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Канадський інститут українських студій



UNIVERSITY
OF ALBERTA



ULEC



NEWSLETTER

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June 2025



Bitacmo!

Welcome to the Ukrainian Language Education Centre Newsletter!!!

Dear Readers,

Get ready to dive into another end-of-the school year edition of the Ukrainian Language Education Centre newsletter! This issue is bursting with stories of the strength, resilience, and creativity of Ukrainian educators and their communities, not just here in Canada but across the globe.

We are excited to shine a spotlight on ULEC's latest webinar, which tackled the pressing issue of the institutional exclusion of refugee students in Germany. This discussion could not be more timely as we navigate the shifting landscape of European migration and education policies in the wake of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

Also explore a brief roundup of all webinars hosted by ULEC in 2024 and 2025, featuring summaries and direct links to watch each session.

Our collaboration with MITACS Globalink summer interns is thriving! Two new talented minds are infusing our projects with new energy and insights, all aimed at developing invaluable Ukrainian-language resources. You won't want to miss meeting Andrii and Ihor and their passion for making a difference.

We are also pleased to share the expansion of our educational video initiative on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs). After initial classroom testing, we are taking these impactful videos to

additional Edmonton schools to gather feedback and explore their potential for broader educational use. The possibilities are endless!

Additionally, we are proud to share a heartfelt video message from Daria Furtak, President of the Ukrainian Canadian Students' Union (SUSK), commemorating June 4 as the International Day of Innocent Child Victims of Aggression. It's a powerful reminder of our commitment to advocacy and social justice. Daria also shares details of her involvement in a community meeting with President Zelenskyy after the G7 summit in Kananaskis.

And let's not forget to celebrate! Join us in honouring the achievements of graduates from Ivan Franko Ukrainian Saturday School, Ridna Shkola, the Ukrainian bilingual programs at Austin O'Brien and St. Martin Schools, and teaching award recipients at Ukrainian Catholic University. You'll find heartwarming photos that capture these unforgettable moments.

As we wrap up the 2024-25 academic year, we extend our warmest wishes to everyone: teachers, enjoy a well-deserved summer break; parents and children, create joyful memories together; and to our vibrant Ukrainian language community, take the time to reconnect in sunny backyards and at lively cultural festivals.

Here's to a sensational summer!

Newsletter Editors:

Prof. Olenka Bilash (Director, ULEC)

Dr. Mariia Ostroha (Research Coordinator, ULEC)

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TO TEACHERS



Учителю! Пораднику і друже!
Ви вибрали дорогу непросту.
Ми Вам сьогодні дякуємо дуже
За Вашу працю вчительську святу!
Тим, хто пізнати добро допоміг,
Тим, хто відкрив для нас тайни доріг,
Тим, хто нам крила дарує щодня,
Тим, хто відкрив нам жагу пізнання
Тим, чия праця важка, непроста,
Тим, чиє слово добром пророста,
Тим, хто відкрив нам науки світання
Наші святкові і щирі вітання!

Джерело: https://maximum.fm/novini_t2



"Thank You, Teachers."



Teachers are keys
That unlock the student's mind.
You are guides who mold our mind.
You are one of a kind.

You are like a shepherd
Who guides the sheep
To the right path.

You, teachers, turn the pages
Of the great books.
You train us well
To reach great heights.

Thank you, teachers,
For all you have done.
In the group of many
You are one.

Meghana Vincent



**Invitation
to contribute
to the ULEC
Newsletter**

Please share your experiences or observations with us!

ulec@ualberta.ca

We look forward to receiving your contributions!

ULEC webinar - “Processing uncertain futures of Ukrainian refugee children in German schools following the Russian invasion”



Ellen Kollende



Dorothee Schwendowius

On June 20, the Ukrainian Language Education Centre (ULEC) hosted a thought-provoking webinar titled “Processing Uncertain Futures of Ukrainian Refugee Children in German Schools Following the Russian Invasion.” The session featured speakers Dr. Ellen Kollender and Dr. Dorothee Schwendowius, who shared findings from their collaborative research on the educational challenges faced by Ukrainian refugee students in Germany.

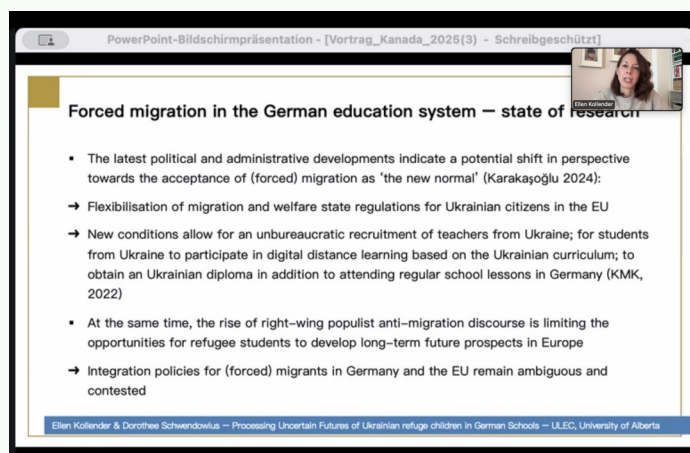
Drawing on in-depth interviews with teachers, principals, and social workers, as well as a review of educational policy documents, the presenters examined how German schools have responded to the arrival of refugee children following the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Their research highlights systemic gaps in the education system, especially in its ability to accommodate the complex needs of students experiencing forced displacement.

A central theme of the discussion was the concept of “institutional timescapes” - the structured expectations around time and progress in the school system. The speakers explained how pressures to quickly integrate refugee students often clash with the students' lived realities, including trauma, disrupted education, and uncertainty about their futures. Many children remain psychologically and emotionally attached to returning home, which affects their engagement in school and the process of language learning.

The speakers noted that although there have been policy shifts toward inclusivity, implementation on the

ground remains inconsistent and fraught with ambiguity. This is further complicated by the sociopolitical climate in Germany, where increasing right-wing populism creates a challenging environment for sustained refugee support. Educators expressed concerns about balancing the expectations of integration with the day-to-day realities of working with students in highly diverse and emotionally complex situations.

The speakers called for a reevaluation of current educational frameworks, emphasizing the need for trauma-informed approaches and more flexible, responsive teaching practices. They advocated for empowering educators to critically question institutional norms and to create space for the unique experiences of refugee children.



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Research Design & Methodology

- 40 guided interviews with teachers, principals and social workers in 19 public secondary schools in two German federal states between Nov. 2022 and Feb. 2023
- Selected policy documents on migration and integration and regulations issued by school authorities in both federal states
- Focus: organisational and pedagogical practices of schools as described by the interviewees, and their ways of relating to these practices
- Data analysis: Thematic coding followed by line-by-line analyses of contrasting sequences within and across interviews (Berg and Milmeister, 2011: 314)
→ codes were refined and differentiated (Strauss and Corbin, 1998: 146 ff.)



Dorothee Schwendowius

Ellen Kollender & Dorothee Schwendowius — Processing Uncertain Futures of Ukrainian refugee children in German Schools — ULEC, University of Alberta

The webinar concluded with a recognition of the urgent need for continued dialogue, international collaboration, and further research on refugee education. ULEC remains committed to supporting these conversations through future webinars and initiatives aimed at advancing inclusive education for all displaced learners.

For those who were unable to attend the webinar live, a full recording is available on ULEC's YouTube channel - <https://youtu.be/GenVhGINWIk>

PowerPoint-Bildschirmpräsentation - [Vortrag_Kanada_2025(3) - Schreibgeschützt]

Translating 'uncertain futures' into 'certain futures'



Dorothee Schwendowius

"Well, we try to convince the children that it is important for them to learn German. But um, that's all we can do. (...) Yes, and (...) so the German-as-a-second-language teacher now says that **he first of all devotes his energy to the children who want to learn, so that they have a chance. And the others are integrated and included. But if they close themselves off and don't want to, he can't help them.** That's just the way it is."

School principal, comprehensive school, Saxony-Anhalt

Ellen Kollender & Dorothee Schwendowius — Processing Uncertain Futures of Ukrainian refugee children in German Schools — ULEC, University of Alberta

20 червня ULEC провів вебінар «Невизначене майбутнє українських дітей-біженців у німецьких школах після російського вторгнення». Німецькі дослідниці представили результати якісного дослідження, що включало інтерв'ю з педагогами, соціальними працівниками та аналіз освітньої політики.

У центрі обговорення - труднощі інтеграції українських дітей у німецьку шкільну систему. Спікери наголосили, що чинні освітні практики часто не враховують досвід вимушеного переселення. Через тиск швидкої інтеграції виникають виключальні практики, особливо коли учні не мають мотивації до навчання через бажання повернутися в Україну.

Попри прагнення до інклюзії, освітня політика залишається суперечливою, а зростання правопопулістських настроїв ускладнює ситуацію. Дослідниці закликали переосмислити підходи до навчання дітей-біженців, впроваджувати практики, чутливі до травматичного досвіду, та підтримувати вчителів у подоланні інституційних бар'єрів.

CATCHING UP ON 2024-25 WEBINARS

In 2024 and 2025, ULEC hosted a series of webinars and one in-person workshop focused on Ukrainian language education and the broader educational challenges brought on by war, migration, and global change. These events brought together educators, researchers, and community leaders from Austria, Canada, Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Japan, Poland, and Ukraine to share insights, practical strategies, and collaborative experiences. Topics ranged from refugee integration, media literacy, and student exchanges to teacher resilience, migration, and the role of education in Ukraine's recovery.

Below is a brief description of each session, along with links to watch them on the ULEC YouTube channel.



Workshop “Designing Meaningful Assessment for a Range of Language Learners”

Date: May 2, 2024

Presenters:

- Dr. Nadia Prokopchuk (University of Saskatchewan)

A face-to-face workshop brought together teachers from across Alberta under the facilitation of Nadia Prokopchuk, EAL Program Specialist & Academic Advisor at the University of Saskatchewan. Drawing on her expertise in language education and curriculum

development, Nadia guided participants through strategies for designing unit plans, lessons, and assessments tailored to Ukrainian language learners. The workshop covered initial assessments, CEFR-based language profiling, and writing SMART language outcomes. Through group discussions and hands-on activities, teachers collaborated on practical assessment strategies, leaving with a resource handout to apply in their classrooms.

Обмін вчителями між Канадою та Україною: Як він працює? Що робить його успішним?



Webinar “Long term teacher professional development programs between Canada and Ukraine: Successes and Prospects”

Date: May 10, 2024

Presenters:

- Dr. Nadia Prokopchuk (University of Saskatchewan)
- Dr. Olena Huzar (V. Hnatyuk Ternopil National Pedagogical University)
- Bohdan Kolos (secondary school teacher and administrator)
- Borislav Bilash (high school teacher)

A webinar explored teacher exchanges between Canada and Ukraine, highlighting two long-standing educational partnerships. Nadia Prokopchuk and Dr. Olena Huzar discussed over 20 years of collaboration between Saskatchewan and Ternopil, focusing on a recent English teacher exchange. Bohdan Kolos and Borislav Bilash II presented the Ontario-Lviv project, which has offered workshops for educators since 1993. The webinar covered the history, organization, and impact of these exchanges, emphasizing the value of long-term relationships. A lively discussion underscored mutual benefits and the inspiration drawn by Ukrainian Canadians, paving the way for further collaboration.

Link: https://youtu.be/649nk_ofzE

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High School Student Exchanges and School Twinings



Webinar “High School Student Exchanges and School Twinings”

Date: June 8, 2024

Presenters:

- Yuriy Dzala (Principal in Lviv, Ukraine)
- Luba Eshenko (Canadian teacher)
- Olena Hartsula (Liaison in Ukraine)
- Larysa Hayduk (Researcher on Intercultural competency through study abroad)
- Melody Kostiuk (Parent and program leader)
- Natalia Kostiuk (student participant)

This webinar presented perspectives of participants in several high school student exchange programs and school twinings between Canada and Ukraine. The discussion covered the origins of these programs, participant experiences, and their educational and cultural value. Educators shared insights on organizing exchanges, fostering long-term international partnerships, and maximizing their benefits. Attendees learned about the importance of personal relationships in sustaining these initiatives and their positive impact on both educational systems. The event facilitated meaningful discussions and opened opportunities for further collaboration, strengthening educational networks between Canada and Ukraine.

Link: <https://youtu.be/NfoM2IsM1cE>

Webinar “Developing media literacy: a partnership between schools, parents, and children. A Case study from Ukraine”

Date: June 27, 2024

Presenters:

- Dr. Maryna Yachmenyk (Sumy State Pedagogical University named after A.S. Makarenko)

Dr. Maryna Yachmenyk, Head of the Infomedia Literacy Laboratory at Sumy State Pedagogical University, led a webinar on media literacy’s role in modern education, particularly in Ukraine. She emphasized integrating media literacy into educational programs rather than teaching it as a standalone subject. The dis-

cussion covered grant-funded initiatives, interactive learning tools, and digital resources such as the Media Diary, SSPU Media Puzzle, and media literacy tournaments. Dr. Yachmenyk highlighted the importance of community engagement, including student-led projects in Ukrainian Saturday schools in Belgium. The seminar provided valuable insights into fostering critical media skills in future educators.

Link: <https://youtu.be/HUPXMyaQDdY>

Формування медіаграмотності учнів у системі "школа-діти-батьки": досвід України



Webinar “The role of the UNSDGs in rebuilding Ukraine”

Date: October 23, 2024

Presenters:

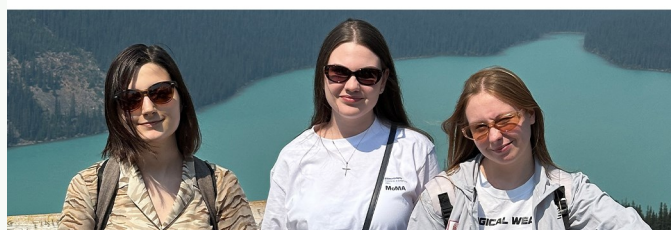
- Vlada Homolia (Sumy State Pedagogical University named after A.S. Makarenko)
- Polina Klochko (National University of “Kyiv -Mohyla Academy”)
- Anastasia Kostenko (V.N. Karazin Kharkiv National University)

This webinar marked the conclusion of a three-month MITACS internship focused on creating UN SDG educational videos for Ukrainian-speaking students. Interns Vlada Homolia, Polina Klochko, and Anastasia Kostenko, guided by Professor Olenka Bilash and supported by Dr. Mariia Ostroha (University of Alberta), discussed the SDGs' role in Ukraine's recovery and the impact of the Russian-Ukrainian war. They also shared insights on adapting content for various language levels and developing skills in research, design, and video editing.

Link: <https://youtu.be/L1FevGK-0JQ>

The Role of the UNSDGs in Rebuilding Ukraine

MITACS interns from Ukraine



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Webinar "How Successful Was the Integration of Ukrainian Refugees into Czech Schools Following the Russian Invasion?"

Date: January 27, 2025

Presenters:

- Dr. Klára Šedová (Masaryk University)
- Dr. Kateřina Machovcová (Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic)

This webinar presents findings about a research study on the integration of Ukrainian refugee students into Czech schools following the Russian invasion. The event featured Prof. Klára Šedová, PhD, and Kateřina Machovcová, PhD, who presented results of research funded by the National Institute for Socioeconomic Risk (SYRI). They discussed the strategies Czech schools used to accommodate nearly 40,000 Ukrainian refugee children during the 2022/23 school year, the challenges faced, and the outcomes achieved. The speakers also addressed social and academic adaptation challenges, with insights from interviews revealing different educational paths for students transitioning from primary to secondary schools.

Link: <https://youtu.be/2Xt9Igc7Rzw>

Webinar "Flourishing or Floundering? Exploring Ukrainian Elementary School Teacher Understandings of Their Professional Experience"

Date: February 27, 2025

Presenter:

- Dr. Ulana Pidzamecky (Ontario Tech University)

This webinar explored the professional experiences of Ukrainian elementary school teachers amid the COVID-19 pandemic and ongoing war. Dr. Ulana Pidzamecky shared her doctoral studies research on how teachers perceive their growth during these challenges, focusing on flourishing, resilience, and professional autonomy. She discussed themes of perse-

verance, innovation, and identity, showing how teachers adapt to digital learning and maintain agency despite adversity, with education serving as a form of resistance during wartime.



Link: <https://youtu.be/jx51uufiXdQ>

Webinar "Reframing Migration: Professionalization in the Context of Schooling and Forced Migration in Central Eastern Europe"

Date: March 25, 2025

Presenters:

- Dr. Herta Márki (Eötvös Loránd University)
- Dr. Kateryna Buchko (Ukrainian Catholic University, University of Stirling)
- Dr. Kristina Kocyba (Technical University of Dresden)
- Dr. Paweł Rudnicki (University of Lower Silesia)

This interactive webinar examines schooling from a cross-national perspective, focusing on education and migration in Central Eastern Europe. Members of the EMCE Research Group will discuss educators' competencies in multilingual teaching and trauma-informed pedagogy, highlighting key paradigms, practical strategies, and the transformative impact of migration on schools and individuals.

Link: <https://youtu.be/flcWmMRfGbo>



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Unbreakable and Resilient: Stories of Ukrainian Teachers' Strength and Vulnerability



Oksana Zabolotna

Webinar "Unbreakable and Resilient: Stories of Ukrainian Teachers Strength and Vulnerability"

Date: April 7, 2025

Presenter:

- Dr. Oksana Zabolotna (Pavlo Tychyna Uman State Pedagogical University)

This webinar presents how Ukrainian teachers have adapted to the full-scale war, continuing their work despite occupation, displacement, and school destruction. Research from the first year of the war highlights teacher resilience, strategies for well-being, and efforts to support students. The discussion explores professional development initiatives that help sustain the educational community during the crisis.

Link: <https://youtu.be/9gOX88N41pY>

Development of solidarity in view of worldwide crises.

An Exploration
of Twitter Discussions
About the Full-Scale
Invasion of Ukraine

Angela
Pilch
Ortega



ULEC UKRAINIAN INSTITUTE OF
LEARNING AND EDUCATION UNIVERSITY
OF ALBERTA

Webinar "Development of solidarity in view of worldwide crises. An Exploration of Twitter Discussions in View of the Full-Scale Invasion of Ukraine"

Date: May 2, 2025

Presenter:

- Dr. Angela Pilch-Ortega (University of Graz)

This presentation examines social responses to Russia's invasion of Ukraine, analyzing discussions on X (formerly Twitter) using Grounded Theory and digital ethnographic methods. It explores how individuals cope with emotions of powerlessness and anger, highlighting collective efforts to regain agency, counter disinformation, and use creativity and humor as resilience strategies.

Webinar "Learning Ukrainian in Japan: How the Situation Has Changed Since 2022"

Date: May 5, 2025

Presenter:

- Dr. Yuliya Dzyabko (Ibaraki Christian University)

This webinar explored the evolution of Ukrainian studies and language education in Japan since 2022, highlighting historical gaps, the dominance of Russian narratives, and the growing academic and public interest in Ukraine. It examined the role of key institutions, increased Ukrainian language offerings at Japanese universities, and Japan's evolving policies toward Ukrainian evacuees. The session concluded with an optimistic view of Japan's emerging leadership in Ukrainian studies in Asia.

Learning Ukrainian in Japan:

How the Situation
Has Changed Since 2022



Yuliya Dzyabko

Link: <https://youtu.be/6I518awgJaY>



ULEC Continues to Cooperate with MITACS Globalink Interns on Ukrainian Language Resource Development Projects



My name is Andrii, and I am a third-year student at West Ukrainian National University, where I study Business Communications and Translation. I come from Chystyliv, a small village in the Ternopil region, Ukraine. I've always been passionate about learning foreign languages - I started with English, am currently learning German, and plan to study French as well.

While studying to become a translator, I've gained valuable practical experience, developed useful skills, and made many new connections. One of the highlights of my journey so far was spending an entire month traveling across Ukraine as an interpreter for Canadian volunteers from the charity organization "Medical Mercy Canada". It was truly an amazing and unforgettable experience.

I first learned about Mitacs at university, and the idea of doing an internship in Canada immediately sparked my interest. I am eager to gain an entirely new experience living in a different country - especially an English-speaking one. Working on the project will also be a new challenge for me, but I am confident that I will learn a great deal and do my best to make a valuable contribution to achieving the project's goals.

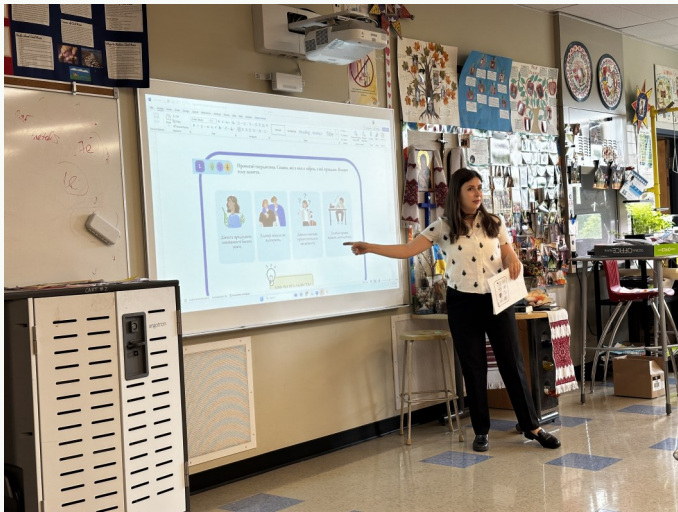


I am Ihor, a fourth-year student of the National University "Kyiv-Mohyla Academy" majoring in "International Relations, Public Communications and Regional Studies. Originally from Odesa, I have lived most of my life in Kyiv. I have just completed a study abroad year in Scotland. I have wanted to take part in the Mitacs internship program for a long time in order to gain unique research experience and work on something that has contemporary value.

As a student, I have always been interested in civil society movements, which is why I completed an internship at the NGO "Center of Social Transformations". Later I became a member of the public organization. During this time, I had practical experience in creating social media content, a communication strategy, and organized a variety of different events.

I hope to help the project achieve its goals, which will also help me reach mine.

Engaging Youth with Ukrainian: ULEC's UN SDG Video Project in Schools



The Ukrainian Language Education Centre (ULEC) continues to expand the reach of its educational video project on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs). Conceived and created by Dr. Olenka Bilash, the project highlights global issues through compelling real-life examples and intercultural stories - while supporting Ukrainian language learning through accessible language.

The videos - each 4 to 8 minutes long - explore themes such as gender equality, the 15-minute city, and infrastructure. Presented in slow-paced, low vocabulary-high interest Ukrainian (A2-B2 level), and supported by subtitles and clear visuals, they are ideal for second language learners and younger audiences.

Each video is paired with a short survey, and viewers are invited to complete it after watching to help ULEC improve future resources:

Video 1 - Gender Equality

[<https://forms.gle/U5hfFEgboNwFkocK7>]

Video 2 - 15-Minute City

[<https://forms.gle/4bE2B8aqkgwn7WCo7>]

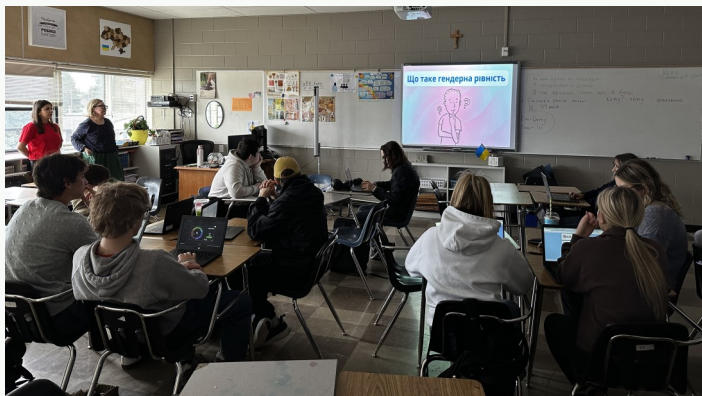
Video 3 - Infrastructure

[<https://forms.gle/sBeUxyFXPBXPttgz5>]

The project has been tested in various school settings. In Fall 2024, Mitacs interns who contributed to the development of the videos shared them with students during classroom visits, gathering valuable feedback. Based on these early trials, select videos were made publicly available. Since then, the materials have been tested again - this time by the ULEC team, including

Dr. Mariia Ostroha and Dr. Oksana Butkovska, who brought the videos into additional Edmonton classrooms for further evaluation.

At Austin O'Brien Catholic High School, graduating students watched the videos and participated in oral surveys. At St. Brendan Catholic Elementary/Junior High School, the same activities were conducted with students in grades 8 and 9. The gender equality video sparked especially lively discussions, as students offered personal reflections and examples from their daily lives. The 15-minute city concept prompted students to analyze their own neighborhoods and consider whether their surroundings align with the principles of accessibility and walkability. The infrastructure video, intended for older students, led to thoughtful conversations about urban development and how infrastructure affects everyday life.



There was another opportunity to test the videos during a visit from students of Archbishop Jordan Catholic High School (Sherwood Park, Alberta) to the University of Alberta. As part of their visit, the students explored the Ukrainian side of campus - meeting with representatives from the Kule Folklore Centre, the Department of Modern Languages and Cultural Studies, the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, and ULEC. They also connected with members of the



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Ukrainian Students' Society and learned more about Ukrainian initiatives and student engagement at the university.



During their visit, the students took part in an interactive quiz game on Ukrainian language and culture. Divided into teams, they answered questions, earned points, and received small prizes. The energy in the room was high, and the students participated with enthusiasm, expressing that the experience was fun, memorable, and informative. As part of the same event, ULEC representatives also presented one of the UN SDG videos and led a group discussion, continuing the classroom-style approach used in earlier testing.



The ULEC team, together with Mitacs interns, continues to develop and expand this project. More videos are currently in production, and supportive teaching materials are being created - including sets of exercises tailored to different language levels for each video. These resources are designed to enhance classroom use and self-directed learning.

We encourage you to watch the videos, complete the surveys, and share the project with others who may benefit from it. Your feedback is essential in helping us refine these materials and continue developing accessible, meaningful content that connects Ukrainian language learning with global citizenship and awareness.

Учні кількох шкіл Едмонтону взяли участь у проєкті ULEC, присвяченому Цілям сталого розвитку ООН.

Випускники школи Austin O'Brien Catholic High School та учні 8–9 класів St. Brendan Catholic Elementary/Junior High School переглядали відео українською мовою, після чого обговорювали запропоновані теми й відповідали на усні запитання. Особливо активну дискусію викликало відео про гендерну рівність - школярі охоче ділилися прикладами зі свого повсякденного життя. Також учні міркували, чи відповідають їхні мікрорайони принципам 15-хвилинного міста, а старшокласники виявили жвавий інтерес до теми інфраструктури.

Ще однією нагодою для апробації матеріалів став візит учнів Archbishop Jordan Catholic High School до Університету Альберти, де вони ознайомилися з українською складовою університетського життя. Під час візиту школярі взяли участь в інтерактивній вікторині про українську мову та культуру, а також переглянули одне з відео про Цілі сталого розвитку й долучилися до жвавого обговорення.

Команда ULEC спільно зі стажерами Mitacs продовжує роботу над проєктом: у розробці - нові відео та навчальні матеріали, зокрема добірки вправ до кожного відео, адаптовані для різних рівнів володіння українською мовою.

Запрошуємо переглядати матеріали, заповнювати анкети після перегляду та поширювати їх серед колег, учнів і всіх зацікавлених!

The Ukrainian Canadian Students' Union (SUSK) shares a video message from their President, Daria Furtak, to mark the International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression, observed annually on June 4.

(<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/ImgKgGdxzVY>)

Today, we stand with Ukraine and the global Ukrainian community to honour the memory of children whose lives were taken as a result of the Russian Federation's ongoing war against Ukraine.

In Ukraine, this day is also recognized as the Day of Remembrance of Children Who Died as a Result of Russian Armed Aggression. The numbers are devastating - and they continue to grow.

According to Ukraine's official Children of War platform (<https://childrenofwar.gov.ua/en/>), as of June 4, 2025:

- 631 children have been killed
- 1,975 wounded
- 2,245 reported missing
- 19,546 deported and/or forcibly displaced

These are not just statistics. Every number represents a child - a stolen life, a shattered future, a family broken forever.

Russia's war has killed, wounded, deported, and traumatized thousands of innocent children. Behind every figure is a story of loss, resilience, and unimaginable pain. Many children are still waiting for their parents to return. Others remain in captivity - torn from their families and held in Russian-controlled territory.

Hospitals, schools, and kindergartens have been targeted. This is not war - it is terrorism against the most vulnerable.

SUSK calls on the international community to continue demanding justice and accountability for these crimes.

We urge you to share these stories. Spread the truth. Stand with Ukraine.

Read the full stories at:

<https://childrenofwar.gov.ua/en/>

Help raise awareness—read and share the stories of children who are victims of Russian aggression.

“They shot exactly into the gas tank. They knew that my mom was alive in there”

Andrii

Andrii's family fled Brovary but were stopped by Russian tanks. An armored vehicle crushed their car. When soldiers realized Andrii was alive, they pulled him out and left him on the roadside. Then, in front of his eyes, they shot at the car's gas tank. His mother, father, and uncle died that day.

“They were having fun when they shot at us and we were scared.”

Dima and Anya, 13 y.o.

They were among the 380 people who were rounded up by the Russian occupiers and kept in the basement.

4 червня - Міжнародний день безневинних дітей, які стали жертвами агресії. В Україні ця дата також відзначається як День вшанування пам'яті дітей, загиблих внаслідок збройної агресії Російської Федерації.

Студентська спілка українців Канади (СУСК) закликає згадати кожну дитину, чиє життя було обірване внаслідок війни Росії проти України. Президентка СУСК Дарія Фуртак звернулася до громадськості з відеопосланням: <https://www.youtube.com/shorts/ImgKgGdxzVY>

SUSK Participates in Meeting with President Zelenskyy

The Ukrainian Canadian Students' Union (SUSK) is honoured to share that their President, Daria Furtak, represented Ukrainian Canadian youth on the sidelines of the recent G7 Summit in Alberta.

As part of the national Ukrainian Canadian delegation led by Alexandra Chyczij, President of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC), Daria Furtak had the opportunity to meet with President Volodymyr Zelenskyy before his return to Ukraine. The meeting took place shortly after Canada announced:

- Over \$2 billion in military aid for Ukraine (including drones and helicopters);
- A \$2.3 billion recovery loan, backed by interest from frozen Russian assets;
- Over 200 new sanctions targeting Russia's shadow fleet and entities aiding its war efforts.

Later the same day, the SUSK President attended the signing of a historic Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Province of Manitoba and Ukraine's Kherson Oblast. Signed by Premier



Wab Kinew and Kherson Regional Military Administration Head Oleksandr Prokudin, the agreement highlights how provinces can play a direct role in Ukraine's recovery.

During the signing, Premier Kinew shared: "For decades, the West has told Ukraine that if you stand up for democracy, we will stand with you. And so now, in Ukraine's time of need, it's important that we show action to match those words. Manitoba may

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not be the richest province, but we will give what we can to ensure that Ukraine is victorious.”

To conclude the day, UCC President Alexandra Chyczij was presented with the Order of Merit by President Zelenskyy, recognizing her tireless advocacy for Ukraine and the global Ukrainian community.

SUSK President Daria Furtak shares an in-depth look at key takeaways from the recent G7 Summit in Alberta, where President Volodymyr Zelenskyy joined global leaders as a special guest.

In this special video (<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/0eY-w25bVwM>), Daria breaks down Canada’s major new commitments to Ukraine.

Source: <https://www.susk.ca>

Союз українських студентів Канади (СУСК) із гордістю повідомляє, що президентка Дарія Фуртак представляла українську канадську молодь на полях саміту G7 в Альберті.

У складі делегації під проводом президентки Конгресу українців Канади (КУК) Олександри Чичій, Дарія зустрілася з Президентом Володимиром Зеленським перед його поверненням в Україну. Зустріч відбулася після оголошення Канадою:

- понад \$2 млрд військової допомоги (включно з дронами та гелікоптерами);
- кредиту на відновлення у \$2,3 млрд, забезпеченого прибутками з заморожених російських активів;
- понад 200 нових санкцій проти Росії.

Того ж дня Дарія була присутня на підписанні історичної Угоди про співпрацю між провінцією Манітоба та Херсонською областю. Прем'єр Ваб Кіну наголосив:

«Зараз, коли Україна потребує підтримки, ми маємо діяти, а не лише говорити».

На завершення дня Президентка КУК Олександра Чичій отримала орден «За заслуги» з рук Президента Зеленського за активний захист інтересів України.



Викладач року – 2025: в УКУ відзначили найкращих освітян на випускних урочистостях

В Українському католицькому університеті під час випускних урочистостей 14 червня нагородили лауреатів премії «Викладач року – 2025». Ними стали Олег Фаренюк, керівник програми з робототехніки, старший викладач кафедри комп'ютерних наук та інформаційних технологій Факультету прикладних наук, Зоряна Рибчинська, завідувачка кафедри культурології Гуманітарного факультету та Ольга Яскевич, доцентка кафедри психології та психотерапії Факультету наук про здоров'я.

Уже вп'яте за поданнями студентів, випускників, колег спільнота Українського католицького університету обирає лауреатів відзнаки «Викладач року» та продовжує свідчити, що гідність і академічні чесноти є осердям нашої єдності та спільної ідентичності УКУ.

У 2020 році, коли заснували відзнаку, її отримали Оксана Міхеєва, Ростислав Гринів та Галина Теслюк; у 2021 – Олександр Аврамчук, Данило Судин та Інга Козлова; у 2022 – Марія Титаренко, Ірина Старовойт, Олександра Ніздрень-Федорович; у 2023 – В'ячеслав Навроцький та Степан Фединяк; у 2024 – Богдан Чума та Наталія Терлич, а особливу відзнаку отримала Оріся Віра.

Звання «Викладач року» кандидатам присвоюють лише один раз. Ця умова створює здорову мотивацію до зростання та відкриває можливість для визнання викладацької майстерності усіх викладачів. Нагорода має на меті наголосити на важливості належної оцінки якісного викладання в університеті та поширенні успішних викладацьких практик.

Нагадаємо, що до 15 квітня студенти, випускники, викладачі та працівники УКУ могли висунути претендентів на отримання нагороди, надіславши колективне звернення до Комітету з присудження відзнаки. Завершальним етапом стало спілкування зі студентами, колегами, керівниками, щоб дізнатися більше про фіналістів, їхні підходи до викладання, залучення студентів до наукових пошуків та готовність ділитися досвідом.

З радістю знайомимо вас з лауреатами відзнаки «Викладач року – 2025»:

- Олег Фаренюк – доцент Факультету прикладних наук, фізик-теоретик, керівник нової бакалаврської програми з робототехніки.

- Зоряна Рибчинська – завідувачка кафедри культурології Гуманітарного факультету, керівниця бакалаврської програми з культурології. Викладає

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курси теорії культурної спадщини, вступ до культурознавства, теорії культури та інституції сучасної культури.

- Ольга Яскевич – доцентка кафедри психології та психотерапії Факультету наук про здоров'я. Викладає такі курси: «Теорії розвитку: класичні та сучасні психодинамічні концепції (англ.)», «Психодинамічні методи в груповій терапії», «Основи психотерапії: психоаналітична діагностика», «Основи психодинамічної теорії людини і групи», та «Психоаналітична психодіагностика».

The Ukrainian Catholic University awarded the 2025 Teacher of the Year awards during its graduation ceremonies on June 14. Award recipients include Oleg Farenjuk, head of the robotics program, senior lecturer in the Department of Computer Science and Information Technologies of the Faculty of Applied Sciences; Zoryana Rybchynska, head of the Department of Cultural Studies of the Faculty of Humanities; and Olga Yaskevich, associate professor in the Department of Psychology and Psychotherapy of the Faculty of Health Sciences.

Окрім того, відбулося вручення ректорської премії. Щорічна ректорська премія створена для заохочення і підтримки наукової праці науково-педагогічних працівників Українського католицького університету за особливо успішні результати впродовж академічного року. Також іменною ректорською премією професора Ігоря Скочилися нагороджують претендентів, які працюють над історичними дослідженнями. Кошти на підтримку науковців щороку для спільноти УКУ жертвують доброчинці, що є знаком великої довіри до університету.

Цьогоріч ректорську премію отримали п'ятеро осіб:

- Роман Скакун, кандидат історичних наук, заступник директора Інституту історії Церкви, який зараз перебуває у війську – отримав ректорську премію професора Ігоря Скочилися за авторську монографію «Агентура НКВС–МДБ–КДБ у православному єпископаті України (1939–1964)».

- Олена Джеджора, старша викладачка кафедри історії Гуманітарного факультету, – за авторський

підручник «Нариси з історії європейської цивілізації. Книга друга: від високого середньовіччя до початку XIX століття».

- Юрій Чекан, доктор мистецтвознавства, професор кафедри культурології Гуманітарного факультету – за авторську монографію «Світ, котрий насправді є... Оперний театр в інфраструктурі музичного життя».

- Вадим Ададуrow, доктор історичних наук, професор кафедри історії Гуманітарного факультету – за дві монографії «Переставляючи слова у століттях»: інтелектуальна біографія Ілька Борщака та «(Не)таємна історія Віктора Петрова: 17 миттєвостей із життя агента радянської держбезпеки (документальний нарис)».

- Володимир Мороз, кандидат історичних наук, науковий співробітник Інституту історії Церкви – за участь в реалізації міжнародного проєкту відзначення ювілею 250-ліття коронації папськими коронами почаївської ікони Божої Матері з Ісусом.

Спільнота Українського католицького університету вітає переможців з отриманням звання «Викладач року – 2025» та лауреатів ректорської премії. Бажаємо і надалі своїм прикладом та служінням надихати колег та студентів, долати виклики і досягати нових вершин!

Джерело: <https://shorturl.at/oZs5l>



GRADUATION HIGHLIGHTS



Graduation Day 2025 at Ivan Franko Ukrainian Saturday School
(<https://youtu.be/CLccfbwsREE>)



Grade 12 Ukrainian Bilingual graduates from Austin O'Brien High School
Source: <https://www.facebook.com/UBPAS>



A video song of thanks for a successful school year from the **Kindergarten Class 6** students of the **Ridna Shkola** at **St. George's Catholic Church**.

<https://www.facebook.com/share/v/1BawCYwumh/>



Grade 6 Ukrainian Bilingual graduates from St. Martin Elementary School
Source: <https://www.facebook.com/UBPAS>



**UKRAINIAN
festival
season
2025**

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and heritage across Canada.

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Source:

<https://>

May 30-31	UFest Edmonton Ukrainian Festival	Edmonton, AB
June 7-8	Calgary Ukrainian Festival	Calgary, AB
June 14-15	Lviv, Ukraine Folklore Festival	Kingston, ON
July 4-6	Vegreville Pysanka Festival	Vegreville, AB
August 1-3	Canada's National Ukrainian Festival	Dauphin, MB
August 23	Ukrainian Day in the Park	Calgary, AB
August 23	Ukrainian Independence Day	Toronto, ON
August 24	Ukrainian Day	Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village, AB
August 30	Ukrainian Day in the Park	Saskatoon, SK
September 6	Montreal Ukrainian Festival	Montreal, QC
September 12-14	Bloor West Village Toronto Ukrainian Festival	Toronto, ON
September 28	East Coast Ukrainian Festival	Halifax, NS

The Ukrainian Language Education Centre (ULEC) 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
- fostering international links and community engagement

Методичний центр української мови сприяє розвитку україномовної освіти в Канаді й за кордоном:

- підтримує двомовні програми, підвищує професійний рівень вчителів української мови
- розробляє навчальні та методичні ресурси для середньої і вищої освіти
- проводить дослідження, пов'язані з тематикою україномовної освіти і суміжних галузей
- сприяє розвитку міжнародних контактів і підтримує зв'язки з громадянською

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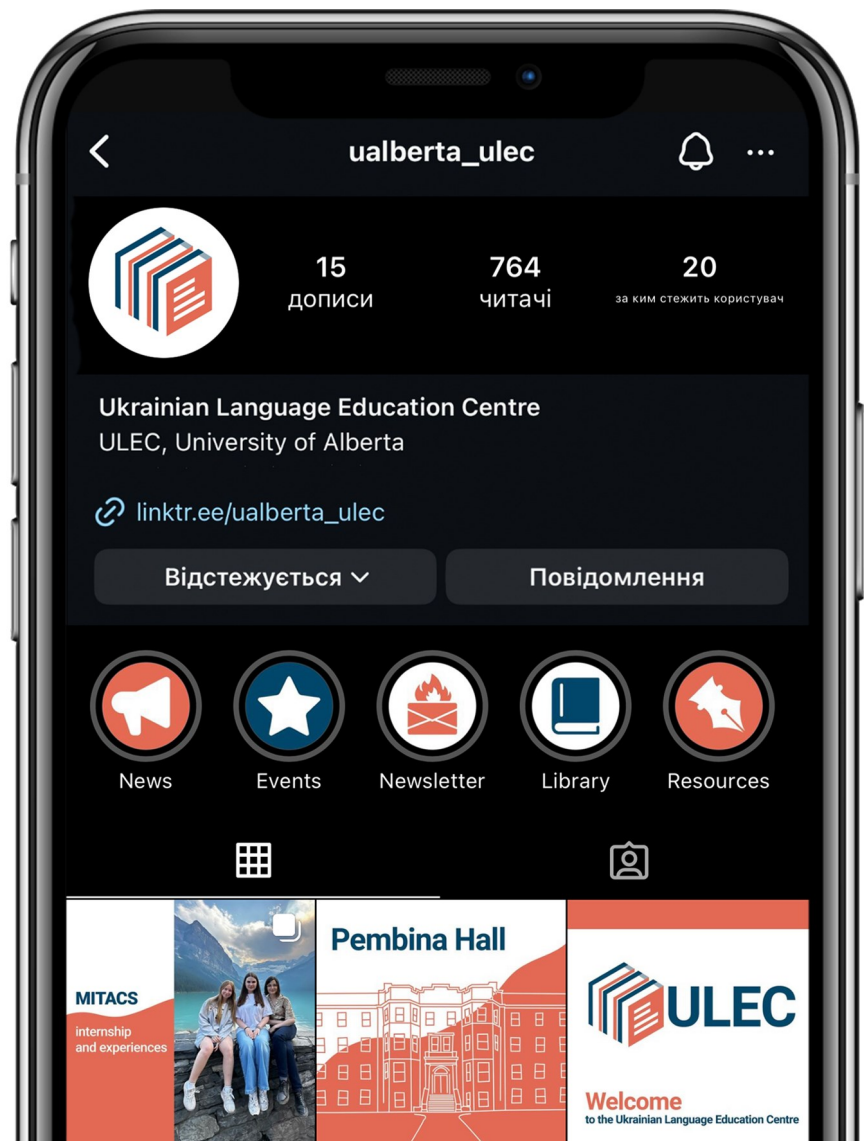
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How You Can Support Ukrainian Language Education



- E-mail cius@ualberta.ca to inquire about other ways to donate
- Send a cheque payable to “University of Alberta / CIUS,” indicating the Ukrainian Language Education Centre Endowment Fund on the memo line
- Give online by visiting the CIUS Donor page:

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