



## СВІЙ ДО СВОГО Ukrainian Community Issues – 24 June 2016

### Freedom of Speech and Expression Transparency in the Ukrainian Community

I refer to the:

[СВІЙ ДО СВОГО Ukrainian Community Issues – 15 April 2016](#),

*Titled:* Publically Call for the Resignation of Michael Moravski, President of the AUV.

*Copy accessed at:* [http://www.ukrainiandirectory.org/P\\_News/NewsIssues.htm](http://www.ukrainiandirectory.org/P_News/NewsIssues.htm)

As a result of this newsletter, I received a “Concerns Notice” in accordance with the Section 14 of the Defamation Act 2005 (Act), from a Lawyer on behalf of Michael Moravski, President of AUV and Myroslav (Ross) Merunovich, Chairman of the AUV Building Committee and Nicholas Dobrotwir claiming amongst other things, that the newsletter contained “various untruthful”, “false and malicious”, “false and misleading” and “highly defamatory” imputations.

In accordance with the Section 14 of the Defamation Act 2005 (Act), I have a right to “request specific further particulars” from the “aggrieved” persons, who must respond to my specified requests within 14 days. I made such requests and one of these “specific further particulars” was:

*“I request that Michael Moravski, Myroslav (Ross) Merunovich and Nicholas Dobrotwir identify each **specific paragraph, phrase, statement, sentences and specific words** within the Newsletter, which are “**untruthful**”, “**false**”, “**misleading**” and “**malicious**”, and “**highly defamatory**” imputations.”*

It should be remembered that one of the Objectives of the Act is:

*“to ensure that the law of defamation does not place unreasonable limits on freedom of expression and, in particular, on the publication and discussion of matters of public (Ukrainian Community) interest and importance.”*

This should be read in conjunction with Section 25 of the Act, Defence of Justification.

I believe the Lawyers should have advised their clients that the Newsletter in question was well within the “Objectives” and “Defence of Justification” sections of the Act.

This legal action has only escalated and highlighted the issues within the Newsletter and brought them to the forefront, creating greater awareness within the Ukrainian Community and added credibility to this and previous “СВІЙ ДО СВОГО Ukrainian Community Issues” Newsletters and myself as the Editor.

If our community organisations are truly democratic, we should have no issues with transparency and free robust discussion.

Transparency - so that community members remain informed about what is happening with THEIR assets and activities, rather than relying on hearsay, chinese whispers and rumours in the absence of any flow of information via even a web page or Facebook page.

Free ranging discussion – so that all ideas are thoroughly considered and not dumped on the community as a *fait accompli*. Look at how robust the criticism and exchange of opinions is in the current Australian or American elections – and no one suggests that either country is worse off for it. It is the countries where free discussion is threatened, suppressed and directed, like Russia, where everybody is worse off.

My last response to their Lawyers, amongst other comments, included the following:

*“Given that your clients have absolutely refused to particularise any of the above and have made no associated denial to address these requested specified reasonable further particulars, logic dictates that your clients were unable to identify any “untruthful”, “false”, “misleading” and “malicious”, and “highly defamatory” issues within the Newsletter and as such the Newsletter is considered to be substantially true in accordance with Section 25 of the Act, Defence of Justification*

Given the above comment:

I, once again call on Michael Moravski, President of the Association of Ukrainians in Victoria (AUV) to resign as President and to relinquish all committee positions and any other position he holds within the Ukrainian Community.

As well as, I also call on Myroslav (Ross) Merunovich, to resign as Chairman of the AUV Building Committee.

I also call on Myroslav (Ross) Merunovich, the last known President of the Australian Chernobyl Children’s Relief Foundation, to resign from all positions he holds within the Ukrainian Community until such time as he and his Committee publically advise the Ukrainian Community (who contributed to all of these funds) how the \$76,438.16, as stated in the “2005 Profit and Loss Statement”, was expended, disposed of or distributed; all as detailed in the three “СВІЙ ДО СВОГО Ukrainian Community Issues” published Newsletters.

Copies accessed at: [http://www.ukrainiandirectory.org/P\\_News/NewsIssues.htm](http://www.ukrainiandirectory.org/P_News/NewsIssues.htm)

Note: My clear understanding is that these funds were not part of any alleged embezzlement, legal action or claims as speculated in our Community; I make no suggestion of this nature which I think needs to be clarified immediately. However, to the best of my knowledge, these funds remain unaccounted for.

**TRANSPARENCY IN THE UKRAINIAN COMMUNITY IS ESSENTIAL  
ONLY THE UKRAINIAN COMMUNITY CAN MAKE IT TRANSPARENT**

Become a member of the  
**ASSOCIATION OF UKRAINIANS IN VICTORIA – CENTRAL**  
Have your say and make your vote count at the next  
**Annual General Meeting**

Membership Application Form Attached

Michael Karaszkewycz  
Member of AUV Central, Member Sunshine Hromada, Member St. Albans Hromada  
Editor, Ukrainian International Directory



УКРАЇНСЬКА ГРОМАДА ВІКТОРІЇ  
ASSOCIATION OF UKRAINIANS IN VICTORIA (A.U.V.)

ЗАЯВА В ЧЛЕНИ УГВ  
APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP OF AUV

Я, .....  
I ..... Професія - *Occupation*  
Народжений/на ...../ ...../ .....  
*Born* ..... Країна - *Country*

Адреса: .....  
*Address:* ..... Телефон: .....  
.....  
.....  
Релігія / *Religion:*.....

Електронна Адреса / *Email:* .....

Родинний стан ..... Чоловік/дружина ..... Ім'я  
*Marital Status:*.....  
.....  
.....  
*Spouse* ..... *Name*

Ім'я і вік дітей: .....  
*Names & age of children*

Бажаю стати членом Української Громади Вікторії і даю згоду повинуватися приписам Статуту УГВ.

*I hereby apply to become a member of the Association of Ukrainians in Victoria and I agree to be bound by the rules of the AUV and regulation.*

Дата: ...../...../..... Підпис апліканта: .....  
*Date:* .....  
.....  
*Signature of Applicant*

Філія - *Branch:* ..... **ESSENDON - AUV CENTRAL**

**РУЧИТЕЛІ:** Ми члени УГВ особисто знаємо апліканта і рекомендуємо його апликацію

Підпис: .....  
1-ший Ручитель  
Підпис: .....  
2-гий Ручитель

**РІШЕННЯ УПРАВИ УГВ**

Дня ..... місяця ..... 20..... Управа УГВ рішила вищезгаданого апліканта  
прийняти / не прийняти в члени УГВ

.....  
**Голова**

.....  
**Секретар**