



Sheptytsky Institute

ІНСТИТУТ ІМ. МИТРОПОЛИТА А. ШЕПТИЦЬКОГО

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March 05, 2010

Dear Members of the Eparchy of Saskatoon, Alumni, and Friends:

Слава Ісусу Христу! Slava Isusu Khrystu!

In 1975, Bishop Andrew Roborecki assembled a small group of prominent Ukrainian Catholic leaders and thinkers, and charged them with the responsibility of assuming management responsibilities of Sheptytsky Institute. The Episcopal Corporation of Saskatchewan (the 'Eparchy'), entrusted this new organization with "quiet possession" of the Institute and "unfettered administrative and financial control with all powers associated therewith". This organization was incorporated as the **Metropolitan Sheptytsky Society of Saskatchewan, or MSSS**. It is a stand-alone, non-profit Corporation (separate from the Eparchy), which represents the interests of all Ukrainian Catholics in the province through an elected volunteer Board of regional representatives. Over the past 35 years, the MSSS Board has been responsible for the management and financial stability of Sheptytsky Institute, and we are proud to say that our management has been responsible, respectful, fiscally-sound (the Institute is debt-free) and has resulted in:

- facility upgrades, renovations, and improvements which have greatly increased the value of the building and property for the Eparchy
- a transition to a co-educational dormitory resulting in the building being filled to capacity each year
- a successful, transitional period of external management through St. Thomas More College (STM)
- MSSS Board member activities on behalf of the Ukrainian Catholic community to support STM initiatives in Ukrainian studies and Eastern Christian programs at the University of Saskatchewan (U of S)
- elevated status of Sheptytsky Institute with the U of S as a recognized and reputable student residence for post-secondary Catholic students.
- office space for the Eparchy's Ukrainian Catholic Religious Education Centre
- office space for the Eparchial youth coordinator
- promotion of the Chapel as an authentic teaching site for Eastern Christian studies through STM programming.

In June of 2009, a letter from the Bishop of the Saskatoon Eparchy to the MSSS Board outlined **the Eparchy's desire to chart a different course for Sheptytsky Institute**. While not openly dismissing the Board's management at that time, the letter demanded Eparchial "veto power" on decisions made by the MSSS Board. The Eparchy insisted that the Board also work within the confines of short-term yearly leases, thereby removing the possibility for long-term planning and decision-making. This was a drastic departure from the democratic, decision-making model which governed MSSS management decisions. The Board was, in essence, stripped of its ability to make long-term plans for building renovations, policies, or staffing for the future stability of the Institute as a student residence.

After seeking legal counsel, the MSSS Board was informed that the rules governing non-profit charitable organizations do not allow for Board decisions to be overruled by an outside agency or

individual. Decisions for non-profit Corporations must be reached in a fair, open, and democratic manner by its Board, showing that the Corporation is truly representative of the wishes of all its members. Therefore, the demands for veto-power on MSSS Board decisions by the Eparchy created a direct conflict with the status of MSSS as a non-profit charitable Corporation.

After several attempts to create mutually acceptable arrangements, the MSSS regrets to inform all its members and all Sheptytsky Institute alumni, that **we are unable to come to an agreement with the Eparchy and its Consultants**. We have indicated that we will relinquish management of Sheptytsky Institute to the Eparchy on May 15, 2010. Until that time, we will retain “quiet possession” in order to enable a transition in management to take place and to allow current residents to complete the academic year with the present management structure. MSSS’s 35-year association with Sheptytsky Institute will cease and the Eparchy will begin its management of the building.

Ukrainian Catholic parishioners in Saskatchewan may not be aware that the **Metropolitan Sheptytsky Society of Saskatchewan belongs to you; it is your non-profit Corporation and all of you are represented by its Board**. The Society’s mission statement is much broader than the management of Sheptytsky Institute. It was established to promote spiritual, cultural, educational goals which can positively impact the Ukrainian Catholic community in Saskatchewan. Therefore, the loss of management of Sheptytsky Institute will not impact the future existence of the non-profit Corporation. MSSS will continue to exist, retaining its status outside the confines of the Eparchy, and will identify alternate worthy functions, projects, and activities that will benefit the Ukrainian Catholic faithful of our Eparchy, and all faithful supporters currently residing outside of Saskatchewan’s borders.

Our Board invites your input on several questions which are important to the future goals of the Metropolitan Sheptytsky Society of Saskatchewan. Please take a moment to fill out the attached questionnaire and return it by mail, fax, or hand-delivered to any Board representative. You may choose to fill in the electronic version found at: www.sheps.ca

Note that our Board is open to any and all questions from the Ukrainian Catholic faithful of Saskatchewan. We are honoured to be your voice in the Eparchy.

Respectfully,

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History of Sheptytsky Institute

- 1935** • Ukrainian Catholic Brotherhood initiated the establishment of a residence for young men coming to Saskatoon to further their education.
 - The Belmont Hotel, near the old CPR station, was rented.
 - It was named the Markian Shashkevych Bursa.
- 1937** • The Bursa was relocated to 304 – 4th Avenue South (across from the present-day HMCS Unicorn).
- 1945** • Property was purchased at the corner of College Drive and Wiggins Avenue.
- 1950** • \$400,000.00 was raised by Ukrainian Catholics in Saskatchewan for the construction of Sheptytsky Institute.
 - Construction began.
- 1952** • The cornerstone for Sheptytsky Institute was laid on October 5th.
- 1953** • Sheptytsky Institute was officially opened.
- 1955** • The UCWLC established an eparchial museum – The Museum of Ukrainian Culture – at Sheptytsky Institute on August 28, 1955.
- 1966** • The UCWLC Museum of Ukrainian Culture relocated to the Prosvita Hall adjacent to St. George's Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral. The official opening was held on May 22, 1966.
- 1974** • Bishop Andrew Roborecki appointed a provisional board to assess, recommend, and suggest changes in the operation of Sheptytsky Institute.
 - Members of the group included: Fred Nakonechny (Regina), Steven Kobrynsky (Canora), Judge A. M. Kindred (Yorkton), Walter Podiluk (Saskatoon), and Peter Worobetz (Saskatoon).
- 1975** • Metropolitan Sheptytsky Society of Saskatchewan (MSSS) assumed responsibility for promoting, maintaining, and managing Sheptytsky Institute. The Society applied for Incorporation under the provincial Societies Act and received its Certificate of Incorporation in March, 1976.
- 1979** • Sheptytsky Institute became co-educational.
- 1983** • An operating Agreement was renewed and re-signed by the Eparchy and MSSS.
- 1980 - 1987**
 - Major renovations were undertaken. The third floor was extended over the chapel, first housing a library and now the location of the Ukrainian Catholic Religious Education Centre (UCREC). The kitchen facility was upgraded. Garage was built.
- 1998** • An agreement was signed between STM, the Eparchy and the MSSS that Sheptytsky Institute was placed under the management of STM for a 5-year period.
- 1999** • A second major building renovation was undertaken. Resident room ceilings were dropped, washrooms were renovated, new carpets installed in all resident rooms, public areas and resident rooms were painted. The internet was introduced into the Institute.
- 2002** • A 50th Anniversary Reunion was organized.
 - The Management Agreement with STM expired. MSSS once again assumed management responsibilities of Sheptytsky Institute.
- 2004** • A series of Festal Icons were mounted on the walls of the Chapel, followed by the addition of appropriate altar cloths and a cover cloth for the tetrapod.
- 2010** • The Agreement between MSSS and the Eparchy expired and was not renewed by the Eparchy. MSSS management responsibilities of Sheptytsky Institute officially ceased May 15th, 2010. Management responsibilities of Sheptytsky Institute reverted back to the Ukrainian Catholic Episcopal Corporation of Saskatchewan.

MSSS Management of Sheptytsky Institute Discontinued

2009

- January 30, 2009 - Bishop Bryan Bayda, CSsR convened a meeting of the major eparchial organizations – UCWLC, UCBC, UCY, UCREC, the MSSS Board – and the Consultors, at Sheptytsky Institute to begin thinking about a new direction for the Eparchy. The main question put to those assembled was the location of the Eparchial offices.
- March 26, 2009 – Bishop Bryan met with the MSSS Management Committee to consider placing some of the Eparchial offices in Sheptytsky Institute.
- June 18, 2009 – Dr. William A. Gulka met with Bishop Bryan and the Consultors in Humboldt to discuss the implications of the Eparchy's intention to occupy two rooms in Sheptytsky Institute and other concessions.
- June 29, 2009 – The MSSS Board held a Teleconference to discuss the Eparchy's wishes and intentions, and indicated that it accepted the Eparchy's presence at Sheptytsky Institute, but was interested in beginning negotiations to create a revised Agreement and Lease.
- The Eparchy expressed a desire to change existing management arrangements with MSSS, to allow for a new Eparchial vision. Bishop Bryan's letter to the MSSS Board, dated June 30, 2009, stated that:

"The Ukrainian Catholic Episcopal Corporation of Saskatchewan (Eparchy) does not have confidence that the Metropolitan Sheptytsky Society of Saskatchewan (Society) has been able to adapt to the needs recognized by the Eparchy among the faithful people. The Eparchy wants to use a greater portion of this building it owns to do this work mandated by the Sobor Document of 2005. Certainly MSSS is open to new ways of doing this but not to the extent the Consultors and the Bishop find appropriate. Over the last six months the Eparchy has stated how this might develop but the MSSS Board continues to have reservations..."
- August 21, 2009 – Negotiations begin between MSSS representatives, the Bishop, and his Consultors, to revise the Agreement and Lease.
- September 11, 2009 – A second negotiating meeting takes place.
- September 18, 2009 – A third negotiating meeting takes place.
- The Eparchy presented MSSS with a Revised Operating Agreement which proposed
 - i) co-management by the Eparchy and MSSS, and
 - ii) one-year leases rather than a longer term lease.
- MSSS rejected the Revised Operating Agreement, due to the fact that
 - i) the new agreement would not allow MSSS "unfettered administrative and financial control with all powers associated therewith" (Agreement); and
 - ii) the new agreement would create a breach of *The Non-profit Corporations Act, 1995*, for the MSSS.
- December 18, 2009 – MSSS Management Committee seek legal counsel re: the proposed revised Agreement and Lease.
- December 28, 2009 – A meeting of the MSSS Board and its legal counsel, and Bishop Bryan and one Consultor, took place at Sheptytsky Institute.

2010

- Agreement on the renewal of the Agreement and Lease could not be reached before December 31, 2009.
- MSSS requested *quiet possession* of Sheptytsky Institute until August 31, 2010 to ensure that residents were able to complete the academic year and so that the summer camps could be accommodated.
- All four staff members employed by MSSS at Sheptytsky Institute were given lay-off notices effective August 31, 2010.
- After the February 20th MSSS Board – Eparchy meeting, the Board decided to move the transfer date to May 15th, in order to allow the Eparchy's management staff to oversee summer activities at the Institute, and to receive the profits of summer business. This date would also allow new staff to become better acquainted with management procedures prior to resident occupancy in fall, 2010.
- The MSSS is hopeful that transition meetings in March and April, 2010 will lead to a smooth and quiet transition, and to the fair and equitable disposition of assets between the Eparchy and the MSSS.

PLEASE SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS AND VIEWS**A. DISCONTINUATION OF MANAGEMENT AT SHEPTYTSKY INSTITUTE**

1. Do you understand why the MSSS Board has decided to transfer its management role at Sheptytsky Institute?

YES _____

NO _____

DO NOT UNDERSTAND _____

2. Are you concerned about this situation?

YES _____

NO _____

SOMEWHAT CONCERNED _____

3. Do you have any **comments or opinions** on this change that you would like to share with the MSSS Board?

B. MSSS – FUTURE GOALS AND DIRECTIONS

4. What kinds of **cultural, educational and spiritual** projects and initiatives would you like to see for Ukrainian Catholics, particularly youth, in the province?

5. Which of the following would you be willing to support through MSSS?

Educational scholarships _____

Youth religious education retreats _____

Cultural programs _____

Ukrainian language support _____

Ukrainian Catholic faith programs _____

Links with STM programs _____

Guest speakers on specific topics _____ If yes, what topics? _____

Other (please share your thoughts): _____

6. Would you support a Metropolitan Sheptytsky Society Foundation or Endowment Fund?

7. How would you like to be involved in the MSSS in the future?

Board member _____ Member at large _____

Program assistance: Cultural _____ Spiritual _____ Educational _____

Fundraising committee (for programs, scholarships, workshops, etc.) _____

Promotions, publications to inform and educate our faithful _____

Academic links with the U of S _____

Presenter _____ Topic of interest: _____

Thank you.**! Please include your name, phone number or e-mail address.**

Name: _____ Phone: _____

E-mail: _____ Address: _____

If completing this questionnaire please:**Mail to: MSSS, Box 9016, Saskatoon SK S7K 7E7 or, Fax to: 306-382-0242****E-mail to: sheps@sheps.ca***To complete this questionnaire electronically, please visit www.sheps.ca and follow the link.*