



September 7, 2018

Re: Ukrainian Canadian Heritage Day at the Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB)

<https://www.tcdsb.org/forcommunity/heritagecelebration/ukrainian-canadian-heritage-month/pages/default.aspx>

On this inaugural Ukrainian Canadian Heritage Day, The Ukrainian Canadian Congress, Toronto branch, sends its greetings and best wishes to the entire TCDSB community.

Orest Sklierenko, Chair of UCC-Toronto's Education Committee made the following statement:

"We are delighted the TCDSB proclaimed September as Ukrainian Canadian Heritage Month and September 7 as Ukrainian Canadian Heritage Day. We have had several volunteer members from our committee and the Ukrainian Canadian educational community to prepare a resource document for the entire TCDSB community and supporting TCDSB staff, who have worked tirelessly over the summer to make this inaugural celebration successful.

It is our hope this program will allow all TCDSB staff and students to further enrich their understanding of, and appreciation for, the Eastern Rite Ukrainian Catholic Church, the Ukrainian Canadian experience and the impact our community has made on the Canada we know today, and Ukrainian art, culture and traditions. We would like to extend our thanks to Bishop Stephen Chmilar, former MPP Yvan Baker, Trustees Ann Andrachuk, Joseph Martino and the entire TCDSB Board of Trustees, and TCDSB staff for their support of this initiative."

Elaborating on the history of the three Eastern Rite Ukrainian Catholic schools at the TCDSB, Josyf Cardinal Slipyj, St. Demetrius and St. Josaphat, Mr. Sklierenko further remarked:

"UCC-Toronto would also like to Thank all community members and stakeholders who have supported the Eastern Rite Ukrainian Schools at the TCDSB over almost six decades since the founding of the first Eastern Rite Ukrainian Catholic school, St. Josaphat, in 1961. UCC-Toronto would like to especially thank the principals and CSPC chairs for their time and efforts as active and engaged participants on its Education Committee. In the coming weeks, we will be working with TCDSB staff and trustees to establish a Ukrainian Canadian Advisory Committee that will meet with board staff on a regular basis to ensure an all stakeholders are aligned at creating an optimal learning environment at the board's three Eastern Rite Ukrainian schools."

Sincerely,

Taras Bahriy
President, UCC-Toronto

Orest Sklierenko
Chair, Education Committee, UCC-Toronto