

*Annual Report 2023 - 2024*

*Річний звіт 2023 - 2024*



# Building Community Together

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**UKRAINIAN CANADIAN CONGRESS**  
**Alberta Provincial Council**

**Разом будуємо громаду**

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**КОНГРЕС УКРАЇНЦІВ КАНАДИ**  
**Провінційна Рада Альберти**

Website: [www.uccab.ca](http://www.uccab.ca)  
Instagram: @ucc\_apc  
Facebook: @UCCAPC  
Twitter: @UCC\_APC

YouTube: @ukrainiancanadiancongress-9133  
Email: [info@uccab.ca](mailto:info@uccab.ca)  
Phone: (780) 414-1624  
Address: Suite #8, 8103-127 Avenue NW, Edmonton











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## Ukrainian Canadian Congress - Alberta Provincial Council Executive

**President | Президент - Orysia Boychuk**

**Vice President | Віце-президент - Lydia Migus**

**Past President | Попередній президент - Olesia Luciw-Andryjowycz**

**Treasurer | Скарбник - Iryna Lytvynets**

**Secretary | Секретар - Alyssa Stoddard**

**Director | Директор - Melody Kostiuk**

**Director | Директор - Oleksandr Taraiev**

**Director | Директор - Andriy Tovstiuk**

## UCC-APC Member Organizations

**Alberta Council for the Ukrainian Arts | Альбертська Рада Українського Мистецтва**

**Alberta Foundation for Ukrainian Education Society | Альбертська Фундація Сприяння Українській Освіті**

**Alberta Ukraine Chamber of Commerce | Альбертська - Українська Торгова Палата**

**Alberta Ukrainian Dance Association | Альбертське Товариство Українського Танцю**

**Alberta Ukrainian Self-Reliance League | Товариство Українців Самостійників - відділ Альберти**

**Bishop Budka Charitable Society | Благодійне Товариство Єпископа Будки**

**Babas and Borshch Ukrainian Festival | Український Фестиваль «Баби і Борщ»**

**Edmonton Catholic Schools Ukrainian Bilingual Parent Advisory Society |**

*Батьківське Дорадче Товариство Української Двомовної Програми Едмонтонських Католицьких Шкіл*

**Friends of the Ukrainian Village Society | Товариство Приятелів Українського Села**

**St. John's Institute | Інститут Св. Івана**

**Ivan Franko School of Ukrainian Studies - Fort McMurray | Курси Українознавства - Форт МакМюррей**

**Ukrainian Catholic Brotherhood - Alberta | Братство Українців Католиків Канади - відділ Альберти**

**Ukrainian Canadian Congress - Calgary | Конгрес Українців Канади - відділ Калґарі**

**Ukrainian Canadian Congress - Edmonton | Конгрес Українців Канади - відділ Едмонтон**

**Ukrainian Canadian Congress - Bow Valley | Конгрес Українців Канади - Долина Бов**

**Ukrainian Canadian Social Services | Суспільна Служба Українців Канади**

**Ukrainian Catholic Women's League of Canada - Alberta Branch |**

*Ліґа Українських Католицьких Жінок Канади - відділ Альберти*

**Ukrainian Resource and Development Centre | Український Центр Засобів та Розвитку**

**Ukrainian Women's Association of Canada - Alberta | Союз Українок Канади - відділ Альберти**

**Ukrainian Pioneer Association of Alberta | Товариство Українських Піонерів Альберти**

**Ukrainian Students' Society | Українська Студентська Спілка**





## President's Message | Звернення президента

This year, the Ukrainian Canadian Congress - Alberta Provincial Council (UCC-APC) proudly celebrated its 50th Anniversary with remarkable achievements that showcased our theme, "Strength in Unity – Together Building Community."

Our sold-out 50th Anniversary Conference brought together over 260 delegates from across Alberta and beyond, including community leaders, Ukrainian Canadian Congress National, Ukrainian World Congress representatives, and members of the deaf community. Distinguished speakers, including the keynote address by Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland, enriched the event. Featuring over 50 presenters across 16 sessions, the conference was a platform for developing actionable strategies to guide our community's growth over the next 2 to 5 years.

Попри складний час через війну в Україні, КУК-ПРА відіграє провідну роль у підтримці майже 65,000 переміщених українців, які знайшли прихисток в Альберті. Хоча програма Канадсько-український дозвіл на екстрені поїздки (Canada-Ukraine authorization for emergency travel, CUAET) завершилася 31 березня 2024 року, ми й далі приймаємо щомісяця 30–50 новоприбулих. Цього року ми завершили роботу складу меблів, який допоміг облаштувати понад 16,000 осель, а також закрили інформаційний пункт в аеропорту Едмонтон, що привітав тисячі новоприбулих. Водночас ми організували низку важливих ініціатив, таких як освітні сесії для громади, масштабний ярмарок вакансій у квітні 2024 року, де 1,200 новоприбулих мали змогу поспілкуватися з 40 роботодавцями, а також продовжили проводити курси англійської мови.

I was honoured to represent UCC-APC at over 30 events, providing greetings and advocacy at occasions such as Black Ribbon Day, Ukrainian Heritage Day, and an international symposium hosted by the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies. I also presented at the Ukrainian World Congress Conference in Bucharest, sharing the work of UCC-APC and highlighting the Government of Alberta's unwavering support for Ukrainian newcomers.

Our advocacy efforts included discussions with key officials such as Federal Immigration Minister Marc Miller, the Honorable Mary Ng, Alberta's Minister of Immigration and Multiculturalism Muhammad Yaseen, and international leaders during a meeting in Montreal with the Honourable Mélanie Joly and Ukrainian and Norwegian Foreign Ministers.

For the second year, we partnered with the Edmonton Oilers for fundraising events supporting Ukraine, and we also contributed to Humanité during the Kyiv Ballet Tour, furthering our cultural and humanitarian initiatives.

None of these achievements would have been possible without the extraordinary support of our community organizations, dedicated volunteers, hardworking staff, generous donors, and committed sponsors. Your contributions have been the foundation of our work, and we are profoundly grateful for all that you have done to help us achieve our mission. Thank you for your continued support and for helping us build a stronger, united community.

Слава Україні!

Orysia Boichuk  
President, UCC-APC

Орися Бойчук  
Президент КУК-ПРА



## 50th Anniversary Conference - “Strength in Unity – Building Community Together”

The UCC-APC 50th Anniversary Conference, themed “Strength in Unity – Building Community Together,” was a landmark event that brought together over 260 delegates from across Alberta and beyond. Communities represented included Grand Prairie, Fort McMurray, Lethbridge, Lloydminster, and Vegreville, as well as participants from other provinces and international guests from Denmark. The program featured 16 sessions that focused on critical topics such as advocacy, education, community integration, and nonprofit governance.

More than 50 speakers shared their expertise, including Bishop David Motiuk, Dr. Natalia Khanenko-Friesen, Paul Grod, President of the Ukrainian World Congress, Alexandra Chyczij, President of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress, and the Very Rev. Archpriest Cornell Zubritsky. Their contributions offered valuable insights and actionable solutions to pressing issues faced by the Ukrainian-Canadian community. The keynote address was delivered by Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland, who highlighted the significant contributions of the Ukrainian community in Alberta and the importance of collaborative efforts to address challenges and opportunities.

Distinguished guests such as Her Honour Salma Lakhani, Minister Randy Boissonnault, MP Garnett Genuis, Ambassador Yuliya Kovaliv, and Mayor Amarjeet Sohi also attended the conference. Their presence reflected strong support for the Ukrainian-Canadian community and its contributions to the cultural and economic fabric of Alberta.



The UCC-APC 50th Anniversary Conference was not only a celebration of five decades of accomplishments but also a forward-looking platform to shape the future of Alberta's Ukrainian-Canadian community. The 16 sessions provided an opportunity for delegates to focus on key issues and generate actionable strategies for the next 2–5 years, ensuring the conference would leave a lasting impact.

Обговорення на конференції привели до розробки стратегій, спрямованих на посилення адвокаційної роботи з усіма рівнями влади для забезпечення ресурсів та вирішення актуальних потреб громади. Делегати також окреслили шляхи покращення управління неприбутковими організаціями, наголошуючи на важливості лідерського навчання та підвищення ефективності роботи організацій для досягнення довготривалого успіху. Розширення культурних програм для збереження української спадщини та мови було визначено як один із ключових пріоритетів, з особливим акцентом на залученні молоді для забезпечення спадкоємності між поколіннями. Також на конференції підкреслили важливість співпраці між українськими організаціями, наголошуючи на необхідності об'єднання ресурсів та спільних дій для досягнення загальних цілей громади.

President Orysia Boychuk emphasized in her closing remarks that the conference was not only a reflection on past successes but a blueprint for future initiatives. The actionable outcomes developed during the event will guide UCC-APC's strategic planning, ensuring the organization continues to adapt to changing circumstances while staying true to its mission.





## Community Outreach

Throughout the year, the Ukrainian Canadian Congress – Alberta Provincial Council (UCC-APC) led and participated in initiatives to strengthen community connections, promote Ukrainian heritage, and support Ukrainians across Alberta.

UCC-APC also successfully applied for and received charitable status, enabling enhanced capacity to support its mission and broaden its impact within the community.

On December 7, 2023, UCC-APC provided greetings at the international symposium *Citizenship and Sovereignty in Contemporary Ukraine*, organized by the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies.

On March 18, 2024, UCC-APC participated in a key discussion hosted by the Canadian Global Affairs Institute in Calgary, addressing Ukraine's needs, Canada's support, and the Ukraine-Alberta energy collaboration.

In August, UCC-APC solemnly marked Black Ribbon Day at the Alberta Legislature on August 23, honouring the victims of totalitarian regimes with a moment of reflection and remembrance.

On August 24, 2024, UCC-APC joined the Independence Day celebrations in Canmore, hosted by UCC Bow Valley, and in Edmonton, where the communities gathered to celebrate Ukraine's independence and resilience.

UCC-APC also expanded its network by forming partnerships with Ukrainian communities in Red Deer, Lethbridge, Lloydminster, Lakeland Region, Fort McMurray, and Bow Valley.



## Humanitarian Aid

UCC-APC hosted the 3rd Annual Ukrainian Heritage Nights during hockey games with the Edmonton Oilers on January 6 and the Edmonton Oil Kings on January 11. Proceeds from the 50/50 raffles at both games were directed to the Canada-Ukraine Foundation (CUF) to support humanitarian aid efforts for Ukraine. These events united the community to celebrate Ukrainian heritage and raised significant funds to aid Ukraine in its time of need.

Окрім організації хокейних матчів, КУК-ПРА активно підтримував і сприяв проведенню Північноамериканського туру Національного балету України та проекту Humanité, який збирав кошти для Фонду Олени Зеленської. Цей фонд надає життєво необхідну гуманітарну допомогу, включно з підтримкою на передовій та освітніми програмами для переселенців. КУК-ПРА також зробив внесок у розмірі \$2,000 для фонду, підтверджуючи нашу відданість поєднанню культурної діяльності з вагомою гуманітарною підтримкою України.



## Government Relations and Advocacy

This year, UCC-APC focused on advocacy at international, national, and local levels to address the needs of Ukrainian newcomers and support Ukraine.

Internationally, UCC-APC represented Alberta at the Ukrainian World Congress Summit in Romania, where global leaders discussed Ukraine's recovery and resettlement efforts. At the Ministerial Conference on Ukraine's Peace Formula in Montreal, we contributed to discussions on the humanitarian and economic impacts of the Russian invasion.

At the federal level, UCC-APC met with Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland to discuss challenges with the Canada-Ukraine Free Trade Agreement (CUFTA) and the Provincial Nominee Program (PNP). Minister Mary Ng addressed CUFTA updates and strengthening Canada-Ukraine economic ties, while Minister Marc Miller discussed immigration policies affecting Ukrainian newcomers. Minister Mélanie Joly highlighted Canada's ongoing diplomatic and humanitarian support for Ukraine. We engaged with MP

Yvan Baker to discuss settlement challenges, and UCC-APC met with Minister of National Defence Bill Blair to discuss Canada's military support for Ukraine, including Operation UNIFIER. Collaboration with Ambassador Yuliya Kovaliv in Calgary explored opportunities to strengthen Canada-Ukraine business relations.

Provincially, UCC-APC worked with Minister of Immigration Muhammad Yaseen to address challenges in English classes, employment, and airport services for Ukrainian newcomers.

Locally, UCC-APC met with Calgary Mayor Jyoti Gondek to improve support for newcomers. A podcast interview with MLA Shane Getson highlighted the experiences of Ukrainian newcomers and community efforts.

## Holodomor Commemoration

In November 2023, UCC-APC organized solemn commemorations to mark the 90th anniversary of the Holodomor, the man-made famine of 1932-1933 that claimed millions of Ukrainian lives.

At the Alberta Legislature, community members gathered to reflect on this dark chapter in history and honour the resilience of those who endured unimaginable suffering. A prayer service at St. Basil Ukrainian Catholic Church brought together students from Ukrainian Bilingual Schools, ensuring that future generations carry forward the memory of the Holodomor.



Леонід Коровинюк, свідок Голодомору, поділився своєю глибокою історією, наголошуючи на важливості вшанування пам'яті жертв і усвідомлення уроків минулого. Такі заходи нагадують про незламність українського народу та постійну відданість збереженню пам'яті про Голодомор.



## Ukrainian Support Hub – UCC Alberta

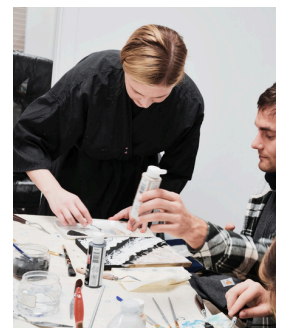
We are proud to share that the Ukrainian Support Hub: UCC Alberta officially opened its doors on August 1, 2024. This vibrant space was created to foster connections and provide essential resources for Ukrainian newcomers and the wider community, emphasizing growth, collaboration, and support.

The Hub, located near key Ukrainian institutions like Shumka and the Alberta Council for Ukrainian Arts, has already become a cultural and organizational hub in Edmonton. It offers a welcoming environment for community members and newcomers alike, supporting their integration and development within the province.

In partnership with MacEwan University and the Ukrainian Resource and Development Centre, the Hub successfully launched impactful programs and services, including:

- English classes that helped Ukrainian newcomers improve their language skills.
- Support groups held weekly to ease the transition for newcomers.
- Guidance and resources to support the formation of new organizations, such as "The New Ukrainian Wave", aimed at fostering community engagement and empowerment.
- A place where our community organizations host meetings.

The Ukrainian Support Hub became a place where newcomers and the Ukrainian Canadian community could come together to build a stronger, united future. We remain grateful to all who contributed to its establishment and growth, and we encourage everyone to stay connected through social media for updates on future events and initiatives at the Hub.





## Settlement Support

### Welcoming Ukrainian Deaf Newcomers

In 2024, UCC-APC hosted a few events to support over 100 Ukrainian Deaf newcomers. On April 13, in partnership with Edmonton Connect Society and ALEIA, we organized a welcoming event in Edmonton, where UCC-APC Executive Board Member Melody Kostyuk shared opening remarks, emphasizing inclusivity. Additionally, we held an informative immigration session, supported job fairs to connect attendees with employment opportunities, and admitted several newcomers into existing English language support classes.

As a highlight, these newcomers also participated in our 50th Anniversary Conference, where they had the opportunity to share their challenges, achievements, and future plans.



### Ukrainian Newcomer Community Engagement Session

On August 15, 2024, the Ukrainian Canadian Congress-Alberta Provincial Council (UCC-APC) partnered with the City of Edmonton, MacEwan University, and the Ukrainian Resource and Development Centre to host a Ukrainian Newcomer Community Engagement Session. This event provided a meaningful opportunity to hear firsthand from newcomers about their experiences in Canada and to gain valuable insights into their pressing needs.

The valuable information collected during this session was highlighted at our 50th Anniversary Conference, showcasing the supports currently available and identifying areas for further development. We extend our sincere gratitude to Mayor Amarjeet Sohi for attending and to our volunteers who facilitated discussions and gathered this vital information.

### Community Support Groups

In 2024, our support groups and initiatives focused on promoting emotional well-being and fostering community connections. Weekly open support groups held 48 sessions with over 200 participants, while closed groups ran in two-month cycles with 15–20 participants each, meeting weekly. A teen discussion club operated for three months, involving about 20 participants and providing a safe space to share concerns.

Language support sessions with native speakers helped newcomers overcome barriers and integrate into the community. The "Path of Generations" project connected Ukrainians from different migration waves, fostering mutual understanding and solidarity. These programs offered a supportive environment to enhance emotional health, reduce anxiety, and build meaningful connections.





## Website uccab.ca

Ми продовжуємо підтримувати та обслуговувати двомовний вебсайт для надання допомоги українським новоприбулим. Інформація доступна українською та англійською мовами з важливих тем, включаючи інформацію про фінансову допомогу, житло, освіту, отримання важливих документів, таких як номер соціального страхування (SIN), водійське посвідчення та картка медичного страхування Альберти, працевлаштування, догляд за дітьми, громадський транспорт тощо.

Вебсайт також надає мешканцям Альберти рекомендації щодо того, як вони можуть підтримати українських новоприбулих, пропонуючи інформацію про участь у гуманітарній допомозі та інші способи значущої підтримки. Сторінка подій спільноти та календар були відновлені. Ми залишаємося відданими регулярному оновленню цієї платформи, щоб забезпечити доступом до найактуальнішої та найважливішої інформації.



## Edmonton Airport Welcome Booth

From February 2023 to April 2024, the Edmonton Airport Welcome Booth, operated by UCC-APC in partnership with volunteers and community organizations, provided essential support to Ukrainian newcomers arriving in Alberta. During this period, the booth welcomed over 2,600 newcomers, offering vital resources and guidance to help them begin their new lives in Canada.

The Welcome Booth operated extended hours to accommodate the growing influx of arrivals, providing services such as:

- Initial orientation to assist newcomers in understanding local resources and navigating settlement processes.
- Immediate support with transportation, accommodation, and essential needs.
- Warm reception to ensure newcomers felt supported and valued as they started their integration journey.

## Informational Sessions

UCC-APC organized a series of targeted informational sessions throughout the year to support Ukrainian newcomers in Alberta. Key topics included navigating Alberta's education system, establishing daycare and day home businesses, financial literacy, and understanding the process of purchasing property and securing a mortgage.

Sessions in Edmonton and Calgary provided Ukrainian parents with guidance from school boards and community organizations on enrolling their children and understanding the education system. A business-focused session encouraged newcomers to explore opportunities in childcare, fostering economic growth and cultural preservation.

Collaborations with partners like Scotiabank, offered practical advice on financial literacy and homeownership, including insights into buying property and obtaining a mortgage, empowering newcomers to plan for their future in Alberta.



## Free Furniture Warehouse

From April 2022 to April 2024, the Free Furniture Warehouse provided essential furniture to over 16,000 Ukrainian newcomers, helping them establish comfortable homes in Alberta. Operated with the support of over 18,000 volunteers who contributed 35,000 hours, the warehouse distributed beds, sofas, tables, and other necessities to families in need.

This initiative was made possible through the generosity of local donors, volunteers, and the Boilermakers Lodge 146, which provided the space for operations. Financial support from the Canada Ukraine Foundation and the Government of Alberta ensured the program's success.



## Job Fair

On April 10, 2024, UCC-APC organized a highly successful job fair at St. John's Cultural Centre in Edmonton, bringing together 40 employers and approximately 1,200 job seekers, including participants from Calgary, Red Deer, and surrounding areas. Employers represented a wide range of industries, including manufacturing, healthcare, retail, hospitality, automotive, and technology. Over 100 job offers were made on-site. The success of the event prompted businesses to reach out to UCC-APC with requests for partnerships. As a result, we partnered with Arctic Spas, who hired 30 Ukrainian newcomers, and Covenant Health, which hosted follow-up hiring events for individuals with medical backgrounds.

## English Language Support

Since January 2024, UCC-APC has hosted a province-wide, 8-week English language program in partnership with community organizations, churches, and other groups. The program was delivered in Edmonton, Calgary, and Lethbridge, offering in-person, online, and blended learning options. Edmonton hosted 13 classes, Calgary held 5, and Lethbridge offered 2. This program was designed to accommodate learners of different proficiency levels, ensuring accessibility and inclusivity. Over the course of the year, 488 individuals successfully graduated, highlighting the program's effectiveness in supporting language development and integration for newcomers across Alberta.







## Cultural Events

### Ukrainian Day 2024

On August 25, 2024, the Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village hosted Ukrainian Day 2024, bringing together over 2,600 attendees to celebrate unity and solidarity within Alberta's Ukrainian community. The event highlighted the resilience and contributions of Ukrainian-Canadians during challenging times. This year's MCs were Anhelina Taran (UCC Youth Ambassador) and Mykhaylo Kozlovskyy.

Dignitaries in attendance included Her Honour Salma Lakhani, Lieutenant Governor of Alberta; MP Heather McPherson; Minister Tanya Fir, Minister of Arts, Culture, and Status of Women; His Worship Amarjeet Sohi, Mayor of Edmonton; and Greta Derus, President of the Polish Congress of Alberta. Mayor Sohi formally proclaimed August 25, 2024, as Ukrainian Day, acknowledging the rich contributions of Ukrainian-Canadians to Alberta's heritage and multicultural identity.

The theme, "Strength in Unity," was reflected in performances by Mriya, Cheremosh, Pereveslo, REspond Dancers, Feyeriya Bandura Group, the Ukrainian Male Chorus of Edmonton (Yavir), Ruta Musical Folk Ensemble, and the Razom Orchestra Society, showcasing our diverse talents. The Kikino Indigenous Dancers delivered a special performance that underscored shared cultural respect and collaboration.

Tyler Shandro, former MLA and Minister, was named as this year's Luchkovich Award recipient, recognizing his contributions to in the Ukrainian-Canadian community.

КУК-ПРА висловлює подяку всім почесним гостям, виконавцям і волонтерам, чия участь і підтримка зробили Український День 2024 успішним заходом, демонструючи силу та єдність нашої громади.





## Vyshyvanka Day

On May 16, 2024, UCC-APC Vyshyvanka Day in Edmonton with the UCC-Edmonton Branch and Ukrainian Canadian Benevolent Society of Edmonton. The event featured a community walk from MacEwan University to the Alberta Legislature, where participants celebrated Ukrainian heritage through traditional embroidery and cultural pride.

16 травня 2024 року КУК - ПРА провів День Вишиванки в Едмонтоні спільно з відділенням КУК Едмонтон та Українсько-Канадським Благодійним Товариством Едмонтон. Захід включав громадську ходу від Університету Мак'юен до Законодавчої Асамблеї Альберти, де учасники вшановували українську спадщину через традиційну вишивку та культурну гордість.



## Internment Monument Unveiled

On June 23, 2024, a monument dedicated to the unjust internment of Ukrainian Canadians during WWI was unveiled in Vegreville's Pysanka Park. This tribute, made possible by Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Foundation (UCCLF) and the Shevchenko Foundation, honours the resilience of those unfairly labeled "enemy aliens" and serves as a reminder of the importance of justice and equality. UCC-APC President Orysia Boychuk emphasized the need to remember this history to prevent such injustices from happening again. Цей монумент символізує силу духу української громади та закликає до збереження історичної пам'яті заради майбутніх поколінь.



## Ukrainian Canadian Heritage Day

On September 6, 2024, UCC-APC celebrated Ukrainian Canadian Heritage Day at the Alberta Legislature. The event highlighted 133 years of Ukrainian contributions to Alberta, with the Ukrainian flag raised alongside the Canadian flag as a symbol of resilience and unity. Community leaders and officials reflected on the ongoing strength and cultural impact of Ukrainian Canadians. A sincere thank you to the government of Alberta for proclaiming September 7th as Alberta's Ukrainian Canadian Heritage Day Act, and for raising the flag here in Edmonton at the Legislature. UCC-APC appreciates the recognition of this day with flag raising events in other cities and municipalities in Alberta since 2016. Цей день нагадує нам про важливість збереження української культурної спадщини та передачі її наступним поколінням.





## Hetman Awards

The Hetman Awards Gala, held on November 10, 2024, at the Ukrainian Youth Unity Complex in Edmonton, celebrated the exceptional volunteer contributions of Ukrainian Albertans. Цього року, вже в 26-й раз, цей престижний захід вшанував людей та організації, які своєю відданістю, лідерством та невтомною працею зробили вагомий внесок у зміцнення українсько-канадської громади Альберти.

This year, there were 11 recipients of the Hetman Award and 11 recipients of the Ukraine Crisis – Humanitarian Aid Award, each honored for their significant contributions to both the local community and Ukraine's recovery effort.

### Outstanding Leadership Award

Orest Fitzowich  
Dr. Elaine Harasymiw  
Ihor Kryś  
Arlene Kryschuk  
Vivian Skakun

### Professional Achievement Award

Maryna Chernyavska  
Dr. Natalia Khanenko-Friesen  
Darka Tarnawsky

### Exemplary Volunteer Award

Timko Basaraba  
Symen Kostyuk  
Mary Zalucky

### Youth Leadership Award

Marko Boychuk  
Inna Ivchenko

### Ukraine Crisis Humanitarian Aid Award

Yevhen Burlaka  
William Brese  
Olena Danyleiko  
Eugenia Leskiw  
Christine Kuzyk  
Diana Kotsyuba

Dr. Oleksandr Pavlenko  
John Stadnyk  
Carol Slukynski  
Kristopher Yarish  
Vegreville and Area  
Stands With Ukraine







## Two Years Since the War in Ukraine

On February 24, 2024, communities across Alberta united to mark the second anniversary of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

Rallies and solidarity gatherings took place in Edmonton, Calgary, Vegreville, Fort Saskatchewan, Fort McMurray, Canmore, Sherwood Park, and Red Deer, drawing thousands of participants. Українська громада в Едмонтоні зібралася на площі Вайолет Кінг Генрі біля Законодавчої асамблеї Альберти, де відбулися промови, запалення свічок пам'яті та виступ хору «Нове Життя», вшановуючи стійкість українського народу та закликаючи до подальшої підтримки України в її боротьбі за свободу.



## Anna Rudyk-Ostrom Memorial Fund

The Anna Rudyk-Ostrom Memorial Fund, established in 1993, continues to promote Ukrainian culture through education, arts, and dance. In 2024, the fund awarded a total of \$2,200 in grants, with each recipient receiving \$725 to support their projects:

- Lesia Savedchuk: Annotated and illustrated bibliography of Ukrainian children's literature (1945-2023).
- Bandura Band Feyeria: Preserving Ukrainian culture through music.
- Maksym Hutsuliuk and Erlord Production: Promoting Ukrainian culture through theatre and film.

## Youth Ambassadors in Alberta

Cody Mackoway (AB) is a recent graduate of the University of Alberta majoring in Political Science and History. He's the recipient of the University of Alberta Opportunities Award, the Jason Lang Scholarship and Alberta Foundation for Ukrainian Education Society Ukrainian Studies Scholarship. Cody served as the President of the Ukrainian Students' Society and Chair of the Sturgeon County Youth Advisory Committee.

Anhelina Taran (AB) has extensive media experience, including as a host at Media Bohemia in Prague and Satellite TV Channel "Pravda TUT" in Ukraine. Anhelina holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Film and Television from Kyiv National Cinema and Television University. She actively contributes to her community through volunteering with organizations like the Ukrainian Canadian Congress and the Association of Ukrainians in Calgary.





## Member Reports

### Ukrainian Canadian Congress – Edmonton Branch

Слава Україні!

Thank you to the board members of UCC Edmonton and their organizations for acting as a supportive family during these challenging times for our community.

*“UCC Edmonton is a non-profit umbrella organization that unites, supports, and promotes Ukrainian cultural, educational, political, social, business, and recreational interests while raising awareness within the greater Edmonton area.”*

This year, UCC Edmonton focused on enhancing its capacity to fulfill its responsibilities by emphasizing:

- **Strengthening Organizational Structure:** Built an efficient framework to support member organizations through improved systems, streamlined processes, and enhanced operations.
- **Improving Communication and Collaboration:** Fostered stronger relationships through open communication, regular meetings, shared goals, and consistent updates.
- **Assigning and Distributing Resources:** Allocated essential resources like funding, materials, and manpower to empower member organizations.
- **Defining Our Role as a Community Leader:** Solidifying UCC Edmonton's position as a local leader and unified voice for the Ukrainian community.
- **Promoting Ukrainian Interests:** Advocated for Ukrainian culture, heritage, and contributions within the Edmonton community.
- **Building Partnerships for Events:** Partnered with stakeholders to create impactful events fostering cultural pride and community engagement.
- **Developing a Centralized Voice:** Unifying the perspectives of local Ukrainian organizations to strengthen advocacy and amplify community impact.

There are a few items worth highlighting that UCC Edmonton hosts annually:

1. In November 2024, UCC Edmonton hosted the annual Holodomor Commemoration featuring a keynote speaker.
2. In March 2024, UCC Edmonton, along with the Ukrainian Music Society of Alberta, hosted the Annual Shevchenko Concert at the Ukrainian Youth Unity Complex.
3. In May 2024, UCC Edmonton organized the Annual Vyshyvanka Day March from MacEwan University to the Legislature Grounds, raising funds.
4. In August 2024, the Ukrainian Pavilion Society, in collaboration with UCC Edmonton, hosted the Ukrainian Pavilion at the Annual Edmonton Heritage Festival.
5. In August 2024, UCC Edmonton hosted Ukrainian Independence Day at the UNF Hall.

Future plans to Promote and Support Local Projects:

1. Renew the annual Chernobyl Commemoration event in April.
2. Participate in and support the Ukrainian Internment event in October.
3. Co-organize and support the War Anniversary event in February.



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George Yopyk

Sergiy Ivanyuk

Andriy Shymanovka

#### Contact information:

Website: [uccedmonton.ca](http://uccedmonton.ca)

Facebook: @uccedmonton



## Ukrainian Canadian Congress - Calgary Branch

Слава Україні!

This year, the Ukrainian Canadian Congress – Calgary Branch has continued to grow and adapt in response to the needs of our community. Calgary has seen a significant increase in Ukrainian evacuees, among the highest in the country. This has brought significant changes to our community, and we have risen to the challenge, matching our efforts to meet these new realities. Our board has expanded, and our volunteer base has tripled, reflecting the increasing demand for services and the community's willingness to support these efforts.

### Key Initiatives and Events in 2023-24

- Ukrainian WWI Internment Commemoration: This annual event continues to grow, attracting a larger audience and fostering awareness of Ukrainian contributions and hardships in Canadian history.
- Holodomor Commemoration: This year's event was graced by a performance from Ukraine's Gerdan Performing Group and attended by Members of Parliament, Members of the Legislative Assembly, and city representatives.
- Second Anniversary of the Full-Scale Invasion: Over 1,500 people attended the rally at City Hall, demonstrating Calgary's solidarity with Ukraine.
- 1000 Day Candle Vigil and Panakhyda: Held to mark 1,000 days since the invasion began, this solemn event united the community in reflection and remembrance.
- Hosted Ambassador Yuliya Kovaliv, Ukraine's Ambassador to Canada, during her visit.
- Organized a meeting and community event with UCC National President Alexandra Chyczij and UWC President Paul Grod to strengthen ties with national and global Ukrainian organizations.
- International Vyshyvanka Day March: Continued our tradition of forming Ukrainian symbols, this year creating a human map of Ukraine.
- Taras Shevchenko Concert: Collaborated with the Calgary Bandurysty to celebrate the life and works of Ukraine's iconic poet.
- Ukrainian Day in the Park Festival: Celebrated Ukrainian Independence Day with performances, beer gardens, a community pavilion, and markets, attracting approximately 4,000 attendees.
- Partnered with the Calgary Canucks Hockey Organization to provide complimentary tickets to Ukrainian newcomers.
- Assisted in coordinating visits from the Ukrainian U18 National Hockey Team and a U13 Girl's Team participating in Haley Wickenheiser's tournament.
- Continued our free Survival English courses, helping over 4,000 Ukrainian evacuees gain essential language skills through intensive two-week sessions.
- Our Rallies Team organizes biweekly protests, making Calgary one of Canada's most active cities in supporting Ukraine. These efforts are regularly broadcast in local media.
- Hosted movie screenings and a photography exhibit on the genocidal war at Calgary's Central Public Library, further educating the public about Ukraine's struggles.

In addition to organizing events, we have penned dozens of letters to local politicians, institutions, and organizations to advocate for the Ukrainian community's needs, ensuring their voices are heard in every sphere. We are proud of what we have accomplished together. The resilience of our community and the unwavering support of our volunteers have allowed us to meet these challenges and strengthen our role as a pillar of the Ukrainian Canadian community in Calgary.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to our mission. Together, we will continue to honor our heritage, support Ukraine, and make Calgary a welcoming place for all.

Sincerely,

Dr Danylo Moussienko

President, Ukrainian Canadian Congress – Calgary Branch



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#### of the Blessed Virgin Mary

#### Ukrainian Catholic Church

Christine Moussienko

#### St Vladimir's Sadochok

#### Ukrainian Preschool

Olena Kanevska

#### Ukr Museum of Canada,

#### Calgary Collection

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#### League of Ukrainian

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#### Calgary Ukrainian Festival

Karen Uhrn

#### Echoes of Ukraine

#### Association

Oleksander Zagirsky

#### Ukrainian of Calgary

#### Association

Iryna Leonova

#### Ukrainian Students'

#### Society at UCalgary

Vacant

#### Contact information:

Calgaryucc.ca calgary@ucc.ca

Facebook: @calgaryucc

Instagram: @calgaryucc

Email: secretary@uccbv.ca.



## Ukrainian Canadian Congress - Bow Valley Branch

The Ukrainian Canadian Congress - Bow Valley Association became officially incorporated on January 11, 2024, marking a significant milestone in its journey to strengthen and represent the Ukrainian community in the region.

### Support Groups and Community Engagement

- Weekly Open Yoga Sessions (August 2023 - August 2024): Organized in collaboration with Settlement Services Bow Valley, these sessions provided stress relief and mental health support.

### Cultural and Memorial Events

- Christmas Vertep in Banff (January 14, 2024): A traditional Ukrainian Christmas theatre performance featuring local volunteers, musicians, and Ukrainian cuisine brought the community together.
- Two Years of War Memorial (February 24, 2024): Marking the war's two-year anniversary, 55 attendees, including Canmore Mayor Sean Krausert, paid tribute to fallen defenders of Ukraine with speeches and a moment of silence.

### Fundraising and Awareness

- Unity Run for Ukraine (June 1, 2024): A 5km run organized in 15 Canadian cities raised awareness for Ukraine, with local participation and media coverage contributing to its success.
- Rally for Ohmadyt (July 14, 2024): Highlighting war crimes, this rally drew attention to the Russian attack on Ukraine's largest children's hospital.

### Festivals and Exhibitions

- United Fest (August 24, 2024): Celebrating diversity, this festival included Ukrainian cultural showcases, 133 volunteers, and raised \$4,000 for Ukraine's "Butterfly House" children's hospice.
- Canmore Festival of Arts and Creativity (September 15, 2024): Ukrainian modern traditional clothing, books, and food were featured, promoting cultural exchange.

### Educational and Advocacy Events

- UCC APC 50th Anniversary Conference (November 9-10, 2024): Bow Valley representatives, including President Olha Kulybanych, presented on society incorporation and engaged with experts.
- 1000 Days of War Memorial (November 19, 2024): A solemn event in partnership with St. Mary's Parish Church to honor those lost during the war.
- Holodomor Commemoration (November 20, 2024): A free movie screening raised awareness about the Holodomor genocide.

These initiatives underline Bow Valley's dedication to community engagement, cultural preservation, and advocacy for Ukraine.



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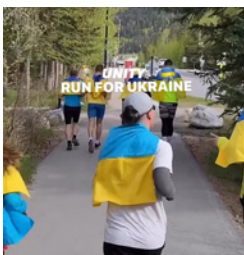
vacant

#### Contact information:

Website: [uccbowvalley.ca](http://uccbowvalley.ca)

Facebook: [@uccinbowvalley](https://www.facebook.com/uccinbowvalley)

Instagram: [@ucc\\_bow\\_valley](https://www.instagram.com/ucc_bow_valley)



## Alberta Council for the Ukrainian Arts (ACUA)

Alberta Council for the Ukrainian Arts is proud to report another very successful year offering a wide variety quality programming and services. The board of Directors would like to extend a special thank you to our professional team of Robin McHugh, Borys Tarasenko, Viktoriya Popovych, Sheena Kelloway and Summer Student Leda Tarnawsky who manage the operations, gallery, boutique and programming and to all of the dedicated volunteers and memberships who continue to make ACUA a success. ACUA Gallery & Artisan Boutique continues to grow. To date, we feature over 200 artists, folk artists, musicians, and writer's original works of art for sale. We are working towards offering boutique sales in an online store.

ACUA continues to offer programming throughout the province of Alberta. Highlights of programming we offer and events we have hosted this year, include:

- Signature Artist Series featured exhibits
- Fine and folk art workshops, special workshops, and lectures
- Publication of ACUA Vitae – Ukrainian Art and Culture magazine
- Annual Easter and Christmas art show and market
- Folk Art Retreats in rural Alberta
- Operation of ACUA Gallery & Artisan Boutique & Community Art Space
- Ukrainian Vintage Fair
- Scholarships to promote Ukrainian art and culture in the community
- Maintenance of an online Directory of Ukrainian Artists
- Community and Bilingual School Outreach

Being a provincial organization, the ACUA board recognizes the need to increase the number of Regional Representatives and ensure that Ukrainian art and culture is celebrated across Alberta. ACUA continues to seek out new representation across the province and works with our current representatives to bring initiative and projects to their communities. We are proud to have regional representatives in Lethbridge, Calgary, Grande Prairie, Jasper, Vegreville, Andrew, Bonnyville, and Carvel.

The Board of Directors would like to extend a sincere thank you to all of the community for the overwhelming support of ACUA. We look forward to an exciting 2024-25 with the continuation of our current programming and the addition of new exciting programs and initiative



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Joshua Semchuck, Bottom Line Productions



### Contact information:

acuarts.ca

(780) 488-8558

9534 - 87 street, Edmonton

AB T6C 3J1





## Alberta Foundation For Ukrainian Education Society

Слава Україні! Слава Ісусу Христу! Ми всі знаємо, як важливо є для нашої української громади зберігати українську мову та ідентичність в Канаді. Саме для цієї мети існує наша організація – Альбертська Фундація Сприяння Українській Освіті (АФСУО).

Alberta Foundation for Ukrainian Education Society (AFUES) was established in 1979, so this year marks our 45th anniversary. According to our Mission Statement: “AFUES supports the development of Ukrainian language education in order to foster and promote positive social and cultural identity within Canada’s diverse mosaic.”

У червні цього року ми вибрали Раду Директорів нашої фундації в такому складі. In June at our last AGM, we elected the following AFUES Board of Directors:

Минулого року наша Фундація АФСУО займалася різноманітними проєктами. Some of AFUES accomplishments during this reporting period include:

1. Альбертська Фундація Сприяння Українській Освіті (АФСУО-AFUES) разом з іншими організаціями щороку спонсорує виступи доповідачів на Шевченківській лекції. 8 березня 2024 року на 58-ій Шевченківській лекції ми з радістю привітали виступ посла Ігора Остаха на тему «Українські культурні багатства під загрозою російської агресії: втрати, захист і повернення на батьківщину».

On March 8, 2024, AFUES was a co-sponsor of the 58th Annual Shevchenko Lecture in cooperation with the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies (CIUS) and the Ukrainian Canadian Professional and Business Association of Edmonton (UCPBAE). Over the years, we've had so many excellent speakers from around the world, who have touched on a wide variety of Ukrainian topics. This year our speaker was Ambassador-at-Large Ihor Ostash on the topic “Ukrainian Cultural Treasures Under Threat from Russian Aggression: Losses, Protection and Repatriation.”

2. Цього року наша фундація продовжувала надавати важливі стипендії з української мови для студентів Альбертського університету, які вивчають українську мову на різних рівнях. AFUES continued providing Ukrainian Language Scholarships for the University of Alberta undergraduate Ukrainian language courses at different levels.

3. Також ми фінансово підтримували суботні українські школи – Рідну Школу та Курси Українознавства в Едмонтоні. This year AFUES also funded Saturday Heritage Schools, such as Ridna Shkola and Kursy Ukrayinoznnavstva in Edmonton.

4. З огляду на велику кількість новоприбулих з України, АФСУО допомагала з порадами та фінансовою підтримкою для відкриття українських суботніх шкіл в м. Форт МакМюррей та м. Ред Дір. AFUES was helping out in an advisory role and with financial assistance to open up Ukrainian Saturday schools in Ft. McMurray and Red Deer.



### Board of Directors

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#### Secretary

Nataliia Naiavko

#### Director

Alla Nedashkivska  
(Scholarships  
Portfolio)

#### Director

Olena Hartsula  
(Membership  
Portfolio)

#### Member-at-Large

Sophia Salouk  
Walter Kowalchuk  
(UCPBA Rep)

**Contact information:**  
afues.ca

5. Як вже відомо наша Фундація продовжує спеціальний проект TULIP і фінансово заохочує всі українські організації Альберти більше використовувати усну та письмову українську мову в їхньому щоденному житті. Це допоможе залучити до наших організацій більше новоприбулих з України, а також покаже більшу цінність нашої української мови. Наше гасло: «Українська мова всюди!» As you know, our Foundation continues to promote a special project Transformational Ukrainian Language Infusion Program (TULIP). Its purpose is to financially encourage Ukrainian organizations in Alberta to use the Ukrainian oral and written language in their day-to-day activities. This will help to bring in more newcomers from Ukraine into our diaspora organizations and will also demonstrate the value of using our Ukrainian language. Our slogan: “Ukrainian language is everywhere!”

6. Ми раді відзначити, що два члени нашої Ради Директорів АФСУО – Семен Костюк та Ігор Крись, отримали Нагороди Гетьмана за їхню невтомну працю та вклад у розвиток української громади в Альберті. We would like to acknowledge that two members of AFUES Board of Directors, Semen Kostyuk and Ihor Krys, received the Hetman Awards for their tireless work and their continuous contribution in the development of Ukrainian community in Alberta.

Дорогі друзі, ще раз щиро дякую всім членам Ради Директорів АФСУО за їхню працю для розвитку та поширення україномовної освіти в Альберті.

In conclusion, I would like to thank all the members of AFUES Board of Directors once again for their contributions in the development of the Ukrainian language education in Alberta.

Звіт здав Влодко Бойчук, Голова АФСУО

Submitted by Vlodko Boychuk, AFUES President



Contact information:  
admin@afues.ca



## Alberta Ukrainian Dance Association

The Alberta Ukrainian Dance Association (AUDA) exists to serve the needs of the Ukrainian dance community as a liaison, network hub, and information resource centre. Our mandate, which is determined through feedback from our membership and regular stakeholder engagements, includes the following:

- To promote, maintain, and enhance the appreciation of Ukrainian culture through dance.
- To serve as a liaison in the Ukrainian dance community and respond to requests for assistance from dance groups and instructors.
- To enable skill development and improvement opportunities through conferences and workshops.
- To collect and distribute information on the various aspects of Ukrainian dance in a wider context of performing arts
- To encourage participation in dance as a multifaceted lived experience in physical, artistic, and social settings for people of all ages and from all walks of life
- To facilitate participation in performance events and festivals as way of promoting cross- cultural competence and modelling behaviour of diversity and inclusion

AUDA continues to support over 60 schools across the province where nearly 3,500 children, teens and adults participate in Ukrainian dance enriching the cultural life of our communities. There are also over 80 instructors from the Edmonton area who teach in Edmonton and across the province.

- Our Board of Directors maintains a healthy ratio of male to female members who boast a variety of skills and talents be it in teaching dance, creating artistic events, mentorship, or communication, research and administration.

Over the past year, AUDA has enthusiastically funded several projects, workshops, and grants. We are honoured that more and more dance schools are taking the opportunity to apply for these grants and they are hosting workshops within their communities, hiring young aspiring dance instructors under our rural dance instructor initiative and allowing us to support them by purchasing advertisements within their show or event programs. Not only are dance schools and artists recognizing us but so are families within the community. We were able to grant five thousand dollars in summer camp scholarships to ten dancers throughout the province who attended three of the larger Ukrainian dance camps in Alberta.

We have funded nearly fifteen thousand dollars to several new music projects for instructors and schools across the province while supporting composers both in Edmonton and Ukraine to create over fifty-one minutes of new music that is designed for stage dances. These music pieces are available after six months from the completion date to all of our supporting members.

In October 2023 we hosted our annual instructors workshop in Edmonton Alberta which had twenty five participants from Alberta, Ontario and Utah. It is our mission to ensure professional development is offered to dance instructors of all ages and levels to ensure continuity and consistency is maintained. This season Richard Wacko taught our teachers about the Transcarpathian region and character barre for children aged five to fifteen. The second portion of our workshop focussed on theatre tech and was lead by Les Sereda. We rented both the Verkhovyna Dance School hall and the Shumka Dance Centre for this workshop. We stand by our mission statement to enable skill development and improvement opportunities through conferences and workshops.

To ensure we facilitate participation in performance events and festivals we offered the Unity dance opportunity again and it was a huge success with twenty four dancers from multiple dance schools in Edmonton, Grande Prairie, Parkland County, Red Deer, Lamont, and Myrnam. We rented the Parkland Ukrainian Dancers Rehearsal space in Spruce Grove for these practices and the dancers performed at three known festivals including UFest in Edmonton, Ukrainian Festival in Calgary and the Pysanky Festival in Vegreville Alberta. This dance was choreographed by artist Odessa Bahri.

Lastly, four of our board members along with several supporting members will be attending the upcoming Ukrainian Canadian Congress's 50th anniversary event in November 2024 as well as the Hetman awards that will be held here in Edmonton. We are honoured to support this milestone.

The Alberta Ukrainian Dance Association continues to provide a community full of growth, passion and culture for all of it's members and we continue attracting new members. Our annual general meeting will take place on Friday November 22nd 2024 at 5:30 pm, location to be announced at a later date and we invite all to attend.

Thank you for your time,  
Kayla Devaux - President



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#### DIRECTOR

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#### DIRECTOR

Odessa Bahri

#### DIRECTOR

Matthew Borys

#### DIRECTOR

Nick Hynek

#### Contact information:

V Percy Page Centre  
11759 Groad Road Edmonton,  
AB T5M 3K6  
Ph. 780-422-9700  
Instagram @albertaukrainiandance  
Facebook AlbertaUkrainianDanceAssociation  
Website: www.abuda.ca

## Alberta Ukrainian Self-Reliance League (AUSRL)

The 2023 AUSRL Annual Convention / Annual General Meeting was held in-person on October 18, 2023 at St. Anthony's Ukrainian Orthodox Parish, along with UWAC-APE AGM that same evening. It consisted of two of the component organizations participating : UWAC – Alberta Provincial Executive held their AGM to share their Financial Report and the AUSRL AGM was held. As well, we recognised two Ukrainian Orthodox Youth with the 2023 CYMK-UOY Leadership Bursary.

We wish to congratulate the 2023 Recipients: Justine Jereniuk – 2nd Time Recipient, University of Alberta Kinesiology and Nikolia Kruhlak – 4th Time Recipient, University of Alberta, Pharmacy

Following the AUSRL AGM, we were fortunate to have Dr Larissa Sembaliuk-Cheladyn share about the Ukrainian Voice Mosaic Project, its inception and final completion. Larissa shared the process of bringing the printing blocks from Winnipeg to Edmonton, locating a studio space, the cataloguing and cleaning of the print block and selection process for the mosaic project. This mosaic projects it telltale in sharing the history of Ukrainians in Canada, but also a large portion are sharing the history of our Ukrainian Self-Reliance League of Canada (USRL) and our component organizations – The Ukrainian Women's Association of Canada (UWAC), Ukrainian Self-Reliance Association (TYC), Canadian Ukrainian Youth Association – Ukrainian Orthodox Youth (CYMK-UOY), our institutes, and our many parishes of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada (UOCC). Following a very informative question and answer session, AUSRL presented Dr Larissa with a donation of \$10000 towards this Mosaic Project. We anxiously await the completion of this project and its cross-Canada tour in the Summer of 2025.

A major focus of our AUSRL Board during 2023-24 was being able to support of Ukrainian USRL and Ukrainian Orthodox community in Alberta through our AGLC Casino Funds raised from our Casino which took place in April, 2023. AUSRL works to provide major fundraising support to help our community organizations meet their cultural, education, and religious programming within Alberta. We held four meetings over the 2023-2024 term, held virtually, embracing the convenience of online meeting, to allow more flexibility in timing and participation.

Our Financial Year ended August 31, 2024. During the 2023-24 AUSRL Term we were able to distribute funding to the following projects / organizations:

- RAZOM Orchestra, Newcomer Orchestra, Edmonton, Purchase of Musical Instruments
- Order of St. Andrew's, Program Support (Newcomer Language Classes, Altar Boys Recognition)
- KONTACT Ukrainian TV, Sacred Music Concert Recording, St John's Cathedral 100th Anniversary
- St. Anna's UWAC, St Anthony Parish – Programming Support
- St Michael's Parish, Facility Project
- St Michael's UWAC, Edmonton, Programming Support

As well, we have allocated funding to Camp Barvnok Society for Facility Project and Summer Camp Program 2024; St Anthony's Parish 50th Anniversary Iconography Project, National CYMK-UOY Retreat, Calgary-Canmore-Banff, and Studio Theo – Picking Up The Pieces Mosaic Project.

We are fortunate to have another AUSRL AGLC Casino scheduled for March 2025, where we will be once again asking for volunteers from within our USRL-Alberta community to raise the much-needed funds for the many community projects that are asked to support.

As well, we will be awarding two CYMK-UOY Leadership Bursaries for the 2024 Year at the upcoming AGM in October 18-19, 2024 being held at St Andrew's Sobor, Edmonton.

I would like to thank our AUSRL board for their perseverance and support during this past year. For the most part, our Board members are active community volunteers within our greater community organizations in various capacities. This board takes the time to connect, review funding requests and make decisions that support our greater Ukrainian Canadian community in Alberta and beyond. Your dedication is greatly appreciated. Through a strong community spirit, we shall be able to move forward and have our community as strong, if stronger than ever.

Respectfully submitted by  
Dennis Kuchta, President, AUSRL



### Board of Directors Directors

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Dennis Kuchta President

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#### Director, Ukrainian Museum of Canada, Alberta Branch (Edmonton)

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## Bishop Budka Charitable Society

The mission of the Bishop Budka Charitable Society is:

1. To carry out projects and programs of national and international assistance, development, and emergency relief.
2. To foster an awareness of our global community through education, individual, and personal involvement.
3. To promote, encourage, and assist national and international aid and development.
4. To collect, raise, and distribute funds to support aid and development programs of the society.

Over the course of the past year the Bishop Budka Charitable Society continued to fulfill its mission by holding monthly meetings and reviewing requests for funding.

Nine meetings of the Directors of the Bishop Budka Charitable Society were held over the past year.

During the last year, the Bishop Budka Charitable Society has also been fostering greater collaboration with the Rotary Club.

The Bishop Budka Charitable Society held its Annual General Meeting (AGM) on the evening of Thursday, 20 June 2024. The guest speaker was Gerry Darichuk of the Calgary North Rotary Club. He spoke on the topic of the "Development of the Kryvyi Rih Medical Rehabilitation Centre for the Injured in Ukraine."



### Board of Directors

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Worger Pat



## Friends of the Ukrainian Village Society

The Friends of the Ukrainian Village Society is a registered charity that supports the Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village in achieving its full potential as a museum. We do this by owning and maintaining the Silska Domiwka hall & kitchen, employing the site's seasonal interpretation staff, managing food & retail services, and operating the HCP summer day camp. In addition, we organize programs and events that raise funds, increase awareness of the UCHV, and provide a doorway for community involvement. We are a membership-based organization comprised of individual and family members.

Staff includes Gordon Yaremchuk, Shelby Doucette, Mariana Tsyfra, and Emily Luz.

We held our AGM in April of 2024 at St. John's Cultural Center and the meeting featured door prizes, snacks, and presentations. Noted highlights were important bylaw changes and an adjustment to our fiscal year.

Our music festival returned on Friday, July 12 at the Pint off Whyte, continued with a patio series at UCHV the next day, and concluded with the main concert at UCHV on Sunday. It was at this event that we announced the recipient of our Ludvik Marianych Ukrainian Music & Leadership Scholarship, Kasya Jaddock. The scholarship award is comprised of \$500, a numbered Larisa Sembaliuk Cheladyn print, and a Friends membership for one year. The award is issued once annually.

Our Historical Children's Program (HCP) summer day camp welcomed 102 campers and this included 36 Ukrainian National children sponsored by Ukrainian Canadian Social Services and private donors. A Kastelen Sausage & Fine Meats donation provided lunch once per week for all campers. Huge thanks to those organizations!

Friends of the Ukrainian Village Society is now gearing up to attend vendor markets where we will sell merchandise and engage in promotion. We look forward to continuing our support of the UCHV in 2025 as it will be the 50th Anniversary of the Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village. 2024 is the 40th Anniversary of the Friends Society and we have enjoyed celebrating this milestone all year!



### Board of Directors

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Iris Hewko

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Lesia Levytsky

Kayla Szymanski,

Karen Graves

(Past-President)



#### Contact information:

8820-112 Street NW  
Edmonton, AB  
T6G 2P8

7806623855 ext.1111

info@fouvs.ca

www.fouvs.ca

FB: @friendsukrainianvillage

Instagram: friendsoftheukrainianvillage





## Edmonton Catholic Schools Ukrainian Bilingual Parent Advisory Society (UBPAS)

**Mission:** to promote, advocate, and support the Edmonton Catholic Schools Ukrainian Bilingual Program (UBP) so as to sustain the highest quality of academic, bilingual, cultural, and religious learning opportunities and resources for all students.

Thank you to parents, teachers, administrators, volunteers, and community stakeholders for their support, commitment, and contributions to the Ukrainian Bilingual Program and activities of the Society for 50 years! Enrollment (K-Gr. 12) = approx. 923 students (St. Martin – 361; St. Matthew – 273, St. Brendan – 211; Austin O'Brien – 78).

Highlights of 2023-24 and events sponsored by (UBPAS):

- AGM / Appreciation / Awards (October 5th, 2023): Held in-person & well attended by the community.
- Advocated on behalf of the program on various topics including Ukrainian language fluency within the administrative staff of our program schools etc.
- Spring 2024: Ukrainian picture dictionaries were presented to Grade 2 students.
- 50th Anniversary Sat Feb 10th, 2024 @ Meridian Banquets: was a huge success! Close to 400 people in attendance.
- Appreciation: June 2024, we provided some sweet treats to our administrators, teachers and support staff to remind them how much they are appreciated.
- June 2024 Farewells: The Grade 12 Matura was held at Holy Cross & the UBPAS contributed funds in support of the event. St. Brendan Grade 9 pizza party/farewell for the Ukrainian Bilingual students, where the UBPAS provided the pizzas. St. Martin & St. Matthew Grade 6 celebration farewell events.

**Marketing and Advertising 2023-2024:** For the Edmonton Catholic Schools Ukrainian Bilingual Program continued to be a joint venture with UBPAS, school administrations, and Edmonton Catholic School District. The marketing plan included the following initiatives, all coordinated by ECSD, and funded jointly by the UBPAS and our partner organization, UBLA (Ukrainian Bilingual Language Association):

- Roadsigns to advertise open houses for each school, YouTube, Facebook and Instagram advertisements along with digital ads on billboards at the airport terminal.
- Handbills in welcome packages for newcomer families arriving from Ukraine.
- Other advertising implemented: special feature publications within the local community (e.g., ACUA Vitae Magazine, UCC-APC Ukrainian Day Souvenir booklet, UCC e-bulletin, various festival program booklets etc.).
- We put up a display for the Edmonton Catholic Schools Ukrainian Bilingual Program at community events: Yarmarok (pre-easter market) & Ufest (May 24th & 25th, 2024)

**Financial Support:** The Society continues to provide funding to each school for the Ukrainian bilingual program, to support and/or subsidize:

- Classroom/library resource materials
- School cultural activities, celebrations, special projects, Field trips, student retreats, transportation costs.
- Scholarship program for Grade 12 and Academic Achievement awards for Grade 4-9
- Recognition program including farewell gifts for Grades 6, 9 (icon and rushnyk) and Grade 12 (UBPAS/tryzub logo gold pendant)

Committees we are a part of: our Society and the Ukrainian Bilingual Program is represented on various other committees and organizations, for e.g: UBLA (Ukrainian Bilingual Language Association), Ukrainian Bilingual Administrators, UCC-APC (Ukrainian Canadian Congress-AB Provincial Council), Education committee with UCC-APC and at the University Level with ULEC, ULECON (Ukrainian Language Education Consortium, which includes Admin Ukrainian Language reps from AB Education, Sherwood Park, Vegreville, ULEC, Edmonton Catholic).

**Goals for 2024-2025:** Completion of 50th anniversary archive project; Work with our stakeholder organizations for funds to: Purchase the last stock of the Eng/Ukr/Fr Richard Scarry dictionaries (A great tactile resource for our early learners), Purchase icons annually for our grade 6 and 9 graduates; Continue working to update to our bylaws; · Continue our work with UBLA to coordinate funding support for Ukrainian language education programs in Alberta;

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Lea-Wilson (nee: Wujcik), President



### Board of Directors

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(nee: Wujcik)

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##### St. Brendan

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Ken Semeniuk

**Contact information:**  
president@ubpas.net  
<https://www.facebook.com/UBPAS>



## Братство Українців Католиків Канади відділ Альберти (Едмонтонської Єпархії) Ukrainian Catholic Brotherhood of Canada – Alberta Branch (Edmonton Eparchy)



Glory be to Jesus Christ!  
Glory be Forever!

Я долучався до онлайн-зустрічей Конгресу Українців Канади – Провінційної Ради Альберти (UCC-APC), коли мав таку можливість. Наразі UCC-APC веде надзвичайно активну роботу, підтримуючи понад 65 тисяч українців, які прибули до Альберти. Це включає співпрацю з урядами на провінційному та федеральному рівнях, а також надання різноманітних послуг для їхнього успішного поселення та адаптації.

The processing of the UCBC archives has come to a stop at the Bohdan Medwidsky Ukrainian Folklore Archives (BMUFA) at the Kule Folklore Centre at the University of Alberta. I spoke to Nataliia Yesypenko (she took over from Maryna Chenyavska; Maryna moved on to another position at the UofA) at BMUFA - Kule Folklore Centre, University of Alberta. She told me that there is no longer any room to process/store UCBC AB archives. It was suggested to contact the Basilian Fathers Museum (contact - Karen Lemiski - curator & associate director) in Mundare and determine if they will take-over and continue the processing of the UCBC Archives.

I have been working with Vlodko Boychuk, President, Alberta Ukrainian Media Association (AUMA) to have programs shown on the Alberta Kontakt TV Program where each is acknowledged that it is sponsored or presented by the Alberta Branch of the UCBC.

UCBC AB participated in and financially supported:

- the videoing of Concert of Ukrainian Carols and its broadcasting on Alberta Kontakt.
- another production run (1000) of the coloring books commemorating the 130th of Immigration and Settlement. The coloring books were distributed to the Ukrainian bilingual schools: St. Martin, St. Matthew, St. Nicholas (Sherwood Park), and St. Theresa (Sherwood Park).
- the St. Martin Playground Recognition Mural Presentation event.
- the Ukrainian Bilingual Program's 50\* Anniversary reunion Zabava

UCBC also attended many community events.

submitted by Bro. Mark Kopinec - President



### Board of Directors

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## Ukrainian Catholic Women's League of Canada - Edmonton Eparchy

We have 7 branches in Edmonton, 1 in Calgary, 1 in Red Deer, and 8 in rural locations for a total of 17 branches for a total of 571 members and 8 Honourary Life Members.

### Initiatives:

- Our Eparchial UCWLC Website [ucwlcedmonton.ca](http://ucwlcedmonton.ca) has been completed.
- Work continues expanding and relocating the UCWLC Museum. The committee is working diligently on this project as it involves creating a new organization with strong affiliation with UCWLC, and a strong business and sustainable plan. A grant for a Feasibility Study has been applied for.
- Museum participated in UFest and Pysanka Festivals, as well as hosting several school classes.
- Eparchial Cookbook – With Baba's Blessing ... Smachnoho!, continues to be available for sale at ACUA, UCHV and at branches, as well as our children's produced Christmas Cards
- We started the process of our UCWLC applying for Charitable status with the CRA.
- As we move into more digital technology, digitizing our archives and databases of branches so that the information can be accessible by members, not just sitting in our offices was discussed. While we did not receive funding from Canada Summer Jobs to hire young members to work on this year, it is something that we will continue to pursue.
- Mothers in Prayer and Fellowship groups were introduced at several branches
- Branches Holy Eucharist and Holy Trinity celebrated their 75th anniversaries and of Descent of the Holy Spirit (Wasketanau) their 50th anniversary
- UCWLC Eparchial celebrated their 80th anniversary in June with over 100 attendees

Charitable donations were made to support the following: Edmonton Food Bank, Mustard Seed Church, Ukrainian Catholic Social Services, Sheptytsky Institute, St. Michael's Extended Care, Edmonton Prolife, St. Joseph's Home in Mundare, Holy Spirit Seminary, Bridge of Hope, Marian Centre, Bishop Budka Society, and Basilian House of Studies. We support four Sadochoks – BUCPS, Kalyn Kids, St. Basil's, and St. Josaphat's. Help with funding of two Children's Camps – Camp Oselia and Camp St. Basil's. Support the Eparchy of Edmonton by donating to the Bishop's Name Day, the Bishop's Gala, and CNEWA. The Eparchial UCWLC has donated over \$20,000 to help others.



Contact information:  
[www.ucwlcedmonton.ca](http://www.ucwlcedmonton.ca)



### Board of Directors

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#### Nasha Doroha

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Joyce Chrunik-Rudiak

#### Archives

Amelia Danilak

#### Organizational

Virginia Sharek



## St. John's Institute (SJI)

In early 2024, SJI's Board of Directors chose to contribute \$33,000 to the 'mental health for newcomers' project in Edmonton, which provides counseling services to Ukrainian newcomers, delivered by volunteer Masters - level psychologists from Ukraine who themselves were evacuees after the Feb. 2022 invasion. This funding directly supports salaries for the Ukrainian psychologists - a critical part of the project which could not be funded by other supporters. This funding allows for at least six months of salaries for the psychologists.

Additionally, SJI continues to maintain & support further development of its Bar-V-Nok resort/camp property on Pigeon Lake, which is currently leased to the Bar-V-Nok Society. The Board of Directors of SJI continue their work developing grants/bursaries from their investments. It is hoped that a new menu of grants will be available in the future.

**Contact information:**  
St. John's Institute (SJI)  
c/o St. John's Cultural Centre  
10611 - 110 Ave.,  
Edmonton, AB T5H 2Z5  
info@stjohnsinstitute.com



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## Ukrainian Pioneers' Association of Alberta

The Ukrainian Pioneers Association of Alberta was proud to support several causes with donations this year including the Ukrainian National Youth Federation's summer program and archival work by Dr. Mark Minenko.

Members of the board represented the Pioneers at the University of Alberta's 50th Anniversary Malanka, the Ukrainian Civil Liberties Association's unveiling of a monument to Great War Internment in Vegreville, and MacEwan University's Ukrainian Resource and Development Centre's Kyiv Konnection Banquet.



Our Annual General Meeting was conducted on August 27th and all officers and directors were confirmed in their positions. We conducted a casino on October 15th and 16th at Century Casino. The last meeting of the calendar year will be Thursday, December 5th from 5 to 7 pm at the Meadows Library meeting room, and is open to anyone looking to support Ukrainian history and culture in Alberta and willing to help us decide how to best use our casino funds.



### Board of Directors

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#### Vice President and

#### immediate Past President

Jars Balan

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Ilya Khineyko

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Peter Opryshko

Alexandre Makar

Paul Brodoway

Kelsey Baron

**Contact information:**  
<https://www.facebook.com/ukrainianpioneers>  
<https://ukrainianpioneers.wordpress.com/>  
[ukrainianpioneers@gmail.com](mailto:ukrainianpioneers@gmail.com)



## Ukrainian Resource and Development Centre (URDC) at MacEwan University

The Ukrainian Resource and Development Centre (URDC) at MacEwan University has made significant contributions to the cultural, educational, and community development sectors both locally in Canada and internationally in Ukraine. URDC has become a vital hub connecting all Ukraine-related initiatives at MacEwan, currently employing a director and an administrative assistant. URDC collaborates closely with two part-time endowed Chairs: Chair of International Health (CIH) and Kule Chair of Ukrainian Community and International Development (Kule Chair). Additionally, URDC has been successful in bringing together academics from across the University - Team Ukraïna - to collaborate on numerous initiatives, ranging from research to course offering, cultural and academic events, award administration, community and student engagement, and language classes.

We are holding Ukraine and MacEwan, bringing community to the campus and campus to the community. This past year was marked by strength, gratitude and collaboration. We extend heartfelt appreciation to MacEwan's Team Ukraïna for joining hands with us in our shared mission. Special recognition is due to the dedication and friendship of Dr. Jeffrey Stepnisky, Dr. Elizabeth Burgess-Pinto, Lindsey Whitson, Dr. Chaldeans Mensah, Dr. Michael Gulayets, Dr. Natalia Rohatyn-Martin, Dr. Oksana Tashkinova. Together, we've woven the rich tapestry of Ukraine's narrative, from academic pursuits of course offerings, research endeavours and talks, to cultural and community-engaged initiatives, for the benefit of all. Our achievements were made possible through the continued support of the university administration and the broader community. URDC's initiatives range from academic programs to community engagement, panel discussions, exhibits, and more.

The second Ukraine Week at MacEwan featured a concert, film screening, and lecture, all designed to deepen understanding of Ukraine's fight for democracy. URDC is honoured to be able to support Ukrainian students and academics by offering awards and visiting scholar grants. We continue working closely with our partner universities in Ukraine: National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy, Ukrainian Catholic University, Ternopil National Medical University, and Lviv Music Academy. A notable new initiative was the NATO Simulation—Complex Challenges in the North: Forecasting the Arctic, a two-day exercise on Arctic defence and security amid Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Faculty and students from three Canadian and two Ukrainian universities (UCU and NaUKMA) explored the implications of the Russian invasion for the Arctic defence. The project was supported by the Canadian Department of National Defence.

With financial support from the community and the provincial government, we organized English Language classes for newcomers. Our Indigenous Ukrainian Relations event, held August 2023

highlighted the power of open-mindedness and compassion. The Canada Ukraine Model United Nations is entering its fifth year, and the Gene Zwozdesky Artist in Residence program is now in its second year. We are excited to welcome Lianna Makuch for her upcoming residency at MacEwan. The Ukrainian Resource and Development Centre at MacEwan University remains a dynamic hub of activity, contributing to the academic, cultural, and community life at MacEwan and beyond. We stand united with the resilient people of Ukraine against this unprovoked and unjust Russian aggression.



### Board of Directors

Larisa Hayduk  
Polina Budyanska

**Contact information:**  
MacEwan University Room 7-310G,  
10070 104 Avenue NW Edmonton,  
Alberta T5J 4S2  
[www.MacEwan.ca/URDC](http://www.MacEwan.ca/URDC) 780-497-4373



## Ukrainian Students' Society (UofAlberta)

### Ukrainian Students Society 2023-2024 Academic Year Recap:

The Ukrainian Students' Society strives to uphold Ukrainian culture, language and traditions amongst students at the University of Alberta, and informs about issues relevant to the Ukrainian-Canadian community. By organizing Ukrainian events, activities and social gatherings, USS helps keep the Ukrainian spirit alive on and off campus.

This year, we organized our regular annual events to promote Ukrainian culture and traditions, such as, pyrohy barbeques, tabling at various events, Sviat Vechir, Ukrainian sports teams, and much more. In light of the war, this year we also organized events dedicated to raising awareness and fundraising for Ukraine. This included a game-night fundraiser for Ukraine, war-focused speaker and movie events, attendance at rallies, a donation of \$800 from our perogy BBQ, and an "Unissued Diplomas" exhibit - a worldwide project displaying diplomas of Ukrainian university students that were never issued because they were killed in the war.

Additionally, we continued to successfully integrate Ukrainian Newcomer students into our club. Newcomers from the past 2 years comprise a notable portion of our over 100-person membership, and visible friendships have been made between Ukrainian and Canadian-born students at USS events. As well, our executive board now consists of nearly a 50/50 split of Canadian-born and Ukrainian-born students. This way, we successfully integrate varying perspectives into our decision-making, and satisfy the preferences of both Ukrainian and Canadian-born students.

Over the past year, we focused on expanding our event capabilities, organizing a total of 16 events, averaging 2-3 per academic month. In general, we found great success in USS sports teams and social gatherings. Our biggest event of the year was our USS 70th Anniversary Zabava, held on March 9th, 2024. Despite the challenges of planning such a large-scale community event, it was so successful that we've committed to hosting another Zabava in 2025. Overall, in 2023-24, USS achieved its goal of fostering community-building initiatives while simultaneously focusing on fundraising and raising awareness for Ukraine on campus.



УКРАЇНЬКА СТУДЕНТСЬКА СПІЛКА  
UKRAINIAN STUDENTS' SOCIETY

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Ivanka Khoruzhenko

#### Contact information:

4-06 Pembina Hall - University of  
Alberta Campus, Edmonton,  
AB, Canada, Alberta

uss@ualberta.ca  
sites.google.com/a/ualberta.ca/uss/home





## Ukrainian Women's Association of Canada Alberta Provincial Executive (UWAC-APE)

Report of the Past President of the Ukrainian Women's Association of Canada, Alberta Provincial Executive (AB/BC)

In 2024, because the BC Provincial Executive was eliminated, our Executive took over its responsibilities.

We have held bimonthly meetings of the Executive and two Google Meets for all AB/BC members.

I would like to thank First Vice-President, Nataliya Grytsiv, for representing us at UCC-APC, which greatly simplified my presidency.

The primary objective of the UWAC-APE since election has been to communicate with our branches and members. To this end, I have created a list with contact information for each of the ten Alberta branches and an Excel document listing all Alberta members of the UWAC with their contact information. One third of our members have no email addresses. Recently, I added the three BC branches to these documents and am still trying to hone that information for accuracy.

To increase our Alberta membership, we prepared and mounted a display at Ukrainian Day at the Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village just outside Edmonton. Many Ukrainian newcomers stopped at our booth and benefitted from our giveaway books and a draw for Flowers of the Bible prints. We thank the UCC-APC for sponsoring that event.

Other initiatives were participation in the Holodomor Memorial at City Hall in November, 2023 (sponsored by UCC Edmonton), a joint workshop with the UWAC St. John's Branch "Tell Your Story" Workshop in March, 2024 for Edmonton/Calmar branches and two successful nominations of UWAC members for the UCC-APC's Hetman Awards 2024.

Although we are not a fund-raising body, we donated monies to the Alberta Local and International Education Association in support of a film about Myrna Kostash, and to the UCC-APC Support Group Project (psychological help for Ukrainian newcomers) among other donations.

We have resurrected the UWAC-APE scholarship to the University of Alberta for the student with the highest marks in a Ukrainian Language Course--\$500 per year for the next five years.

Respectfully,  
Leona Faryna Bridges, President



L to R: Nataliya, Betty,  
Susan, Leona, Vivian, Diane



### Board of Directors President

Leona Bridges

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Dr. Elaine Harasymiw

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### AUSRL Representative

Vicki Kihnicksi

### UCC Representative

Nataliya Grytsiv

**Contact information:**  
uwac.ape@usrl-cyc.org,  
780-619-4416 (cell)







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