



HETMAN AWARDS

Saturday 24 October 2020
Online Show & Silent Auction

This year's Hetman Awards event is broadcast online through the UCC-APC website and Facebook. The Hetman Awards show celebrates nine incredible community leaders from Edmonton and Calgary, featuring interviews with the recipients, an award ceremony, and keynote speeches.



Celebrating our Community Leaders and Volunteers

FOR MORE INFORMATION: UCC-APC
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UKRAINIAN CANADIAN CONGRESS
ALBERTA PROVINCIAL COUNCIL



Graphic Design by Valeriy Semenko, 2019



Message from UCC-APC President Orysia Boychuk

Welcome to the 2020 Hetman Awards Celebration in Alberta!



Маю честь з цієї нагоди визнати тих членів нашої громади, які зробили значний внесок і продовжують сприяти розвитку нашої провінції Альберти, плекаючи у ній сильну та енергійну українську громаду в Канаді. Коли українська громада сильна, ми у свою чергу робимо власний внесок у створення сильної провінції та сильної країни.

We understand that this year's celebration is different, but we are incredibly excited to be recognizing outstanding leadership within our Alberta Ukrainian community, even during this pandemic!

Furthermore, this year we are delighted to introduce a new award, the “*Professional Achievement Award*,” to recognize our community's professional cadres. We developed it based on feedback received from our community. What an excellent addition it has been!

On behalf of the UCC-APC, our Alberta community, I would like to congratulate you and honour each of you for your leadership and significant contributions in making our community strong and vibrant!

Усім переможцям цьогорічних Гетьманських Нагород:

Thank you for taking part in this year's Hetman Awards ceremony. It was a pleasure to get to know the incredible people who shape and bring this community together.

Ми надзвичайно пишаємось і вдячні всім вам за ваш час і безмежні зусилля, які ви вклали в нашу громаду!

Слава Україні! — Слава Канаді!



Hetman Award recipients with Amb. Shevchenko and Consul-General Danyleiko.

Special Presentation by Ambassador of Ukraine in Canada Andriy Shevchenko honouring Marco Levystky

This year's program features a presentation of the Ivan Mazepa Cross to Marco Levytsky. The Cross is instituted to honour citizens of Ukraine, foreign citizens, or stateless persons for significant contributions to the revival of the national, cultural, artistic, spiritual, architectural, military,



and historical heritage of Ukraine, and for achievements in state, diplomatic, humanitarian, scientific, educational, and charitable activity.

*Ukrainian Canadian Congress
Alberta Provincial Council*



*2020 Annual Hetman Awards
Show, Saturday 24 October*



Hetman Award

– Adult –

Lidia Wasylyn

Lidia Wasylyn has been involved in the community since a young age, beginning in the Los Angeles branch of the Ukrainian Youth Association (CYM). Growing up in a family dedicated to service to the Ukrainian community, Lidia began her Ukrainian political advocacy as a student at the University of Southern California. After moving to Edmonton in 1984, it didn't take long for her to jump into community life. Since 1986 she has been an active member of the Edmonton Branch of CYM and the League of Ukrainian Canadian Women.



While Lidia has taken leadership roles in various organizations such as Alberta Parents for Ukrainian Education, St. Josaphat Cathedral Parish Council, and Ivan Franko School of Ukrainian Studies, she has also contributed to the Ukrainian Catholic Women's league and the Tsentralia of Ukrainian Catholics of the Edmonton Eparchy. Even with this breadth of involvement, CYM has always been her home base.

Lidia has been a frequent contributor to Ukrainian-Canadian news outlets, highlighting events and organizations, especially their volunteers. She strives to set an example of volunteerism and devotion to the community for the next generation and especially to her sons, whom she regards as her greatest accomplishment.





Hetman Award

– Adult –

Mark Kopinec

Mark Kopinec has dedicated over forty years to volunteering for the Ukrainian community. His volunteering in the community began back in the 1980s when he was president of the Ukrainian Students Club at the University of Alberta. During his tenure Mark was engaged in elevating the presence of the Ukrainian Students Club on campus and organizing activities for the Ukrainian university students. Following his debut as president, Mark's leadership volunteer roles have



included being vice-president of the Ukrainian Catholic Brotherhood of Canada, Edmonton Eparchy, for the past four years; founder, treasurer, and logistics coordinator of the Friends of the Ukrainian Heritage Pavilion Society; and UCC Edmonton board member for many years in various capacities, including secretary, Audit Committee member, and treasurer.

Mark's most recent and significant impact has been as a volunteer with UCC Edmonton as treasurer, where he not only manages finances for the organization but has played an active role in putting on UCC Edmonton events. Through his accounting experience, he has successfully maintained the financial records, budgets, and public funding of the organization. He is constantly focused on how to continually improve and enhance the Ukrainian community.



Hetman Award

– Adult –

Oksana Dawid



Oksana Dawid emigrated from Ukraine in 1992 and has been an active member of the Ukrainian community in Canada for twenty-five years. She is an active member of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church parish in Calgary. She has been director/principal of the Ukrainian heritage school for five years, developing a strong, well-organized program that has

attracted many new students. She has also organized trips to Ukraine for graduating classes, and spent endless hours working to raise funds for many causes including Church needs, humanitarian help for Ukraine, and wounded soldier funds. She took an active role during the Orange Revolution in Ukraine to ensure that a special polling office was set up in Calgary for visiting Ukrainians to place their votes. She was involved in the organization of meetings and rallies in support of Ukraine during turbulent times.

Oksana is a born leader and enjoys engaging people in various activities in the Ukrainian community. She has been president of the Ukrainian Catholic Women's League for over seven years in Calgary as well as being an active member of CYM.

Wherever Oksana travels, she has a great ability to engage others and encourage them to participate in some aspect of the Ukrainian community. Her love and passion for her culture sparks the interest of others to become more involved. She is constantly introducing new people to Ukrainian community life in Calgary. She is a true ambassador of Ukrainian community life, and her energy and enthusiasm are forever appreciated by the community.



Hetman Award

– Adult –

Borys Sydoruk

William Borys Sydoruk was born in Calgary into a Ukrainian immigrant family. Through his dedicated and selfless service spanning more than three decades, Borys displayed exceptional leadership qualities and inspired the entire community while encouraging youth participation. Borys was active in his youth with the Ukrainian Youth Association of Canada (CYM), Calgary Branch.



Borys is a founding member of the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association and the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Foundation. Along with other leaders, he played an instrumental role in securing recognition, restitution, and reconciliation for Canada's role in WWI internment operations and was involved in the placement of dozens of historical markers and statues in Alberta and across Canada aimed at recognition of the internment operations.

For over 30 years Mr. Sydoruk played a major role in local, provincial, national, and international campaigns aimed at raising awareness about the Holodomor in Ukraine. He has also contributed significantly to honouring and promoting the legacy of Ukrainian Canadian war heroes, including Cpl. Filip Konowal, a recipient of the Victoria Cross. Borys is an active member of St. Vladimir's Ukrainian Orthodox Congregation in Calgary. For his dedication and major contributions to the Ukrainian community, he was awarded the UCC National Shevchenko Medal in 2019 and a Lifetime Achievement Award by the Ukrainian Canadian Professional & Business Association of Calgary.

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Hetman Award

– Senior –

Slava Yopyk



Slava Yopyk has an ability to recognize a need and a commitment to getting things done, which has led her to a lifetime of volunteer activities. She currently devotes her time to various community organizations in the Edmonton region. Her volunteer and leadership accomplishments continue to make a significant difference to the lives of many. She embodies the spirit of volunteerism and a true leader. Slava was recently recognized by the World Federation of Ukrainian Women's Organizations and

honoured with the “Берегиня Українського Роду” award in 2019.

Slava was and continues to be a very active member and volunteer, promoting culture and educational programs throughout the Ukrainian community in Edmonton. Slava was the president of the Ukrainian Women's Organization of Canada Edmonton Branch in 1990–91 and from 2013 to 2017. She saw a need and set forth to lead the organization into the 21st century and in doing so has enriched the organization and the broader community.

We often use the phrase “youth of today are our future, our leaders in the future,” and Slava Yopyk's work as one of the founding members of the Studio Dzherelo Ukrainian Children's Theatre, has inspired the next generation; they will have the knowledge to go forward and continue with the work started before them, ensuring the continuation of Ukrainian traditions and language. Slava Yopyk is a true leader with a vision—a Woman for all Seasons.





UCC-APC Professional Award

Shane Gibson

Shane Gibson is a five-year volunteer member on the Board of the Alberta Ukrainian Dance Association (AUDA), based in Calgary. His entry onto the Board in 2013 came at a critical time of evaluation of continuance for the organization. With over twenty years of experience as a performer, choreographer, and instructor in Ukrainian dance, Shane brought an in-depth strategic leadership view to decision making at AUDA. His informed perspective of the needs of rural Ukrainian dance



groups in Northern Alberta influenced a re-invention of the mission of AUDA. His respected views as a change agent were instrumental in moving AUDA from a self-producing resources and workshop organization into a responsive funding organization.

His own organization, the Ukrainian Dance Instructor Conference (the only one in Canada), took on AUDA's previous workshop camp responsibilities for training Ukrainian dancers and dance instructors in advanced dance lexicon, Ukrainian ethnography, and choreography. He also took the lead in developing AUDA's Dance Instructor Development Training Initiative and Instructor Mentorship Initiatives.

Shane is Alberta's longest serving rural community Ukrainian dance instructor, for twenty-one years continuously, and AUDA is blessed to have this outstanding adult leader as a Calgary-based Ukrainian dance community representative on their board. As the new artistic director of the Tryzub Ukrainian Dance Society, Shane joins the top ranks of Ukrainian dance experts in Alberta.





UCC-APC Professional Award

Prof. Olenka Bilash



Throughout her career Prof. Olenka Bilash has displayed unparalleled levels of enthusiasm, perseverance, and professionalism in the advancement of Ukrainian language education in Alberta. From her early days establishing the first Ukrainian Bilingual program to her appointment as a professor at the University of Alberta's Faculty of Education and now as the director of the Ukrainian Language Education Centre at

the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, Dr. Bilash has truly embodied the commitment to professionalizing second language education, in particular the teaching and learning of Ukrainian.

Dr. Bilash's drive to improve second language learning has taken her across the globe and throughout Canada's own ethnic, heritage, and Indigenous communities. As a specialist in teaching resource development, language curricula, and consulting, she partnered to lead the Research Initiative on Democratic Reform in Ukraine (RIDRU) following Ukraine's tumultuous Revolution of Dignity.

Amid all her activity, Olenka dedicates special attention to Ukrainian language education, bringing cutting-edge research and publications, innovation, and experience forward to strengthen the bilingual and heritage language programs in our province, country, and across the world. An award-winning educator, internationally recognized researcher, an attentive mentor to our educators, and a true leader in the language learning community, Prof. Olenka Bilash is a professional who makes the Ukrainian community stronger.



Exemplary Volunteer Award

Cheryl Semeniuk



Cheryl Semeniuk is currently a Registered Social Worker, working at the Bissell Centre as a Family Support Worker, and has done so for the last 9.5 years. She volunteered at the Bissell Centre in 2010 in the Early Childhood Development Program and was hired that same year to work at the centre. Cheryl also volunteered prior to 2010 in the Neighbourhood Block Parent Association.

Cheryl has been a dedicated member of the Holy Eucharist Ukrainian Catholic Parish and the

Holy Eucharist branch of the Ukrainian Catholic Women's League of Canada (UCWLC) for twenty-six years. As a member of the UCWLC, in the early years Cheryl was involved in its various committees, such as the Spiritual, Social Development/Charitable, and Cultural Committees. Cheryl also took on treasurer and vice-president positions. Today, Cheryl is serving her tenth term as president.

Cheryl is very passionate about her Catholic faith, culture, and Ukrainian heritage. This is very evident in all that she has done and continues to do in her church at the eparchial and parish levels. She decorates the church for special feast days and seasons, is a member of the church choir, looks after the flowerbeds, and steps in to get the job done when no one else will. Cheryl is committed and believes that what she does is for the greater good. She works well as a team member, is respectful of others, pays attention to ideas from others, shares credit, praises others for jobs well done, and always has a positive outlook on things—an exemplary volunteer!



Exemplary Volunteer Award

Svitlana Kadziela



Svitlana Kadziela immigrated to Canada in 1995 and soon after became actively involved in community life, joining several organizations. Initially, with St Matthew Parent Council she helped with hot lunches, field trips, pysanka writing, and making *pasky* with the children. In 2006, Svitlana joined the League of Ukrainian Canadian Women (LUCW) and has been an active member since then. Currently vice-president, Svitlana has stepped up to fill the role of president when required and participated as a

member of LUCW National as a director. At this time, she is also on the board of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress, representing LUCW. She helped to organize the 125th Anniversary of Ukraine's Independence as a lead on Art Vendors and Children's Activities. She also assists at Heritage Days where needed.

Svitlana is an admirable, focused individual who approaches everything she does in a professional way. She thinks "outside the box" and encourages everyone else she works with to push their boundaries as well. She is committed to the greater good of the LUCW organization and the Ukrainian community. Svitlana continues to volunteer her time, talents, efforts, and expertise in order to keep the Ukrainian Canadian community strong, vibrant, and active.