

# UCRDC ARCHIVE & ACTIVITIES REPORT

## CONFERENCES ATTENDED

**November 14-16, 2025** UCRDC delegates Iryna Revutsky and Bohdan Figol participated in the UCC Triennial Congress XXVII in Toronto. UCRDC members also assisted with and took part in the Holodomor Town Hall Meeting “Canadian Leadership on Holodomor Awareness and Education” on November 13, 2025.

**September 25-28, 2025** UCRDC archivist Natalia Mysakowec attended the 2025 Ukrainian Heritage Consortium of North America (UHCNA) Conference in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, hosted by the Ukrainian Museum of Canada. This year’s theme, “Reclaiming Heritage: The Role of Museums and Heritage Organizations in Cultural Revitalization and Post-Colonial Recovery,” guided rich discussion and reflection throughout the program.

**April 2025:** Kalyna Bezchlibnyk-Butler, UCRDC archivist and author of “Ukrainian Women of Ravensbrück Concentration Camp: Voices of Survivors” travelled to Germany to attend the commemoration of the 80th Anniversary of the Liberation of Ravensbrück Concentration Camp.

**September 21 - 24, 2023** Annual Ukrainian Heritage Consortium of North America (UHCNA) Conference at Ukrainian American Archives and Museum, Hamtramck, Michigan - attended by UCRDC Archivist Natalka Mysakowec.

## REQUESTS FOR USE OF UCRDC ARCHIVAL MATERIALS

**Olha Korniienko**, researcher of fashion in Ukraine behind the iron curtain and post war Ukrainian diaspora fashion, recorded interviews, photographed embroidered clothing, accessories, scanned photographs from personal collections.

**Vasyl Lopukh**, creator of “The Legion of Ukrainian Sich Riflemen Photo Archive” visited UCRDC in September 2025, and scanned photos of Sich Riflemen from the UCRDC Archives. These photos have now been included in the photo archive [legionukrainiansichriflemen.com/Архівні-фонди/UCRDC](https://legionukrainiansichriflemen.com/Архівні-фонди/UCRDC) as a separate UCRDC fond.

At the request of the **National Museum of the History of Ukraine**, the UCRDC documentary film "A Canadian War Story" was screened in Kyiv on November 6, 2025. The screening was preceded by a posthumous awarding, by the Ukrainian Canadian congress, of Hryhorii Tsekhmistrenko, a Canadian of Ukrainian descent, a fallen volunteer combat medic of the International Legion, who saved the lives of many Ukrainian soldiers and civilians. Tsekhmistrenko died on 15 January 2023 near the city of Bakhmut, Donetsk Oblast.

## EVENTS and PRESENTATIONS

### **WOMEN OF RAVENSBRÜCK Tracing and Documenting Ukrainian Victims of the Ravensbrück Concentration Camp.**

**February 28, 2021:** Online presentation in English.

**October 17, 2021:** Online presentation in Ukrainian.

Organizer and guest speaker - UCRDC archivist, researcher and author Kalyna Bezchlibnyk-Butler.

With Shevchenko Scientific Society.

### **March 25, 2022: "THE MENNONITE EXPERIENCE DURING THE HOLODOMOR: It's Complicated"**

Webinar with Keynote speaker Dr. Colin Neufeldt, Professor, History Concordia University Edmonton.

**September 29, 2022: "THE EXTRAORDINARY LIVES OF UKRAINIAN-CANADIAN WOMEN"** Book launch with editor Iroida Wynnyckyj and participation of family members of women whose life stories are featured in the book.

**May 25, 2023:** Book presentation "IN THE MAELSTROM" By Myroslav Shkandrij.

**June 2023: "WHO RESCUED THE REBBE?"** Video presentation by Danylo Leshchyshyn, Masters student of history at the University of Toronto. On the basis of research in the UCRDC Archives, Danylo's presentation deals with his great grandfather Mykhailo Shkilnyk who helped rescue a great Ukrainian rabbi during the Holocaust.

[https://www.ucrdc.org/Lectures\\_and\\_Presentations.html](https://www.ucrdc.org/Lectures_and_Presentations.html)

**September 22, 2023: "КРИМ - ЦЕ УКРАЇНА !** Lecture by Anastasia Ringis, presentation hosted by UCRDC with Shevchenko Scientific Society.

**November 26, 2024: WOMEN OF RAVENSBRÜCK Tracing and Documenting Ukrainian Victims of the Ravensbrück Concentration Camp.** Online presentation in English to the Ottawa Genealogy Group. Guest speaker - UCRDC archivist, researcher and author Kalyna Bezchlibnyk-Butler.

**April 6, 2025: "BEHIND THE IRON CURTAIN: Making Fashion in Soviet Ukraine"** - a lecture and seminar with Dr. Olha Korniienko, founder of the Ukrainian Fashion History Digital Archive. Organized in partnership with St. Volodymyr Institute and the Ukrainian Museum of

Canada, Ontario Branch.

**May 13, 2025: WOMEN OF RAVENSBRÜCK Tracing and Documenting Ukrainian Victims of the Ravensbrück Concentration Camp.**

Presentation to the Toronto Genealogy Group.

Guest speaker - UCRDC archivist, researcher and author Kalyna Bezchlibnyk-Butler.

**May 28, 2025:** Book Presentation “МОЯ ДОРОГА ДО КАНАДИ 15 років - 9 міст -7 шкіл” by Iroida Lebid-Wynnyckyj and Oksana A. Wynnyckyj-Yusypovych.

**October 22, 2025: WASYL JANISCHEWSKYJ SCHOLARSHIP PRESENTATION - Карпатська Україна в дослідженнях стипендіатів ім. Василя Янішевського.**

A presentation of 6 publications which resulted from 6 research scholarships awarded to support the publication of a major scholarly article or monograph on a topic relating to the establishment of the Carpatho-Ukrainian State or the Ukrainian community and institutions in interwar Prague.

A copy of each book was presented to the Janischewskyj Family.

**November 2, 2025: Book Launch: THE UKRAINIAN VILLAGE OF PAVLOKOMA” by P. Potichny and P. Jakob,** with Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, Peter Jacyk Centre for Historical Research, and The Association of Ukrainians “Zakerzonia”, Toronto Branch.

[https://www.ucrdc.org/Lectures\\_and\\_Presentations.html](https://www.ucrdc.org/Lectures_and_Presentations.html)

**November 12, 2025 –** Book presentation “NO PLACE LIKE HOME” by Prof. Bohdan Kordan, in conjunction with St. Volodymyr Institute and the Ukrainian Museum of Canada Toronto Branch.

## PUBLICATIONS

**2022: “THE EXTRAORDINARY LIVES OF UKRAINIAN CANADIAN WOMEN - Oral Histories of the Twentieth Century”** - compiled and edited by Iroida Wynnyckyj, translated by Marta Olynyk.

Interviews with women from the UCRDC oral history collection.

Winner of the 2023 Peterson Literary Fund translated book award. “Recognized for its archival value in providing historians with multigenerational testimonies of Ukrainian Canadian women whose personal stories were shaped by the tumultuous events of two world wars.”

**2024: “UKRAINIAN WOMEN OF RAVENSBRÜCK CONCENTRATION CAMP - VOICES OF PRISONERS”**, author Kalyna Bezchlibnyk Butler. English and Ukrainian, German version available online. Monograph written to honour and commemorate the thousands of Ukrainian women who were incarcerated in Nazi concentration camps and specifically Ravensbrück

concentration camp during the Second World War.

**2025:** **“МОЯ ДОРОГА ДО КАНАДИ 15 років, 9 міст, 7 шкіл”** - a memoir written by Iroida Lebid Wynnnyckyj and Oksana Wynnnyckyj-Yusypovych.

## **PUBLICATIONS** resulting from the **WASYL JANISCHEWSKYJ SCHOLARSHIP FUND** at **UCRDC**

**“SCHOLARS IN EXILE The Ukrainian Intellectual World in Interwar Czechoslovakia”**

Author: Nadia Zavorotna

**“УКРАЇНА ПОЗА УКРАЇНОЮ Енциклопедичний словник мистецького, культурного і громадського життя української еміграції в міжвоєнній Чехословаччині (1919-1939)”**

Author: Oksana Pelenska

**“АВГУСТИН ВОЛОШИН НАЙБІЛЬШИЙ МУЖ НАШИХ НОВІШИХ ЧАСІВ”**

Author: Andriy Rebryk

**“КАРПАТСЬКА УКРАЇНА В ДОКУМЕНТАХ ДРУГОЇ ЧЕХОСЛОВАЦЬКОЇ РЕСПУБЛІКИ”**

**“КАРПАТСЬКА УКРАЇНА В ДОКУМЕНТАХ ДРУГОЇ РЕЧІ ПОСПОЛИТОЇ”**

Author: Oleksander Pahiria

**“WITH THEIR BACKS TO THE MOUNTAINS A History of Carpathian Rus’ and Carpatho-Rusyns”**

Author: Paul Robert Magocsi

**“БИЛИСЬ ХЛОПЦІ ХУСТОВІ НА СЛАВУ, ЗА СВОЮ ОМРІЯНУ ДЕРЖАВУ”**

Author: Yuriy Shanta

## **RESEARCHERS AT UCRDC**

Myron Momryk - Ottawa

Bert Hoppe - Germany

Myroslav Shkandrij - University of Manitoba

Iryna Skubii - Montreal

Ivanna Cherchovich - Lviv

Sasha Colby - Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, B.C.

Danylo Leshchyshyn - Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois  
Alexandra Kazyrevic - Prague  
Olena Urbanowicz - Toronto Metropolitan University  
Yuliia Chernyshova - University of Sienna, Italy  
Natalia Kovchenko - Kyiv Mohyla Academy  
Tessa Hoekstra - Rijksuniversiteit Groningen, The Netherlands  
George Berehulka - Las Vegas, U.S.  
Olha Poliukhovych - Kyiv, Ukraine  
Michael Richter - Hamburg  
Daria Resnyk - Germany  
Olha Shevchuk - Winnipeg  
Olha Korniienko - Petro Jacyk Program  
Yaroslav Zhuravlov - Germany  
Milana Sribniak - National Academy of Sciences, Kyiv, Ukraine  
Oksana Dutko - University of Toronto  
Maria Latyszewskyj - Toronto  
Vasyl Lopuch - Mahopac, New York  
Yurii Savchuk - Kyiv

## SCHOOL GROUPS & VISITORS at UCRDC

**ST. MARY'S UKRAINIAN SCHOOL** - London, England

**ST. VOLODYMYR UKRAINIAN SATURDAY SCHOOL** - Toronto

**УКРАЇНСЬКИЙ КАТОЛИЦЬКИЙ УНІВЕРСИТЕТ**-Команда Щколи української мови та культури

**НАЦІОНАЛЬНИЙ МУЗЕЙ ТАРАСА ШЕВЧЕНКА** - Kyiv

**ПОЛІГРАФКОМБІНАТ УКРАЇНА** -Kyiv

**LVIV BOARD OF EDUCATION TEAM** - Head of the Board, Director responsible for continuing education, 2 school principals.

**VISITORS FROM:** Canada, United States, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Malta, Germany, Poland, Estonia, Finland, Netherlands, Saudi Arabia.

## EXHIBITS AT UCRDC

**2021 / 2022:** “MY DP STORY - МОЇ ДІ-ПІ СПОМИНИ” An exhibit which showcased the individual experiences of several displaced persons following their journey westward as they fled the occupying forces during World War II and ended up in various DP Camps in Germany, Austria and Italy.

**2024 / 2025:** “UKRAINE IN RUINS - УКРАЇНА В РУЇНАХ”: Paintings by Alexander Motyl. 18 black and white acrylic-and-pen paintings, seven depicting Kyiv in ruins in 1941-1942, as a result of explosions set off by the retreating Soviets, and eleven paintings depicting Ukraine in ruins in 2022-2023, as a result of Russia's genocidal war.

## NEW ACQUISITIONS

**CHILDREN OF CHORNOBYL CANADIAN FUND - 2 boxes:** Documents, projects supported, minutes of meetings, donations.

**TULA - TORONTO UKRAINIAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION ARCHIVES:** 5 boxes.

**DR. OLEKSANDRA KOPACH Archive:** Donated to UCRDC by son Yuriy Kopach - 12 boxes: Includes Dr. Kopach's academic works, diaries, correspondence, materials from Hryhorij Skovoroda School, video recordings, activities in numerous academic organizations.

**ALEXANDRA BRYZHUN SHANTA Archive:** 8 boxes Literary works and associated materials.

**UKRAINIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION DOCUMENTS:** 2 boxes. Records of the Ukrainian Medical Association of North America (UMANA), Ontario Branch.

**EVHEN HANKIVSKYJ:** 1 box. Personal documents, donated by Basyl Hankivsky.

**IRENA NOSYK:** 4 boxes. Photographs and valuable materials relating to Antin Horbachevsky.

**GEORGE POTOPNYK:** 1 box. Family documents and archives

**REV. VOLODYMYR ZOLKEWYCH:** 3 boxes. Personal documents donated by granddaughter Luba Krekhovetsky.

**ONYSIA JUCHYMENKO MEMOIRS:** 5 notebooks. Donated by Raya Juchymanko. Handwritten memoirs dating from 1897 to 1991. Diary includes Holodomor, exodus from Ukraine, forced labour in Germany, DP Camps, journey to Canada.

**FAMILY DOCUMENTS:** UCRDC also receives, on a regular basis, documents, memoirs and photographs from individual families. These are sorted, catalogued and accessioned into the UCRDC Archives.

## NEW ARCHIVE DATABASE

**DIGITAL CATALOGUE:** Work is underway on the creation of a comprehensive digital catalogue of all the resources in the UCRDC archives. In addition to entering the headings, accession, series, box and file numbers, we are providing detailed descriptions of each fonds in the UCRDC Archives. This will allow for enhanced search options and easier access to the extensive collection of materials in the archives.

## NEW AND ONGOING PROJECTS

**WALTER WASIK FILM COLLECTION** - ongoing digitization of “Visnyk Ukrainy” - news reels produced in Ukraine for the diaspora during the early 1990’s. (30 boxes of U-Matic tapes)

From the video collection of the Wolodymyr Wasik “Canukr Film Studio” in Oshawa, Ontario which produced more than 30 films in Ukrainian, Urdu and English.

**UKRAINIAN BY CHOICE ORAL HISTORY PROJECT:** One of the main objectives of the project is to interview individuals whose only one parent was Ukrainian, and to find out what influenced them to embrace Ukrainian culture/community as well as to record the respondent’s life story and family history.

**ORAL HISTORY OF UKRAINIAN CANADA - OHUC:** Recording of interviews with people who have contributed to the development of Ukrainian Canada, Canada and internationally.

**MANIAK LETTERS:** Transcription of 136 handwritten letters of witness accounts about the Holodomor and other Soviet atrocities in Ukraine, collected in 1989 - 1990 by Volodymyr Maniak and Lidia Kovalenko. The letters and envelopes have been scanned, are being transcribed, summarized and translated for placement on the UCRDC Website.

**UKRAINIANS IN GERMAN CONCENTRATION CAMPS** - Researching and documenting the names of all Ukrainians interned in German concentration camps during WWII.

**UKRAINIANS IN DP CAMPS PROJECT:** Stemming from the UCRDC Exhibit “My DP Story”, documenting Ukrainian experiences in the various DP Camps in Germany, Austria, Italy.

**RUSSIAN INVASION 2022 - PERSONAL RECOLLECTIONS ORAL HISTORY PROJECT:** Recording interviews with Ukrainians who witnessed the beginning of the russian invasion of Ukraine and their stories.

**ONYSIA JUCHYMENKO MEMOIRS 1897 - 1991:** Scanning and Digitization of 5 handwritten notebooks (450 pages) in preparation for transcription and publication.

*Thank You,*

*UCRDC Archive Committee:*

Iroida Wynnyckyj, Nadia Luciw, Natalka Mysakowec  
Bozhena Gembatiuk