

## UCC Triennial Congress Report

Larysa Kuchta and I attended the UCC Triennial conference the weekend of October 31st- November 3rd, 2019, among members of the National CYMK Executive Max, Ilya, and Liza. Overall, it was a very engaging conference and we learned a lot about the Ukrainian Diaspora in Canada. As well, we made great connections with other Ukrainian youth groups throughout Canada. The presenters and panels were very informative, and we held a productive roundtable discussion about youth programming.

Here is a summary of some of the presentations and discussions that we attended that are relevant to CYMK:

### **Speaker One: Demographics on Ukrainians in Canada**

- B.C. has the #3 population of Ukrainian Canadians in Canada and is one of the fastest growing populations. Vancouver, Victoria, and Kelowna are the largest cities.
- This is due not to new immigrants, but from self-identification as Ukrainian!
  - This means that more 2nd and 3rd generation Ukrainian Canadians are identifying as such
- Vancouver is the #2 in youth/ students in Canada.

### **Speaker Two: Engaging the Unengaged**

- This speaker gave his experience of getting engaged in the Ukrainian Community at an older age and advice on how Ukrainian groups can grow their memberships.
  - Participate in Multicultural Events
    - Share traditions, translate to make sure that all can understand
  - Mentorship: Find a good mentor, or be a good mentor to other people.
  - Make connections with new people in groups on an individual basis, especially the first time a person attends.
  - Overall, seek to include and not exclude people in your group.

### **Round Table Discussion: Youth Programming**

- CYMK, CYM, PLAST, MUNO, and SUSK attended the discussion on youth.
- Discussed the current growth of our youth groups.
  - Different groups had different growth.
    - Some have decreasing overall membership, with the growth of few locals.
    - Others have had considerable growth
  - New growth came from new immigrants, and other groups have lifelong members which bring their children back
    - CYMK specifically has been having troubles growing.
- Recommendation was made to increase collaboration between groups.
  - Stop seeing it as a competition like the older generations did between our different groups.
  - Disconnect in communication- not competing, but should be collaborating.
    - We have to change it and work together because we can help each other
  - Community tends to be exclusionary.
- Solutions
  - Create a list of our contact information.
    - Focus on the local level to try to collaborate, then working up to national level.
    - Regional conference calls amongst organizations for planning and communication.

- Creation of a UCC sub-committee for youth groups
- Ensure that each active youth organization has membership to UCC
- Our common goal is to find ways to work together and be active within community on a larger scale

**Panel: Engaging Volunteers**

- **Speaker One:** Build a strong engaged community with a common vision.
  - Ukrainian demographics are changing.
  - Organizations that think that don't need to change or adapt, become more and more irrelevant.
  - Simple patriotism is not enough, we need values and beliefs
  - Sharing, mentoring, seek to include, not exclude. All add to volunteerism
- **Speaker Two:** Volunteer Canada- Formal volunteering is down, take up the fact that we are social beings, volunteers like causes.
  - Challenge to be more involved. Motivation and connection to causes and Ukraine. A journey, not a one-time effort, build on little steps. Social needs are different, individuals = people have their own time
  - Volunteerism is also about being social, completing projects together. Being "voluntold" is still okay, individuals want some of this direction. Don't say how to do things, say what you want done. Don't be afraid, be careful of bad experiences.
  - Volunteer leaders are the ones who can change things, engage and motivate volunteers to become a source of inspiration. Stop and thank your volunteers and be grateful.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Alberta Provincial CYMK at [cymk.ab@gmail.com](mailto:cymk.ab@gmail.com) or National CYMK at [nationalcymk@gmail.com](mailto:nationalcymk@gmail.com).

Respectfully submitted by,

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