

ULEC Celebrates:

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On 5 May 2018 the biannual National Ukrainian Teachers' Conference was held for the first time online. This new format facilitated productive discussions among teachers from across Canada, and from Ukraine as well.

The successful event was organized jointly by the Ukrainian Language Education Centre (ULEC; lead organizer) of the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies at the University of Alberta, and the National Ukrainian Educational Council of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress. Representatives of five Canadian conference hosts in Winnipeg, Edmonton, Montreal, Toronto, and Regina/Saskatoon invested a great deal of effort towards the organization and successful implementation of this educators' forum.

The plentiful conference program offered eight presentations that addressed various aspects of the topic "Learners at the Centre of the Educational Process", including those by Nadia Prokopchuk, Olena Kovpak and Olena Andrusyak (Regina/Saskatoon), Nataliya Nayavko and Luba Eshenko (Edmonton), Nataliya Nayavko and Magda Tundak (Edmonton), Ulana Pidzamecky, Alla Nedashkivska and Olenka Bilash (Edmonton), Mariya Puhach and Viktoriya Shcherbak (Winnipeg), Evhenia Tatarenko (Winnipeg), Tammy Myskiw (Edmonton), Zoriana Magdach (Toronto), Nataliya Sovinska and Tatiana Sunak (Toronto). Conference participants examined urgent issues that arise for Canadian teachers and educators in the classroom and in other learning environments. Other important issues included digital literacy and teacher preparedness for new technologies in their pedagogical work.

Oksana Levytska, chair of the National Ukrainian Educational Council of the UCC noted, "Today, every teacher is aware that education throughout the world needs transformations and innovations, which demand change in the organization of education, in the role of teachers, and in the perceptions of education in society... Remember, changes will occur only through us!"

ULEC director Alla Nedashkivska emphasized that the "online format of the conference will promote the improvement of digital literacy among teachers and the development of methodologies for using technology in education, as well as the establishment of a community of practice for Ukrainian language educators."

Part of the conference was devoted to coverage of a video competition "Learning Ukrainian –Rocks!" to promote learning Ukrainian, conceived by ULEC advisor Olenka Bilash and carried out by the Centre. The competition winners were announced, and the participants had a chance to view the creative submissions that achieved first place in each of the three categories.

The conference also recognized educators who have made a significant long-term contribution to the development of Ukrainian education in Canada. Program committee chair Olenka Bilash facilitated the awarding of prizes from the National Ukrainian Educational Council and ULEC. The “Long-term Service Award for Outstanding Contributions to Ukrainian and Language Education in Canada” was awarded to Marusia Petryshyn (Edmonton), Roma Franko (Saskatoon), Luba Zaraska (Toronto), and Zinaida Meievs’ka (Toronto).

The conference was conceived as a response to teacher requests concerning the necessity of continuing professional development through regular national educational forums in order to promote lasting interactions, shared experiences, and master pedagogues.

The organizers feel that this online-based event will galvanize further productive discussions, cooperation, and professional training for the community of educators.

Our thanks go out to all members of the organizational and programming committees, with special thanks to Danny Maas, Nataliya Nayavko, and Olenka Bilash for their behind the scenes work during the conference. We are also grateful to all of our sponsors, which continuously support the development of Ukrainian education in Canada. The list of all supporters:

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Photos: 1. Edmonton: members of conference committees and participants; 2. Toronto participants; 3. Winnipeg participants; 4. Saskatoon/Regina participants



The Ukrainian Language Education Centre promotes and develops Ukrainian language education in Canada and abroad by: supporting bilingual programs and professional development of Ukrainian language teachers and instructors; creating learning and teaching resources at both the secondary and post-secondary levels; conducting research on topics related to Ukrainian-language education and related fields; and fostering international links and community engagement. For more information about ULEC, please visit [our website](#) and [Facebook page](#) or contact us by [email](#).

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