reliance League of Canada – Darcia Moskaluk-Rutkay

Also elected at the AGM were six new independent directors:

1. Christine Brezden-Masley (Ontario)
2. Ulana Kawun (Ontario)
3. Ihor Kruk (Alberta)
4. Lubomyr Markevych (Alberta)
5. Alla Nedashkivska (Alberta)
6. Katrusia Smolynec (Quebec)

We welcome all new directors and wish them well as they join CUF in the midst of the current humanitarian crisis and use their skills and perspectives to further CUF's mission and expand its impact in the months and years ahead.

CUF-UCC Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal

Victor Hetmanczuk, Chair

July 27th marked six months since the Canada-Ukraine Foundation (CUF) and the Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC) launched the Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal, a

source of humanitarian relief created to help Ukrainians during Russia's invasion. Thanks to generous support from across Canada, this Appeal has received \$42 million in donations to date and has already committed and distributed \$15.5 million, with a dedicated committee working harder than ever before to allocate the funds to areas with important and immediate impact.

Also, as thousands of Ukrainians arrived in Canada fleeing the war, the Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal pivoted to provide additional support within Canada's borders. With the intention of facilitating settlement in Canada, a parallel fund called the Displaced Ukrainians Appeal was created. Its first project, launched on May 28th, was carefully designed to support the mental and physical wellbeing of those most vulnerable during wartime: children. Today, the Ukrainian Canadian Summer Camp Support Program covers the cost for displaced Ukrainian children across Canada to attend summer camps run by Ukrainian Canadian organizations. Additionally, the Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal helped sponsor a Plast summer camp in Poland, which hosted children displaced as a result of Russia's invasion.

As the second half of this year begins, the Canada-Ukraine Foundation would like to express gratitude to all its generous donors who enable CUF to execute its mission, while also acknowledging that there is still a dire need to support the Ukrainian community both overseas and here in Canada.

In summary, as of July 1, 2022, The Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal:

1. Delivered food boxes to 130,000 families in Ukraine in 21 oblasts
2. Purchased 3 months of medicine for 100,000 people
3. Sent the first shipment of 140 MT of buckwheat seed to Ukraine for planting this year
4. Delivered 160 pallets of hospital equipment/medical supplies throughout Ukraine, including 7 pallets of Individual First Aid Kits (IFAKs)
5. Completed two evacuation flights for children with brain cancer to SickKids Hospital, Toronto
6. Arranged for training psychologists in Ukraine to treat the mental health of 5,000 patients
7. Set up funding for 2,000 displaced children in Ukrainian-operated summer camps in Canada
8. Delivered 8,000 food boxes in Moldova and 3,000 food boxes in Romania to displaced persons' families

CUF's Partners over the Years

As the war approached, our Health Advisory Team gathered a list of Institutions and Organizations that CUF had worked with in the health field since 2014. This list was prioritized at the time the screening of health-related projects applications began.

Canada

- Ministry of Health Canada
- Ontario Ministry of Health
- Sunnybrook Hospital – Medical missions – Training of surgeons
- HPIC – Health Partners International of Canada – Drug donations
- Queen's University – CIMVHR (Canadian Institute for Military and Veteran Health Research)
- Plexxus – Ontario Hospital Health Care Supply Chain

USA

- AUMF – American Ukrainian Medical Foundation
- UMANA – Ukrainian Medical Association of North America
- Project CURE – Donations of hospital equipment

Ukraine

- Ministry of Health – International procurement of health supplies
- Military Hospitals: Kyiv, Odesa, and Lviv – Medical missions – Training of surgeons
- Ternopil National Medical University – Nurses training
- Initiative E+ (Kyiv) – Medical equipment
- Open Doors (The Center of Psychological Counseling and Trauma Therapy), Kyiv
- Lviv Territorial Medical Union (3 Hospitals) – Hospital equipment and supplies
- Dzhereho Children's Rehabilitation Centre (Lviv)
- AICM Ukraine (Association Internationale de Coopération Médicale) – French/Ukrainian NGO
- WHO Health Cluster – Weekly updates on situation in Ukraine
- Ukrainian Christian Medical Fellowship (Family Doctors) – Continuous development training

CUF Delivered Dialysis Machines to Hospitals in Ukraine



The Ukrainian people continue their heroic defence of their homeland from Russia's genocidal war. The humanitarian situation in Ukraine is critical and the needs are immense. According to the UN, 15.7 million people are in need. Thanks to the generous support and commitment of our donors, the Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal was able to deliver aid and assistance – both in Ukraine and to Ukrainians who have sought refuge in bordering countries. CUF continues to assist the currently strained healthcare sector in Ukraine at this critical time of need. One successful project started when Gad Acosta, a senior technologist at the University Health Network recognized that a substantial quantity of medical equipment that was being retired by the hospital system but in excellent condition could be made available to other countries where such equipment is badly needed. He and his colleagues were instrumental in setting up the Ontario Surplus Hospital Equipment Network (OSHEN) program. Through this program, CUF secured 17 dialysis machines and three reverse osmosis machines, all in excellent working order, that were made available by the Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre. The machines were shipped to Lviv and were distributed among three hospitals, including a children's hospital, greatly expanding the existing dialysis program in the city. Although this project was initiated a few months before the full-scale Russian-led war in Ukraine broke out, the dialysis machines now also have the potential to serve the internally displaced persons with end-stage kidney disease, who otherwise may not have had any access to treatment at all. A big thank you goes out to two senior dialysis technologists at Sunnybrook, Tim Wu and Colville Chin-Lyn, who recognized CUF as a reputable recipient and ensured a very smooth transfer of the machines to Meest.

CUF Supports Dzherelo Children's Rehabilitation Centre

Bohdan Kolos, Chair of the Education Committee

"At some point, we realized that there was no one else to help them except us. So, we continued to do what we did best before the war – help children and persons with disabilities." Those were the words of Zoreslava Liulchak, Director of Dzherelo Children's Rehabilitation Centre in Lviv as she explained the recent work of her Centre.

From the first days of the Russian invasion, the rehabilitation centre "Dzherelo" continues to actively help persons with disabilities escaping the war zone. Since February, Dzherelo's dedicated staff has accepted over 300 people for temporary residence and provided rehabilitation services to over 500 displaced persons. Two of the Centre staff members are currently fighting on the front lines, and their team continues the work supporting and caring for the children and youth with disabilities, so that they can lead a decent life surrounded by their families.

Dzherelo has been providing rehabilitation services for almost 30 years; the benefits of early intervention at a very young age are evident, as are the positive changes for young adults up to 45 years of age if they can visit their individual programs.

On February 26th, Dzherelo began welcoming families with children with special needs and housing them in the guest rooms repurposed once the war broke when the need for them arose. This was done to help the families fleeing heavy shelling and give them a chance to figure out their next steps – seek refuge abroad or try and find a safer place in Western Ukraine.

In the last five months, 300 people found refuge at Dzherelo's temporarily set-up shelters at all five branches. A volunteer team was quickly organized to stay on rotation at the central Lviv train station to coordinate getting arriving families to those shelters 24/7.

Dzherelo sought to source critical supplies for the children and families under their care. People were in need of hygiene items and medicine. Dzherelo turned to their overseas partners – Canada-Ukraine Foundation, Meest, and Druzi Dzherela for help. With their support, Dzherelo Centre was able to provide

much needed assistance and establish a continuous supply of medications.

Ukraine will prevail!



Zoreslava Liulchak, Director of Dzhirelo Children's Rehabilitation Centre in Lviv, was awarded the Order of Princess Olga III class, for her personal merits in the sphere of education and other social activities. Congratulations!

CUF Education Committee

Bohdan Kolos, Chair of the Education committee

During the best of times, being a good teacher is demanding; during wartime, it is much more difficult, if not near impossible.

Under these conditions, the Summer Institute 2022 in Ukraine, funded by the Canada-Ukraine Foundation over the years, continued the tradition of providing in-service training to teachers to improve their knowledge and experience.

During the first weeks of July, teachers from Canada and Ukraine volunteered to continue their updating of teaching manuals for educators in Ukraine. This ongoing process has been taking place for almost thirty years under the auspices of the Education Coordinating Committees of the Ukraine World Congress, the Ukrainian Canadian Congress, and with the financial support and assistance from the Canada-Ukraine Foundation.

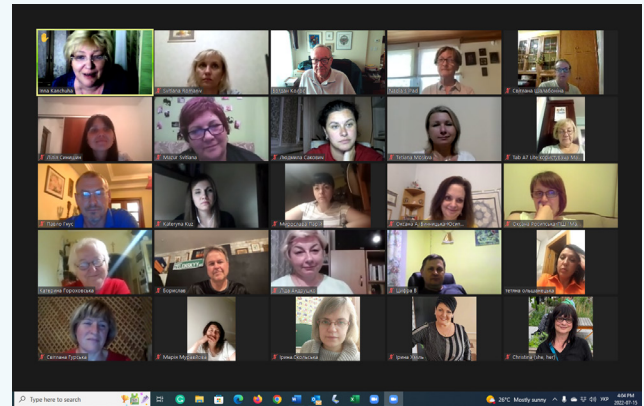
Though acknowledging that in-person meetings are greatly preferred, this year, during the springtime, the educators from Canada, Lviv, and Mukachevo gathered online through Zoom. The final summary meeting took place in early July. The meeting included dignitaries, such that the teachers could share their outcomes with Andriy Sadovyi, Mayor of Lviv, Natalia Pipa, member of Ukraine's Parliament (Rada), and Oksana Wynnnycky-Yusupovych, Canada's Honorary Consul in Ukraine.

Twenty-five minutes into the call, the screaming sirens

went off, indicating incoming air danger. Twenty-five participants broke off to take refuge in the underground shelters. In Lviv, the sirens were still blaring an hour later. The participants were persistent, and after an hour's break, they regrouped as the sirens stopped. The teachers then returned to Zoom and continued their presentations. They were not going to let the incoming danger fold their enrichment program. It was almost midnight in Lviv when the presentations were finished.

The CUF Education Committee has reviewed funding applications for computers, hardware, and software for universities and schools in the Ukraine war zones. There have been some infrastructure applications as well. All these requests would be valuable in regular times. The question remains whether to consider supplying new equipment during the war.

Proposals are also being considered for support to internally displaced refugees, as well as those refugees who have left Ukraine. There is some discussion on how to help those who wish to continue their studies in Canada. All these options are currently under review, and we will provide updates on any developments in the next issue.



Holodomor National Awareness Tour

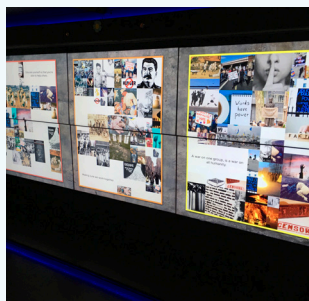
By Roma Dzerowicz

The war in Ukraine has many parallels to the Holodomor genocide of 1932–1933, and as such has created great interest in bookings of the Holodomor National Awareness Tour for both schools and community events. Since April 2022, the Holodomor Mobile Classroom has been on the road visiting schools, presenting its interactive lessons to students, and receiving very positive feedback and many notes of appreciation for raising awareness about this genocidal famine. In this brief period, we have visited 27 schools engaging 1889

students and educators and attended 14 community events engaging 699 persons.

We are now on our summer tour to communities in Ontario. A first for the Holodomor National Awareness Tour was an invitation to attend the Mariposa Folk Festival and take part in their Community Village. Although we talked to and showed our documentaries to several hundred people throughout the weekend, everyone who entered the festival grounds could not help but see the Holodomor Mobile Classroom as they entered because we were parked at the only entrance gate to the event. Thank you, Mariposa Folk Festival! Our community engagements will continue throughout the summer. Follow us on Facebook and Twitter to stay updated and join us at our next stops.

The Canada-Ukraine Foundation gratefully acknowledges the financial support of the Province of Ontario to educate students and the public about the effects and consequences of hate, bullying, discrimination, and intolerance through the lens of the Holodomor genocide, and to uphold the values of freedom and democracy to ensure the continuation of these fundamentals in our society for generations to come.



CUAET Visa Help Centre

Dana Bagan, Chair of the Health Advisory Team

In the month of June, I had the privilege of assisting Ukrainian refugees in Poland with their Canadian visa applications. The Canada Ukraine Authorization for Emergency Travel (CUAET) visa program has been in place for Ukrainian citizens who would like to come to Canada since early spring 2022. Katrusia Smolynec and Nestor Lewyckij of Ukrainian National Foundation of Montreal, supported by CUF, recognized the complexity of this visa application process and worked to create a mission in Warsaw to help Ukrainians refugees there better understand this program. The "help centre" consisted of a rotating schedule of two Canadian volunteers who were available during regular business hours to complete the forms, set up biometrics appointments, and provide information on services the refugees could expect to receive in Canada. In addition, information about life in Canada was provided along with some basic resource materials. All the volunteers I spoke to and worked with agreed that this mission was a very worthwhile endeavour and filled a gap in the services offered to refugees. The volunteers felt rewarded knowing that they were able to facilitate the very weighty decision that the refugees were making in deciding to come to Canada.



Introducing Summer Students and New Employees

The Canada-Ukraine Foundation welcomes its 2022 summer students through the Canada Summer Jobs (CSJ) program. This program, designed by the Government of Canada, provides flexible and holistic services to help all young Canadians develop their skills and gain paid work experience to successfully transition into the labour market.

Meet our summer students:

Solomiya Sharun is a recent Masters' graduate in Development Studies at York University. Solomiya has a strong ability to analyse issues from a variety of perspectives and understands social issues. Inspired by Canada's international gender strategies aimed towards women's inclusiveness in trade and the prevalence of traditional gender business stereotypes in Ukraine, her research focused on the efficacy of foreign agricultural projects on women's empowerment in farming in Ukraine. Solomiya has been CUF's long-term volunteer and is excited to be working with CUF again as our **Fundraising, Grant Preparation & Office Administration Assistant**.



Ksenia Belanger is an undergraduate student pursuing a degree in Psychology at the University of British Columbia. She possesses effective communication and creative thinking skills while applying an interdisciplinary approach to her work and education. Ksenia started her career by volunteering over one hundred hours to coach children's soccer and she is eager to continue working to support her community as a **Communications Assistant** with the Canada-Ukraine Foundation. Above all, she is excited to support the Foundation's Humanitarian Appeal and strengthen her connection to her Ukrainian heritage and community.

Meet our new part- and full-time team members:

Sofia Bilinska is an undergraduate student pursuing a BSc in Mathematics at the University of Toronto. She has an extensive history of working for NGOs, community organizations, and private projects that support Ukraine. She's extremely dedicated to her work, and she intends to continue to incorporate support for the Ukrainian community in her long-term career. Sofia has joined the CUF team as an **Administration Assistant**.



Marianna Kaminska has joined the CUF team as our Communications **Coordinator and Projects Administrator**. She will be reporting to our president/CEO Orest Sklierenko and COO Oksana Kuzyshyn. Marianna will be leading communication efforts and providing administrative support to Medical & Settlement Advisory Committees, as well as the Executive Committee.

Marianna comes to us with extensive experience in both Council and Committee work. She has served as a public appointee on the Council of the College of Midwives of Ontario for over four years now; she is also a member of the Ukrainian Canadian Advisory Committee at the Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB) and a Co-Chair of the Parent Council at Josyf Cardinal Slipyj (JCS) School. Additionally, Marianna worked as a Business Analyst and Business Planning Manager at AMD Inc. for many years, where she was responsible for building financial forecasts, established a new business planning process and worked cross-functionally as well as with external partners and customers. She holds a BSc Degree from the University of Toronto, and before that, she attended Lviv Polytechnic National University in Ukraine, studying Business Administration and Foreign Relations.

The Canada-Ukraine Foundation is excited to see these amazing individuals join our team and look forward to their contributions to the work of the Foundation.

Thank you for your support!

Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal has been and will continue to be the focus of our work at Canada-Ukraine Foundation.

Recently, we have added Canada Ukraine Surgical Aid Program to our top priorities.

Your donation ensures our programs and committees receive the funding they need to provide life-changing aid to Ukraine, especially during these troubled times.

Please consider continuing your support of our critical mission of helping Ukrainians in Ukraine and here, in Canada.

Canadian donations are eligible for tax receipts, Charity Registration number: 898992151RR000.

Help
Ukraine
Now



Help
Displaced
Ukrainians
in Canada



Canada
Ukraine
Surgical Aid
Program

