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Reception at Shevchenko Museum

— Photo: Jerry Dobrowolsky



On October 28, the Taras Shevchenko Museum in Toronto opened its new season with a reception to unveil an exhibition and sale of art by Roksolyana Pidhainy-Benoit. A report on the event, with photos, appears on Page 12.

The Next Issue

The next issue of the “UCH” will be dated January, 2018. Announcements of events in January or early February, 2018, as well as articles for the January, 2018, issue should be in our office by December 10. Thank you for your consideration.

NAFTA Negotiations

As the “UCH” goes to press, Canada, Mexico and the USA are involved in another round of talks on NAFTA. Reports are that this round, the fifth, which is taking place in Mexico, will not be as dramatic as earlier ones, particularly the last one, which generated some impressive fireworks.

The reason is that the most controversial topics are not expected to be up for consideration.

Agriculture and rules-of-origin groups are expected to meet for four days, but America’s demands on dairy and automobile parts are not expected to be debated.

Politicians are not involved this time, leaving the field to professional negotiators.

One topic that could prove thorny is the proposed changes to language on liability of internet companies. The USA, it seems, wants to limit the liability of these companies.

There is also some disagreement concerning the question of streaming content, but the main conflict seems to be with music and recording companies, and other content providers who are suffering loss of revenues as their products are pirated.

There is still concern that President Trump will choose to terminate NAFTA. In Canada, that generates discussions of possible consequences for Canada if the USA decides to negotiate two bilateral deals instead, if Canada and the USA go back to the Canada-USA Free Trade agreement, and if there is no agreement (with or without punishing US tariffs on Canadian products).

In Mexico, there is concern that Canada might go it alone with the USA leaving Mexico out. Canada has been somewhat vague about it. Mexico puts on a good face, suggesting that it could survive quite well on its own, but at the same time, it repeatedly presses Canada to stay with the trio.

Canada, for its part seems

more interested in getting a deal than worrying about the quality of the deal or solidarity with a third party.

In Canadian analyses, the rebirth of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) is seen as a mitigating factor, easing the stress of possible loss of American markets. However, there does seem to be a consensus that, at least in the short and medium runs, the TPP will not really provide enough relief.

A few things seem clear; Canada will not walk away from the table, as long NAFTA remains in force, and as long as some kind of deal seems possible. The USA is interested in a deal, though President Trump may not be. So far, Trump has not come across as effective in setting the American course; Congress and his advisors seem to rule.

There is more than a little theatre yet to come

Politics in Germany

Angela Merkel won the last election in Germany, but appears to have lost the government. Her party won the greatest number of seats but not a majority.

She was left to shop around for a possible coalition partner, if she was to rule for a fourth term. It had to be one of the larger parties, if she was to get a majority of parliamentary seats. Her options were her former partner, a party which expressed a lack of interest, or of the third-

place right-wing party. Either one could do, and either one probably would do if the reward were high enough.

The reality is that potential coalition partners seek a tit-for-tat, a price for their support, and one which justifies diluting their message to allow you to proclaim yours.

Ms. Merkel tried for about a month, following the election, to form a government. It seems that she was unsuccessful.

As the “UCH” was going

to press, Ms. Merkel was visiting the president of the country to explore her options

Reports on these events all were careful to point out that the president has the power to call a snap election. That may be a route which Ms. Merkel has to take, but it is full of danger.

Her party lost support, and seats, in the last election. She could do better in another vote, but she could also do worse. The right-wing party gained support— enough to get parliamentary seats. They might do even better in a new election. Very interesting.

Best Wishes of the Season!



The publishers and staff of the *Ukrainian Canadian Herald* extend best season’s greetings to our readers and supporters, and to their families and friends.



May you enjoy the festive season in happiness, safety and good health, and may the new year bring everything that you truly desire!



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National Inquiry Interim Report

On November 1, the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls issued its interim report. The report is quite interesting reading, though it is more about the Commission — its background, methodology, philosophy, experiences and challenges — than about what its hearings have revealed. Some paragraphs from the report, which is available online, follow.

With all the information we have, we still don't know how many Indigenous women and girls are missing or have been murdered. We don't know what happened to many of them, or how to make sure we don't lose any more Indigenous women and girls to violence. We need to understand how social structures and laws have so devalued the lives of Indigenous women and girls

Because of Indigenous Peoples' rich diversity, this reclaiming will look different in different places. First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples each have their own distinct

cultures, languages, and ways of life. Their communities have their own distinct political, legal, social, cultural, and economic systems. Because of this, there can be no one-size-fits-all, pan-Indigenous approach. Solutions must instead be culturally appropriate to First Nations, Métis, and Inuit women and girls, their respective communities, and their Nation.

No one knows for sure how many Indigenous women and girls have been murdered or gone missing in Canada.

The Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC)

created a database tracking these cases in 2005, and its 2010 report was the first to put a number to the missing and murdered—582.

As part of her 2013 doctoral thesis, Dr. Maryanne Pearce created a database that identified 824 missing or murdered Indigenous women between 1946 and 2013.

That number grew to almost 1,200 between 1980 and 2012 with the RCMP's 2014 National Overview.

But even with these concerns, the general consensus is that the numbers are staggering. These numbers are even more devastating when we consider that Indigenous women and girls make up only 4% percent of the female population in Canada.

According to Statistics Canada, 9% of female homicide victims in 1980 were Indigenous. By 2015, Indigenous women made up nearly one-quarter (24%) of homicide victims in Canada. The same

report shows that while homicide rates for non-Indigenous women have gone down over the decades, homicide rates for Indigenous women have been going up.

The violence in Canada extends beyond "missing and murdered":

- Indigenous women are physically assaulted, sexually assaulted, or robbed almost three times as often as non-Indigenous women.

Even when all other risk factors are taken into account, Indigenous women still experience more violent victimization. Simply being Indigenous and female is a risk.

Indigenous women experience intimate partner violence more frequently, and more severely, than do non-Indigenous women.

Indigenous women are roughly seven times more likely than non-Indigenous women to be murdered by

serial killers.

Indigenous women continue to be vastly over-represented in prison; in Manitoba, they made up 86% of women admitted to prison in 2014/2015, but only 14% of the general female population.

According to the 2008/10 First Nations Regional Health Survey, 17.3% of on-reserve First Nations girls in Canada (aged 12–14) had thoughts of suicide at some point in their life. By ages 15–17, that number rose to 27%, and 9.1% had made suicide attempts. The completion rate for suicide among Indigenous teens in Canada is four to five times higher than for non-Indigenous youth.

Despite these limitations, we have reviewed the pre-Inquiry community meeting materials to identify key issues to help guide our overall research strategy.

The most significant new theme we identified in this process was the impact of racism. Whether it took the form of institutionalized ignorance, stigma, and stereotypes, or racially motivated violence, racism was the issue most frequently raised at the community meetings (with survivors, families, and loved ones) and stakeholder meetings (with provinces, territories, National Indigenous Organizations, non-governmental and international organizations, Indigenous leaders, scholars, and legal experts).

Families pointed to the importance of making the National Inquiry Indigenous-centred by incorporating Indigenous legal traditions and restoring a Nation-to-Nation (or in some cases, an Inuit-to-Crown) relationship between Indigenous Peoples and the federal government.

Most pre-Inquiry participants identified addictions issues, child welfare, poverty, family violence, and lack of trauma supports (especially for the children and the parents of missing and murdered women) as needing urgent action.

Gang involvement, human trafficking, and organized crime were also a high priority.

Other key issues included being mindful of regional differences, such as Québec's relationship with the Roman Catholic Church and northern and remote areas' unique needs. The question of how to support families with members who act violently and who also experience violence themselves was a particularly pressing one in small communities.

The Grassy Narrows Saga Continues

On November 14, a release was issued announcing, "New ON law to fund Grassy Narrows mercury clean up".

The release said that, "Today the government of Ontario introduced a law to fund the clean-up of mercury pollution in the English-Wabigoon River, one of Canada's most infamous toxic sites. The legislation, once passed, requires the Minister of the Environment to set up a remediation trust and to endow it with \$85 million dollars. Three generations of Grassy Narrows people, who live on the English River and eat the fish, bear the terrible legacy of mercury poisoning on their bodies, culture, and livelihood."

Chief Simon Fobister of Grassy Narrows was optimistic. He said, "This legislation is a historic milestone in my people's long fight to make our poisoned river flow with life again and to gain justice for our people. I applaud this action and I call on Ontario to honour its promises by following our leadership to ensure a quick and complete clean-up."

The dumping of untreated mercury waste into the English-Wabigoon River began some 55 years ago, in 1962. In that entire time, the government has done nothing to clean up the river, even though three generations of Grassy Narrows people have been poisoned. They endure lifelong the symptoms of mercury poisoning, including loss of vision, hearing, balance, sensation, and coordination — as well as social and economic crises.

Nine months have passed since February, when then Minister of the Environment Glen Murray announced that \$85 million would be spent over ten years to clean up the water system. Five months have passed since June, when Minister Murray said, "I have never seen a case of such gross neglect. I am embarrassed as a Canadian that this ever happened." Finally, there is this legislation.

Sometime in the previous week, the *Toronto Star* revealed a secret Domtar report which shows that the mill owners and Ontario knew as early as 1990 that the ground under the mill was so contaminated that mercury was visible to the naked eye.

The government actually knew about the contamination, though perhaps not about its extent, much earlier. In our July/August, 2017, issue, the "UCH" reported that, in 1979, to keep jobs in Dryden, the government made a deal with Reed Paper, the polluting mill owners at that time, to indemnify Reed paper and future owners against responsibility for the pollution.

As reported earlier, the government allowed the mill owners to leave contaminated soil in place. Between 1994 and 2006, industry wells monitoring the groundwater at the mill site registered mercury levels in the groundwater at numbers as high as 4,482 times the current guideline. Until recently, this data was kept hidden from Grassy Narrows and the public. Accord-

ing to the Domtar report, the testing of the contaminated wells stopped in 2007.

With this in mind, no doubt, Chief Fobister said, "Grassy Narrows will remain vigilant until our fish are safe to eat and our people have the dignified support and care that they sorely need."

It has been recognized that \$85 million is insufficient to fully remediate the extensive damage to the river system. The Former Minister of the Environment and Climate Change, Glen Murray, called the \$85 million is a down-payment towards the full remediation of the river.

Judy Da Silva, Grassy Narrows' Environmental Health Coordinator, grandmother, and mercury survivor, explained, "This is a good day for me, but I cry because long after the river is cleaned our people will continue to suffer from the damage caused by mercury. We need a Mercury Home and Treatment Centre where our sick people can be cared for in our community, we need support to revive our culture and livelihood, and we need fair and dignified compensation."

This statement reports that, "According to the recent Environmental Commissioner's report released on October 24, 2017, '[T]he Ontario government declined to take action for decades, largely ignoring the suffering of the Grassy Narrows and Wabaseemoong people.' The government 'chose to allow the ongoing poisoning of the communities' and then 'long ago abandoned the communities to bear the consequences.'" (ECO 2017, p.111)"

A release three days ear-

lier, on November 11, about the secret Domtar 1990 report revealed by the *Toronto Star*, was a bit harsher.

The November 11 release charges, "The government allowed the company to leave contaminated soil in place, but told Grassy Narrows that the mill had been cleaned up and was not an ongoing source of the highly toxic chemical.

"This is the worst treachery," said Grassy Narrows Chief Simon Fobister. "The government and the companies knew that we were sick and vulnerable and still hid the truth from us about this grave threat to our families. How many children have been poisoned because of this terrible deception? How long must our sick people wait for a place where they can be cared for in our community among our families? They have allowed our people to be poisoned and it is long past time that they help us fix what they have broken."

The November 11 release also cites Judy Da Silva, who says, "All along while our families were getting sick and dying they knew about this poison under the mill, and they never told us. Now they refuse to properly support and care for our sick people. We still face denial and racism every day when we try to get the help we need."

Chief Fobister and the A subpee chosewagong Anishinabek of Grassy Narrows have also been critical of the federal government. A November 16 release titled "Chief: Canada is asleep at the wheel on our mercury crisis", says that "The Chief of Grassy Narrows is calling out

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Current Eclectic

Global Wealth Report

The Credit Suisse Research Institute has released its *Global Wealth Report* for 2017.

This eighth edition of the *Global Wealth Report* provides the most comprehensive and

up-to-date source of information available on global household wealth. The *Global Wealth Report* is compiled from data on the wealth holdings of 4.8 billion adults across approximately 200 countries – from billionaires in the top echelon to the middle and bottom sections of the wealth pyramid.

Much of the report this year is old news, but there is much new in the details.

The richest 1% still own half of the world's wealth, as they did in last year's report (actually, now it's a bit more than half — 50.1%), and the gap between the super-rich and the remainder of the globe's population continues to grow.

The growth in total global wealth grew in the last 12 months by 6.4 percent which is the fastest pace of wealth creation since 2012 and one of the best results since the financial crisis.

The USA generated USD

8.5 trillion, more than half of the total global wealth aggregation of USD 16.7 trillion of the past 12 months.

Wealth in Europe increased by 6.4%. France, Italy, and Spain made it into the top ten countries with the biggest gains in absolute terms.

However, converted into percentage terms, the biggest household wealth gain globally was recorded in Poland. The increase of 18% was driven mainly by rising equity prices. Since Poland had the highest average growth, and the increase was based on equity prices (which means "not for

(Continued on Page 8.)

Employment in Canada

The "Labour Force Survey" for October, 2017, released by Statistics Canada on November 3, puts employment at 18,489,000, up 0.2% from September. At the same time, unemployment rose from 6.2% to 6.3%.

On the positive side, this net increase of 35,000 jobs reflected a growth of 89,000 full time jobs and a loss of 53,000 part-time jobs.

Compared to a year earlier, there were 397,000 more full-time jobs and 89,000 fewer part-time positions.

Employment for youth aged 15 to 24 rose by 18,000, all of it full-time work. However their unemployment rate also increased, as more

young people looked for work.

Employment was quite steady in other age groups, except for those aged 65 and over, whose employment is growing faster than their numbers. That means more of them choose to, or have to, work.

Employment rose most in the category "other services", followed by construction; information, culture and recreation, and agriculture. Self-employment was little changed in October, but was up by 60,000 jobs (+2.1%) on a year-over-year basis.

Employment in professional, scientific and technical services was little changed in the month, but this industry was

the fastest growing on a year-over-year basis, up 85,000 or 6.1%. Much of the year-over-year increase was in computer system design services.

Employment declined in wholesale and retail trade.

The number of private sector employees increased in October, while public sector employment was quite steady.

The largest employment increases were in Quebec, followed by Alberta, Manitoba, Newfoundland and Labrador, and New Brunswick. At the same time, there was a decline in Saskatchewan.

In Ontario and British Columbia, employment was little changed in October.

Canada's Peacekeeping

In the lead-up to the last federal election, the Liberals evoked nostalgia for the good old days of Canadian peacekeeping, so that Canadians expected that our military personnel would be wearing the blue berets again. Canada was going to re-engage with the world in the UN context.

Then the Liberals were elected. Canadians waited for news about the deployment of Canadian peacekeepers — up to 600 troops and 150 policemen. The United Nations offered several opportunities, but the government repeatedly claimed to be studying them.

Then, in mid-November,

while hosting an international conference in Vancouver, Canada finally made public its decision on peacekeeping. Rather than sending troops into the danger of fire-fights, this country would supply high-tech equipment, provide some services, like transportation, and give training to troops of other countries to make them more effective in boots-on-the-ground missions.

Included in the Canadian contribution is \$21 million to help double the number of women involved in peacekeeping operations.

Essentially, this means that nothing changes. At the mo-

ment, most of the deployment of troops for peacekeeping is done by poorer countries, while the richer ones provide the money and equipment.

One article explained that the poorer countries are happy with this arrangement, because they make a profit on it. The payment they get per soldier per day from the United Nations far exceeds what they pay their soldiers.

The Canadian arrangement pretty much parallels what Canada is presently doing in Ukraine: providing some material, and training Ukrainian troops. However, Canada is being pressed to change that contribution, and there is more than just a little danger that the

government will.

The immediate demand is that Canada provide to Ukraine so-called defensive lethal weapons. That is so much sophistry. Lethal weapons (like anti-tank weapons) that can be used defensively can also be used offensively.

The same demand is being made of the USA and other countries. With the high-pressure Ukrainian lobbies in the USA and in Canada, there is a real danger that Canada's policy will change, giving Ukraine an enhanced ability to overcome its dissident citizens in eastern Ukraine.

The other possible change to Canadian policy involves peacekeeping — in Ukraine. The idea of peacekeepers was first raised by Ukraine. Russia produced a proposal in line with traditional peacekeeping: a UN force deployed along the line where the two sides meet. A major flaw with this proposal was that it included Russian troops in the peacekeeping force, but that was probably negotiable.

That proposal was not what the government of Ukraine had in mind. What President Poroshenko wants is a force deployed throughout the dissident territories and along the Russian border — in other words, an international army to fight the separatists (and whatever Russian units there might be) on Ukraine's behalf.

The Ukrainian lobby in Canada and internationally is pressing for the Ukrainian government's position. The

main argument against the traditional concept of peacekeeping is that it freezes the line of conflict as the *de facto* line of demarcation between Ukraine and the dissident regions, which could become permanent.

The argument is put forward that the eastern territories are now occupied by an occupying force — Russian troops — an unacceptable situation. This view totally discounts the possibility that the populations of the eastern regions, in their majority, genuinely reject the current government of Ukraine, which overthrew the legitimately elected previous government.

Any UN peacekeeping force along the lines proposed by President Poroshenko and promoted by the Ukrainian lobby would be viewed as an army of occupation by many residents of eastern Ukraine.

A number of factors increase the chances that the Poroshenko variant will be adopted. One factor is the current demonization of Russia, which blames all the world's ills on President Putin. However unrealistic and lacking in credibility this view may be, it is being energetically promoted by the regime in Kyiv (which wants the coal mines and other resources of the east back) and the centres of finance capital (which want unrestricted access to the Russian market).

Another reason why secession by Ukraine's eastern regions is unacceptable to much of the world is that many

(Continued on Page 11.)

Drama in Zimbabwe

Many countries in Africa are centres of strife. Though there were anti-government demonstrations about a year ago, motivated by a declining economy in the once prosperous country, the situation in Zimbabwe, at least from the outside, seemed fairly stable.

President Robert Mugabe, at age 93 and in place since the successful overthrow of white minority rule in 1980, seemed to be in position for a peaceful retirement in the not too distant future.

There was even an apparent replacement in the wings, Vice-President Emmerson Mnangagwa.

Then President Mugabe, with accusations of plotting to

take power, "fired" Vice-President Mnangagwa. The latter fled the country, reportedly out of concern for his safety. Some 100 of his supporters, it was reported, were listed for "disciplinary measures" by a faction supporting President Mugabe's 52-year-old wife Grace.

Mr. Mnangagwa had military support which Ms. Mugabe did not. The army commander ordered that purges of senior ZANU-PF officials stop. President Mugabe was reportedly put under house arrest.

President Mugabe seemed to be quite free to speak, and he and the military both insisted that he was still in

charge — there was no coup. Within days, however, there were reports of rejoicing in the streets about his removal from power, and the leaders of his party were giving him ultimata: resign from the presidency, or be removed.

Shortly before the "UCH" was due to go to press, President Mugabe was scheduled to speak on television, and the expectation was widespread that he would be announcing his retirement.

Instead of quitting, President Mugabe surprised almost everyone, and disappointed quite a few, by announcing that he wasn't going anywhere any time soon.

It looks like an inner-party power struggle, with at least one more act to play out: impeachment in parliament.

UKRAINIAN CANADIAN

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not necessarily reflect the views of the Editorial Board.**Foreign Influences**

AN EDITORIAL by WILFRED SZCZESNY

Back in the mid-1960s, Australians liked to repeat the mock slogan "Learn Chinese before it becomes compulsory." This was a response to the perceived spreading influence and power of China in the context of war in Vietnam, the emergence of Maoist political parties internationally, and other developments which some people found threatening.

About five decades later, Chinese is still not compulsory knowledge in Australia, but concerns about Chinese influence and power continue.

Professor Cliff Hamilton of Charles Sturt University was among the concerned. He wrote a book about it, naming people he thought to be part of a Chinese influence campaign. His publisher dropped plans to publish the book out of fear of a defamation action against the publisher and the author. "Now, he is warning," as an article in the *Globe and Mail* puts it, "about the risks of China's rising power – including in Canada, which has become an important target for a Beijing-led campaign that relies on shadowy government-funded agencies to spread influence among Chinese people living overseas."

Whatever the truth about China's activities, Professor Hamilton's campaign, warning about a supposed threat posed by Chinese communities in countries around the world, is itself a grave danger, tending to generate hostility and mistrust toward people of Chinese heritage. Canada is currently experiencing one such danger in the form of Islamophobia, for which (at some point) we may have a governmental apology. We don't need another.

We do need vigilance against the actions of agents of foreign governments, where such agency is clear and contrary to Canada's interests. In Canada, such a situation certainly exists with respect to Ukraine and Ukraine's supporters in Canada. They constitute a lobby which places the interests of Ukraine above the interests of Canada; they are quite influential, with a reach that extends into the government; and their methods (which include defamation of all those who disagree with them) reduce the possibility of rational consideration of policies which in any way relate to Ukraine.

We would not suggest any sort of campaign of repression against them, but we would urge that their advocacy be treated with caution, as any committed advocacy should be. Cut through the appeals to emotion, especially "them vs us" emotions, to ensure that decisions really reflect Canada's best choices.

COMMENTARY**Defending Fascism**

"Selectively denying any aspect of the Holocaust is still denial."

"It is not fake news if it is true, and the Russians couldn't use the existence of Nazi monuments to embarrass Canada if such tributes did not actually exist. And they do."

These are two quotations from an article by Scott Taylor.

The article appeared in the issue of *The Hill Times* dated November 1, 2017, with the title "No denying Canada's monuments to Nazi collaborators". The article also appeared in the issue of the *Winnipeg Free Press* dated November 2, 2017, with the titled "Nazi monuments uncomfortable Canadian truth".

(Our citations of Taylor's article are from *The Hill Times*; other citations are from the "WFP".)

Before discussing the article, it is instructive to know something about Scott Taylor.

First, Mr. Taylor is the founder, editor and publisher of the magazine "Esprit de Corps".

Here is some of the information provided about Mr. Taylor by Wikileaks.

"Scott Taylor is a former soldier (3 years in the infantry), Canadian journalist, writer, and publisher who specializes in military journalism and war reporting. His coverage has included wars in Cambodia, Africa, the Persian Gulf, Turkey, South Ossetia, the Balkans, Afghanistan, Iraq, and Libya. Scott Taylor is also a former private in the Canadian Forces, PPCLI.

"He has worked as the editor and publisher of *Esprit de Corps* since 1988.

"Taylor has aroused a certain amount of controversy during his career; described as "fiercely opinionated", his articles have attracted criticism for their often strongly polemical slant. He has been critical of the Canadian Forces and the Department of National Defence, and has also written

in opposition to Western involvement in the Kosovo War, Iraq War and the Libyan Civil War. Taylor was dubbed the 'Voice of the Grunts' by the *Globe and Mail*, a 'Bone in the Brass' Throats' by the *Toronto Star*, and a 'One Man Army' by the *Toronto Sun*. Taylor has also won Press TV's 'Unembedded Journalist of the Year' Award for 2008.

"Taylor is a regular op-ed contributor to the *Halifax Herald* newspaper, as well as the *Embassy Magazine*. He has also contributed to such publications as the *Ottawa Citizen*, *Maclean's* magazine, the *Globe and Mail*, the *Toronto Sun*, *Reader's Digest* and the Global television network.

"He has also appeared in several international journals such as *Indian Defence Review*, *Magyar Nemzet* and *Al Jazeera*.

"...
"Taylor appears regularly in Canadian media as a military expert and analyst. In 1996 he received the Quill Award, as well as the Alexander MacKenzie Award for journalistic excellence."

In brief, Scott Taylor is a thoroughly professional and well-respected, journalist, a best-selling author, and an award-winning documentary film maker.

In his article, Mr. Taylor notes that, "A story last week in the *National Post* revealed the disturbing fact that there are actually monuments in Canada that glorify Second World War Nazi collaborators. There is no denying the truth of these allegations, as they were accompanied by photographs of offending statues."

He also informs his readers that, "The original source of these revelations was a tweet from the Russian Embassy in Ottawa."

The first response to Mr. Taylor's article which appeared in the "WFP" was written by Lubomyr Luciuk and published on November 7.

Dr. Luciuk, a political geography professor in Kingston, Ontario, is no respecter of persons (an equal opportunity smear artist, if you will), nor of logic.

Part of Dr. Luciuk's response was just to deny everything. "No 'Nazi collaborator' monument in Canada" he writes, and "Gen. Roman Shukhevych ... had nothing to do with the murder of Jews in June 1941." Furthermore, "the supposed wartime collaboration of her (Chrystia Freeland's -Ed.) grandfather" is merely "another fib Taylor likewise slings".

Dr. Luciuk also uses diversionary tactics, introducing numerous irrelevancies: the findings of the Deschenes Commission, President Putin's ancestry, and "the ongoing Russian invasion of Ukraine" being the chief ones.

And then, the argument *ad hominem* (aka as the smear). "Shouldn't a real journalist" (suggesting Mr. Taylor is not), "his ignorance of the 1986 Commission of Inquiry" (which is very unlikely, and involves an irrelevant topic) and "Charlotte Street trolls and other 'useful idiots' in Ottawa" (which clearly shows the level of Mr. Luciuk's talents).

In his defence of Gen. Shukhevych, Dr. Luciuk attacks Mr. Taylor as one of "the same Kremlin kobolds". Dr. Luciuk ignores the fact that, on this matter, Mr. Taylor is basically in agreement with an article in the *National Post* about a week earlier (on October 25, updated October 30), in which Marie-Danielle Smith writes that "(General Shukhevych) commanded a Ukrainian battalion responsible for murdering thousands of Jewish people".

He also ignores an October 27 article by David Puliese in the *Ottawa Citizen* which makes the same point. Neither the *National Post*, nor the *Ottawa Citizen* can reasonably be called "Kremlin troll", but Dr. Luciuk seldom worries about what's reasonable.

Dr. Luciuk was aware of the *National Post* article. He told, Marie-Danielle Smith, "It's all based on fake news" (Continued on Page 8.)

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Kirilo Kozhomyaka

A Ukrainian Folk Tale



Once upon a time there was a prince who ruled in Kiev, while outside the city there lived a dragon to whom the people had to deliver a youth or a maid every year. At last the turn came for the daughter of the prince to be sacrificed. What could the prince do? His subjects had given up their children, so he had to do the same. The prince sent his daughter away to the dragon. Now, the princess was so beautiful that there are no words to describe her beauty. The dragon fell in love with her. Once she made up to him and coaxed:

"Tell me, is there any man on the earth who could get the better of you?"

"There is such a man in Kiev on the bank of the Dnieper River," the dragon told her. "When he lights a fire in his house the smoke goes up to the very heavens. And when he takes hides to soak in the Dnieper, for he is a tanner as his name Kozhomyaka signifies, he does not carry one, but a dozen of them at the same time. And when those hides get swollen with water in the Dnieper, sometimes I hold on to them to see

if he can lift them out. But that makes no difference to him for when he gives a tug he nearly pulls me out on the bank along with the hides. That's the only man I'm afraid of."

The princess memorized all this, and began to think how she could pass that information home, so she could be set free and return to her father. But there wasn't a living being near, except for one pigeon. She had fed that pigeon and made friends with it in the happy days when she lived in Kiev. She thought, and then she wrote to her father:

"Dear father," she wrote, "In Kiev there is a man named Kirilo, and his surname is

Kozhomyaka. Send some old people to him to beg him to battle with the dragon and free me, a poor wretch, from prison! Entreat him, dear father, with words and gifts, and take care that he doesn't get offended at some unusual word!

That's what she wrote, and she tied the note under the pigeon's wing and let it fly out the window. The pigeon soared up into the sky and flew straight home to the prince's courtyard. The children happened to be running about the yard and they saw the pigeon.

"Daddy, daddy!" they cried. Look, our sister's pigeon has returned home!"

At first the prince was overjoyed, but then he started to think and became sad.

"The monster has destroyed my child, I fear," he said to himself.

Then he coaxed the pigeon



to come to him and his eye fell on the note that lay under its wing. He snatched the note and read what his daughter had written to him.

"Is there such a man, who is named Kirilo Kozhomyaka?"

"There is, prince. He lives by the Dnieper."

"How should we approach him, so that he won't get offended and would do all we ask?"

After some exchange of opinion they sent their oldest people to him. They came to his house, and with fear in their hearts they slowly opened the door, and stood terrified. Kozhomyaka was sitting on the floor with his back to them, and with his hands he was crumpling twelve hides to soften them. Only his long white beard could be seen swinging from side to side! Then one of the messengers sneezed:

"Achoo!"

Kozhomyaka was startled by the unexpected noise and tore the twelve hides apart: ripp! He turned to them, and they bowed low to him.

"It's like this, the prince has sent us to beg you...."

But he didn't want to look at them or listen to them. He was angry because he had torn twelve hides on their account.

They kept begging and pleading. They even fell on their knees . . . But it was no use! They pleaded, and then they went away with bowed heads.

What was to be done now? The prince was sad. So were the councillors.

"Perhaps we should send some younger people to him?"

They sent younger messengers, but they fared no better. Kozhomyaka only sat and breathed heavily, as though they weren't there. That's how badly he was upset over those hides.

Finally the prince got an idea and sent the little children to him. The children came and began to beg, and when they fell on their knees to cry, Kozhomyaka couldn't hold out any longer. He shed a tear himself, and said:

"All right, I'll do it for you."

He went to the prince.

"Give me twelve barrels of tar and twelve wagons of hemp," he said.

He twisted some hemp about himself, daubed himself well all over with tar, took a club that must have weighed a quarter of a ton and went to see the dragon.

The dragon asked him:

"What's this, Kirilo? Do you come in peace or to fight?"

"I'll not make peace with you! I'll fight you, cursed monster!"

And they began to fight so vigorously that the very earth trembled. Every time that the dragon made a dash and sank his hands into Kirilo, he tore away some tar, and the next time he dashed in and bit, he got a mouthful of hemp. But whenever Kirilo struck him a blow with his heavy club, he drove the dragon straight into the ground.

The dragon grew hot, as though he were on fire. And while he ran to the Dnieper for a drink and a dip in the river to cool off, Kozhomyaka wound himself about with hemp again and tarred himself.

Every time the cursed monster leapt out of the river and rushed at Kozhomyaka, he got it whang! whang! — with the club.

They fought and they fought until sparks flew and smoke came from them. Kirilo heated up the dragon even more than a blacksmith heats a ploughshare in his forge. The monster was heaving and choking already, and the ground was trembling under him, And all the while bells were ringing and the people stood on the hills motionless with clenched hands, waiting to see what would happen.

Then there was a mighty blow and the monster fell to the ground so hard that the very earth shook. The people on the hills clapped their hands and shouted: "Give it to him, Kirilo! Give it to him good, Kozhomyaka!"

After he killed the dragon, Kirilo freed the princess and returned her back to the prince. The prince didn't know how to thank him enough. And forever after the place where the mighty tanner lived has been called Kozhomyaki.

APOLOGIES

Our apologies to Elsie Williston for getting her name wrong in the item "ULT Gets New Floor" on Page 6 in the November, 2017, issue of the *Ukrainian Canadian Herald*.



IVAN FRANKO MUSEUM

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Free Admission by appointment only

The second issue of *The Ukrainian Canadian* magazine appeared in December, 1968. This fairy tale was one of the items which was included in that publication 49 years ago.

The translator, John Weir, translated much literature from Ukrainian to English, with translations of the poetry of Taras Shevchenko among his best known works.

Interim Report

(Continued from Page 2.)

Many of the families' recommendations for law enforcement centred on the need for designated investigators, police units, advocates, protocols, or regional offices to address violence against Indigenous women. Families also said that recommendations should not only be directed to federal, provincial, and territorial governments, but should include Indigenous communities, governments, and leadership as well.

Some suggestions for commemoration included helping families bring human remains back home for burial, marking currently unmarked graves, and introducing a National Day of Mourning.

The most significant issue our partners identified is the role that police forces and the criminal justice system play in perpetrating violence against Indigenous women and girls.

There is an overall lack of trust in the justice system—including the police, courts, coroners, and corrections—and a belief that women and families are not receiving the justice they deserve. People are afraid of retribution and bullying when reporting police complaints in small communities. There is ongoing concern about the lack of communication between police and families. We have heard that existing mechanisms for making complaints against the police, investigating police misconduct, and addressing the overall lack of transparency, are inadequate. Many believe that the cause of death is ruled as from "natural causes" far too often in cases where there are suspicious circumstances.

A second key issue our partners identified is the way the media depicts Indigenous women and victims of violence. Racism is prevalent in the media, and negative, stereotypical coverage of Indigenous women has a profound impact on families. It also discourages non-Indigenous Canadians from seeing these high rates of violence as a fundamental violation of the human rights of Indigenous women and girls.

Violence against Indigenous

women and girls is a social responsibility. This is why public education must be a priority.

There is also a direct link between child welfare apprehensions and missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls. Without change to the child welfare system there will continue to be high rates of violence and missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls.

People told us that sex trafficking is a reality in Indigenous communities and urban centres. They said that Indigenous women, girls, and LGBTQ2S people are over-represented in the sex trade, and that there is still a stigma around sex work, which creates conflict within families and between organizations over how best to protect women in the trade. They also pointed to the link between prostitution and resource extraction, as the culture and values associated with hyper-masculine industrial camps can make Indigenous women and girls more vulnerable to violence.

NWAC found that the majority of disappearances and deaths occurred in the western provinces, that more than half of those who died or disappeared were under 31 years old, and that Indigenous women are more likely than non-Indigenous women to be killed by a stranger.

The report points to the impacts of colonization. These include the over-representation of Indigenous children in the child welfare system, intergenerational trauma, substance abuse, unstable families, and sexual abuse. The report also highlights the underlying socio-economic factors that contribute to violence, such as poverty, poor health, homelessness, and institutionalization. Finally, the report notes that police and child welfare systems failed to concretely address the factors that make Indigenous women and girls more vulnerable to violence. NWAC's report states that both preventative and reactive measures are needed to address this violence.

Most of the 98 reports identified to date generally agree on the root causes of violence against Indigenous women and girls, and what overall measures are required to stop it.

The next sections of this report will summarize the major themes and sub-themes that we have identified. It will be organized according to the consensus that have emerged over: the root causes of violence against Indigenous women and girls in Canada; and the measures needed to end violence against Indigenous women and girls in Canada.

Virtually all of the reports that discuss root causes point to the historical legacies and continuing impacts of colonization on Indigenous communities in Canada. Many reports also discuss how discrimination under the Indian Act and other Canadian laws, the residential school system, and the Sixties Scoop have all contributed to Indigenous communities' loss of traditional knowledge, profound intergenerational trauma, and violence. They agree that no understanding of violence against Indigenous women and girls, including LGBTQ2S people, can be understood without grounding it firmly within Canadian colonialism.

As a result of this deeply rooted discrimination, Indigenous women, girls, and LGBTQ2S people have long been, and continue to be, socio-economically marginalized. They experience disproportionate rates of poverty and poor living conditions compared to non-Indigenous Canadians. They are more vulnerable to violence, and less able to leave violent circumstances. This is due to gaps between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people's access to good schools and jobs; emergency housing in the short term and safe, affordable housing in the long term; and culturally appropriate health, mental health, and addictions treatment services.

Many reports also point to Indigenous Peoples' loss of self-determination as a root cause of violence against Indigenous women and girls.

These reports emphasize that Canadian governments need to rebalance the power in their relationships with Indigenous Nations and communities. They affirm that any meaningful efforts to address violence against Indigenous women, girls, and LGBTQ2S people must be based on a true partnership between Canadian and Indigenous jurisdictions. This must include Indigenous and non-Indigenous leadership, service providers, advocates, and communities.

Our first year at the National Inquiry has taught us many important lessons. The first is that we need to make stronger connections with families, survivors, and women's and Indigenous organizations, who are our key partners on the front line. Second, we must continue to learn about and centre Indigenous laws, principles, and traditions while balancing the legal requirements of the Canadian legal system. Third, we need to manage the limited time we have to examine all aspects of systemic violence against Indigenous women and girls while we build a better foundation for effective, community-based solutions.

These are no small tasks. We ask for your support, patience, and insight as we move forward with these considerations in mind.

We will continue to base our work on these findings and recommendations of those who have gone before us. As the National Inquiry focuses its attention on systemic causes of violence and concrete actions to end violence, with a decolonizing, gendered, human-rights framework, we endorse and will build upon existing recommendations. These include:

- Federal, provincial, and territorial governments publicly acknowledging and condemning violence against Indigenous women, girls and LGBTQ2S people;
- Federally coordinated, cross-jurisdictional national action plans on:
 - Addressing violence against Indigenous women, girls, and LGBTQ2S people;
 - Public education and greater public awareness of violence against Indigenous women, girls and LGBTQ2S

people;

- Compensation for family members and/or a healing fund for survivors and families;
- Properly resourced initiatives and programming to address root causes of violence against Indigenous women, girls, and LGBTQ2S people;
- Improved access to safe housing for Indigenous women, girls, and LGBTQ2S people;
- Responsive, accountable, and culturally appropriate child and family services.

The National Inquiry calls for immediate action for:

1. Implementation of all Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, particularly those that impact Indigenous women and children, including the immediate implementation of Jordan's Principle and the immediate and full implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as a framework for reconciliation, and including a federal action plan, strategies, and other concrete measures to achieve the goals of UNDRIP;

2. Full compliance with the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal ruling (2016) that found that Canada was racially discriminating against First Nations children.

Along with the endorsement of existing recommendations that can immediately address systemic violence and its underlying causes, the National Inquiry recommends the following:

3. That the federal government find a way to provide the contact information of the families and survivors who participated in the pre-Inquiry

(Continued on Page 7.)

To All AUUC Members and Friends



Best Wishes for Health, Happiness and Prosperity in a World of Peace!

Winnipeg AUUC Branch

Best Wishes for the New Year!

The AUUC Ottawa Branch sends Warmest Greetings and Best Wishes to all AUUC members and supporters for a Happy and Peaceful 2017!

**Season's Greetings from the
Dovbush Dancers!**
Wishing all AUUC members
and volunteers a happy and
healthy 2017. Thank you for
everything you do for us!

Dovbush Dancers
Vancouver, B.C.

Season's Greetings from beyond
the mountains to all AUUC Per-
forming Arts Groups and friends
across Canada.
Wishing you happiness, hope and
peace this holiday season.

Barvinok Choir and Vancouver Folk Orchestra
Vancouver, BC

We greet our
AUUC family members,
friends and supporters
throughout Canada and
Ukraine.

Peace, Health and
Happiness
To all in the New Year!

Vancouver AUUC Branch

Vancouver Seniors
Hope for
Peace on Earth!

Lesya Ukrainka Manor
Vancouver BC

To our friends across Canada
and in Ukraine,
May the New Year bring
Good Health, Happiness,
Peace and Prosperity.

Larry and Dianna Kleparchuk
Vancouver, BC

Interim Report

(Continued from Page 6.)
process to the National In-
quiry. Alternatively, that the
federal government provide
families and survivors who
participated in the pre-Inquiry
process information on how to
participate in the National In-
quiry.

4. That federal, provincial,
and territorial governments
provide project funding, in ad-
dition to regular operational
funds, to help ensure Indige-
nous organizations' full and
meaningful participation in the
National Inquiry.

5. That the federal govern-
ment establish a commemora-
tion fund in collaboration with
national and regional Indige-
nous organizations (including
Indigenous women's organi-
zations) and in partnership
with family coalitions, Indige-
nous artists, and grassroots
advocates who have spear-
headed commemoration
events and initiatives related
to missing and murdered In-
digenous women, girls and
LGBTQ2S people.

6. That the federal govern-
ment immediately provide ad-
ditional funding to Health
Canada's Resolution Health
Support Program and expand
its services to meet the in-
creased needs flowing from
the National Inquiry's work,
and at a minimum for the du-
ration of the National Inquiry.

7. That Health Canada's
Resolution Health Support
Program provide funding to
Indigenous organizations and
other service providers (in-
cluding provincial and territo-
rial governments) through
contribution agreements and
transfer funds to provide the
necessary health supports to
families and survivors partici-
pating in the National Inquiry's
Truth-Gathering Process and
engaging in its commemora-
tion activities.

8. That the federal govern-
ment undertake an engage-
ment process with families,
survivors, Indigenous organi-
zations, and the National In-
quiry to investigate the feasi-
bility of restoring the Aborigi-
nal Healing Foundation.

9. That the federal govern-
ment work collaboratively
with provinces and territories
to create a national police
task force to which the Na-
tional Inquiry could refer fami-
lies and survivors to assess or
reopen cases or review inves-
tigations.

10. Given the short time
frame of the National Inquiry
and the urgency of establish-
ing robust administrative
structures and processes, that
the federal government pro-
vide alternatives and options
to its administrative rules to
enable the National Inquiry to
fulfill the terms of its man-
date.

Merry Christmas
and
Happy New Year
from
AUUC Richmond Branch
The Farthest Branch
in the West

IVAN FRANKO MANOR

200 McGregor Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba

Extends Best Wishes
To All Its Tenants
and
AUUC Members for a



HAPPY, HEALTHY NEW YEAR

Best wishes for the holiday season
and the coming year. May all
your aspirations be fulfilled, all
your hopes be met, and all your
dreams come true.

Wilfred Szczesny
Mississauga, Ontario

May the message of PEACE
touch all our Friends
Throughout 2018

Lucy, Vadim, Lisa, Anatole, Sean, and
Stacey Nykolyshyn, and
Rudiger and Lydia Hedrich &
their families



At this joyful time, thoughts
turn to friends across the
country. We share the task of
carrying our heritage forward
with every graceful dance step.

Dovbush School of Ukrainian Dance
Vancouver, BC

Global Wealth Report

(Continued from Page 3.) working people”), the conclusion can be drawn that the rich in Poland did extremely well.

Switzerland continues to lead the ranking in terms of both average and median wealth per adult in 2017, the latter favouring countries with higher levels of wealth equality. Since the turn of the century, wealth per adult in Switzerland has risen by 130%.

China is catching up. After suffering losses of 20% during the crisis, China quickly overtook its pre-crisis level of wealth growth. This year, its pace of wealth creation caught up with the pace of Europe. Its input to the global wealth stock was USD 1.7 trillion, the second highest absolute wealth gain after the USA.

To share in the wealth, there were 2.3 million new dollar millionaires created over the past year, taking the total to 36 million. These millionaires – who account for 0.7% of the world’s adult population – control 46% of total global wealth that now stands at \$280 trillion USD (27% more than a decade ago, at the onset of the financial crisis.)

That means there is a very sharp drop off. The next richest 0.3% of the population which makes up the top 1% only have 4.1% of the world’s

wealth.

How often do we hear it said that a million dollars is not really all that much these days. That seems reasonable when one considers the price of homes in several Canadian cities, but only seven adults in a thousand have at least that much.

The world’s richest people have seen their share of the globe’s total wealth increase from 42.5% at the height of the 2008 financial crisis to 50.1% in 2017, or \$140tn (£106tn).

The share of the top 1% has been on an upward path ever since [the crisis], passing the 2000 level in 2013 and achieving new peaks every year thereafter.

The number of millionaires, which fell in 2008, recovered fast after the financial crisis, and is now nearly three times the 2000 figure.

At the other end of the spectrum, the world’s 3.5 billion poorest adults, who account for 70% of the world’s working age population, account for just 2.7% of global wealth.

More than 90% of adults in India and Africa have less than \$10,000. In some low-income countries in Africa, the percentage of the population in this wealth group is close to 100%.

More than two-fifths (40%) of the world’s millionaires live

in the US, followed by Japan with 7% and the UK with 6%.

The song says that “the rich get richer” and the USA; with 40% of all millionaires, accounted for about 50% of the global wealth increase, making it the unquestionable leader.

The collapse in the value of the pound since the Brexit vote meant the total number of dollar millionaires in the UK fell by 34,000 to 2.19 million. Just over half of the UK’s 51 million adults have wealth in excess of \$100,000. The mean average wealth of a UK adult is \$278,038, but the median is \$102,641.

While the global population of millionaires has grown considerably, the number of ultra-high net worth individuals (UHNWIs) – those with a net worth of \$50 million or more – has increased even faster. “The number of millionaires has increased by 170% [since 2000], while the number of UHNWIs has risen five-fold, making them by far the fastest-growing group of wealth-holders,” the report said.

Most of the new UHNWIs have been created in the US, but 22% come from emerging economies, notably China.

In the UK, the wealthiest 1% have seen their share increase to nearly a quarter of all the country’s wealth, while the poorest half have less than 5%. Millions of people across the UK face a daily struggle to make ends meet and the numbers living in poverty are

the highest in almost 20 years.

All levels of society were benefitting from the rewards of pre-crisis growth. While global mean (average) wealth per adult grew at 7% per year between 2000 and 2007, the bottom half of wealth holders did even better, with median wealth per adult growing at 12% per year.

In 2007, the global financial crisis brought this episode of growth to a halt, wiping 12.6% off global wealth. Shortly after the crisis, wealth growth resumed. It has managed to recoup the lost ground and rise further, but the average pace of growth has been less than half the pre-crisis rate.

The remaining negative heritage of the financial crisis is wealth inequality. It has been rising in all parts of the world since 2007. As calculated by the report authors, the top 1% of global wealth holders started the millennium with 45.5% of all household wealth, but their share has since increased to a level of 50.1% today.

In the post-crisis period, the source of wealth growth tilted heavily towards the United States, opening a wide gap with Japan and all of Africa, for example. Furthermore, across all regions, wealth inequality rose from 2007 to 2016. In every region of the world except for China, median wealth declined (meaning that the bottom half got poorer).

The biggest losers, the re-

port says, are young people who should not expect to become as rich as their parents. Millennials (people born between 1980 and about 2005) face particularly challenging circumstances. Millennials face high unemployment, tighter mortgage rules, increased income inequality and reduced pensions, with baby boomers occupying most of the top jobs and much of the housing.

The report is generally optimistic about the next five years, expecting current trends to continue. According to the report, global wealth should continue to grow at a similar pace to the last half a decade and is anticipated to reach USD 341 trillion by 2022.

Emerging economies are expected to generate wealth at a faster pace than their developed peers, and are likely to achieve a 22% share in global wealth at the end of the five-year period. The strongest contribution is expected from China and is estimated at around USD 10 trillion, an increase of 33%.

The outlook for the millionaire segment is more optimistic than for the bottom of the wealth pyramid (less than \$10,000 per adult). The former is expected to rise by 22%, from 36 million people today to 44 million in 2022, while the group occupying the lowest tier of the pyramid is expected to decrease by only about 4%.

Defending Fascism

(Continued from Page 4.) or misinformation, disinformation that’s intended to cause problems.... It’s locker-

room banter, it’s sotto voce murmuring, it’s not credible and yet it obviously has currency.”

The AUUC Response

During its teleconference on November 16, the National Executive Committee of the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians considered the controversy around the article by Scott Taylor which was printed in the Winnipeg Free Press.

Members of the NEC were concerned about the views expressed by Paul Grod, President of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress, and by Lubomyr Luciuk. The NEC members were also concerned that the Canadian public could conclude that all Ukrainian Canadians share the views of Mr. Grod and Dr. Luciuk.

Following that teleconference, AUUC National President Bob Seychuk sent the following letter to the editor of the Winnipeg Free Press.

In his letter attacking Scott Taylor for outing the monuments honouring those forces of Ukrainian nationalism that sided with the Nazis the mistaken impression could be left with your readers that Paul Grod and the Ukrainian Canadian Congress speak for all Ukrainian Canadians. This is not so.

The fact is that many Ukrainian Canadians opposed the wholesale immigration of members of the Galician division after the Second World War. And today, like the majority of Canadians, they are horrified to learn that monuments to those who collaborated with Nazism exist.

Bravo to Scott Taylor for shining a light on this dark history.

Robert Seychuk

President, Association of United Ukrainian Canadians

Dr. Luciuk ignores countervailing points made by Mr Taylor. These include:

“There is no denying the truth of these allegations, as they were accompanied by photographs of offending statues.”

“The problem with the simplistic ‘blame Russia’ excuse is that it does not change history.”

“Selectively denying any aspect of the Holocaust is still denial.”

“It is not fake news if it is true, and the Russians couldn’t use the existence of Nazi monuments to embarrass Canada if such tributes did not actually exist. And they do.”

The response of Paul Grod, President, Ukrainian Canadian Congress, appeared in the “WFP” on November 8. While Mr. Grod’s style was more restrained, his content was no more convincing.

His basic argument is that maybe Germany was bad, but Russia is worse, so there. Besides, the monuments “can be explained quite simply: we honour our war dead....”

“Our war dead”, clearly, includes Nazi collaborators, prominent among them General Shukhevych, who was not admitted into Canada, and therefore, was neither investigated nor cleared by the

Deschenes Commission.

Unfortunately, it appears all too often that the Ukrainian Canadian Congress establishment, and many of their followers, are willing to accept anything, as long as it involves hostility to Russia and/or Russians.

A few years ago, the Canadian Jewish Congress renamed itself to clarify that service to Israel was its main interest. In view of its slavish support for the current Ukrainian regime, the Ukrainian Canadian Congress should do something similar vis-a-vis Ukraine.

The third letter on the topic printed by the “WFP” was from Belle Jarniewski, Chair,

Freeman Family Holocaust Education Centre.

In her letter, Ms. Jarniewski discusses the role of Roman Shukhevych, and, on that subject, concludes, “Scott Taylor ... is correct in his description of Shukhevych as being complicit in the mass murder of Jews.”

She writes, further, that “The rebirth of nationalism in the post-Soviet era has certainly not been free from anti-Semitism and this has led to distortions of history and obfuscations of the Holocaust.”

Of course, these “distortions of history and obfuscations of the Holocaust” pre-date the post-Soviet era.

Sustaining Fund Donations

Gerry Gilavish, Regina SK	\$100.00
Lucy Nykolysyn, Winnipeg MB	100.00
Jeannie Romanoski, Winnipeg MB	50.00
Bronte Yaroff, Whitby ON	50.00

WE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE THESE CONTRIBUTIONS AND THANK THE DONORS FOR THEIR GENEROSITY. IF YOUR DONATION HAS NOT APPEARED ON THE PAGES OF THE “UCH”, WATCH FOR IT IN FUTURE ISSUES.

Ukrainian Miscellany

Protests in Ukraine

In its *Ukraine: Weekly Bulletin* dated October 21-27, 2017, the Ukrainian Canadian Congress cited the article “Why Ukraine’s Week of Protests Quickly Fizzled”, by Atlantic Council Senior Fellow Adrian Karatnycky. The UCC report said:

“A week of protests on behalf of needed reforms in Ukraine have rapidly fizzled having made limited headway in pressing for legislative action while discrediting a segment of liberal reformers with its populist rhetoric and aggressive tactics.

“The protest outside parliament, which some organizers had expected would bring at

least 10,000 to the streets, peaked on October 17 at around four thousand. By October 20, the fourth day of mass action, the ranks had fallen to a few hundred, and the tent city they had constructed was largely empty, with almost as many tents as protestors. [...]

“The demonstrators had three demands: lifting parliamentary immunity, changing the electoral system to an open-party list, and creating a National Anticorruption Court.

“But these demands were lost amid the insurrectionist tenor of the protests, including some acts of violence by some in the crowd. [...]

“The basic point is this: tactics appropriate to mobilizing against an authoritarian government which shoots and violently beats protestors must differ fundamentally from those in the case of a slow moving, but largely reformist parliament and government, which in the last months has passed a sweeping educational reform, reformed pensions in line with recommendations from international financial institutions, and voted in progressive health care reform.

“This is the main lesson one hopes will be taken by activists and politicians who should be the bedrock of much-needed centrist liberal and conservative forces. Failure to do so will sow chaos, weaken

Ukraine’s path to reform, and erode its national cohesiveness at a time when the country is partly under Russian occupation with the threat of aggression, terrorism, and externally-funded subversion ever-looming.”

Later, in its *Ukraine: Daily Briefing* for November 3, the UCC carried the article “Pragmatism prevails over populism in Ukraine”, citing a November 2 article by Atlantic Council senior non-resident fellow Brian Mefford. That report stated:

“Successful politics is about getting things done. By that standard, October was a successful month. Not only did the government pass sweeping healthcare reform, pension reform, and judiciary reform, it also staved off populist protests. In short, pragmatism prevailed over populism.

“Each of the reforms passed was significant, but healthcare reform was the most far-reaching. [...] The overall effect will be substantial: patients will receive better healthcare, the state will provide a safety net, and medical professionals will be able to earn a normal salary based on the number of patients they treat rather than receive a fixed subsistence

salary from the state.

“Pension reform creates an understandable and transparent system to allow workers to ‘catch up’ after years of not paying into the system; more important, it raises pensions in the short term. [...]

“Judicial reform is more technical in nature, but ultimately, the legislation makes the Supreme Court the venue for appeals, modernizes the system through the adoption of e-governance, and increases the role of official court fees in financing the system.

“Were the reforms perfect? No, but they will positively and concretely improve the lives of ordinary Ukrainians. Were compromises made to achieve passage of the reforms? Yes, but pragmatic leaders know the importance of winning a partial battle today to achieve a full victory tomorrow. [...]

“November is a new month with other challenges, but last month, Ukrainian leaders showed they are capable of delivering concrete, important results to the Ukrainian people.”

The Atlantic Council, effectively the civilian adjunct of NATO, is a favourite source for UCC material.

Aerospace Agreement

On November 4, with an update on November 9, *SpaceQ* reported that Canada and Ukraine had signed a memorandum of understanding for cooperation in space. The memorandum involved the Canadian Space Agency (CSA) and the State Space Agency of Ukraine (SSAU), and was signed on November 1.

The CSA representative, as cited by *SpaceQ*, said, “... this MOU in the Field of Exploration and Use of Outer Space for Peaceful Purposes is a first step to show both countries’ interest to work together on a wide variety of space projects, and to deepen collaborative effort to promote the peaceful use and exploration of space, advancing the knowledge of space through science, and ensuring that space science and technology continue to benefit our citizens and industries.”

The Ukrainian delegation was more specific. They said, “Ukraine and Canada are dis-

cussing a number of joint projects. In particular, the construction of the An-132 aircraft (engines supplied by Pratt & Whitney Canada), as well as the creation of the platform, which is being built for space launches in Nova Scotia, Canada.

“The project is planned to be implemented by Maritime Launch Services and the SE ‘Design Bureau ‘Yuzhnoye’ named after Yangel’.

“Apart from that, a project on cooperation between Canadian and Ukrainian enterprises concerning the launch of nanosatellites with the help of the Microspace-2 aerospace launch system is being worked out now.”

Also present at the meeting, *SpaceQ* reported, by way of an invitation from the Ukrainian delegation, was Steve Matier, CEO of Maritime Launch Services (MLS). MLS hopes to begin launching payloads to orbit using a Ukrainian Cyclone-4M launch vehicle from a yet-to-be-built

spaceport in Nova Scotia.

Discussions leading up to the signing of the memorandum of agreement were comprehensive, but the agreement itself is not comprehensive.

Since no projects have been agreed to yet, the Canadian Space Agency was not going to issue a press release. However, at the insistence of the Ukrainian delegation, news of the MOU became public knowledge.

In *Ukraine: Daily Briefing* for November 2, the Ukrainian Canadian Congress reported that Volodymyr Groysman, Ukraine’s Prime Minister, attended the signing ceremony in Montreal.

According to that report, Prime Minister Groysman said that the Memorandum creates new opportunities and a new stage in cooperation between Canada and Ukraine.

Mr. Groysman foresaw cooperation between Canada and Ukraine in aircraft construction, with the possibility of creating “a competitive product which could then be introduced on the world market”.

consumer spending.

On November 10, Standard and Poor’s Global Ratings increased Ukraine’s long term credit rating to B-, and its short-term rating to B. The agency called the long term rating “stable”, reflecting a belief that “over the next 12 months the Ukrainian government will maintain access to official creditor support by pursuing fiscal, financial, and economic reforms”.

Standard and Poor’s said that, “Important reforms that pave the way for the disbursement of the next tranche of support from the International Monetary Fund are under way, but external refinancing needs, especially in 2019-2021, loom large.”

Corruption in Ukraine

A view of the corruption in Ukraine is provided by Serhiy Leshchenko, Deputy to the Supreme Council.

Who is Serhiy Leshchenko? According to Wikipedia, Mr. Leshchenko, who was born in Kyiv in 1980, and graduated from the Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv, has worked as a reporter for *Novyi Kanal* (New Channel), and the internet newspaper *Ukrayinska Pravda* (as the deputy editor), and he also writes for *OpenDemocracy.net*.

He was one of the organizers of the Euromaidan demonstrations in late 2013 to early 2014. He was elected to the *Verkhovna rada* in the October 26, 2014, Ukrainian parliamentary election on the electoral list of the Petro Poroshenko Bloc. In parliament Mr. Leshchenko became one of the biggest critics of Poroshenko’s presidency.

From autumn, 2015, he was part of an attempt to form a political party supporting Mikheil Saakashvili until this projection collapsed in June, 2016.

In 2016, Deputy Serhiy Leshchenko joined the Democratic Alliance political party.

In the article “Defending Ukraine’s Revolution against Ukraine’s Leaders” published by *OpenDemocracy.net* on

November 13, 2017, Mr. Leshchenko says that the protests were provoked by President Poroshenko’s lack of desire to fulfil his own promises in the fight against corruption.

“There were expectations that Poroshenko, who took office off the back of the EuroMaidan street protests, would enact radical reforms in Ukraine. But the oligarch’s instinct to convert political status into material benefits has prevented him from breaking the corruption status quo,” he writes.

He continues, “...on becoming president, (Petro Poroshenko) did not change the state ideology, but merely rerouted financial flows in favour of his own circle. The General Prosecutor’s Office, which targeted Poroshenko’s group when they were in opposition, has become a faithful servant to the current president. The creation of a Financial Investigations Service has been blocked. And the announced policy of ‘de-oligarchisation’ has ended in a strategic alliance between Poroshenko and Rinat Akhmetov, the main beneficiary of Ukraine’s system of crony capitalism.”

The article notes that, “On coming to power, Poroshenko began a systematic attack

(Continued on Page 10.)

Ukraine’s Economy

Ukraine’s State Statistics Service, that country’s equivalent of Statistics Canada, reported in October that retail business had grown by 8.8% in the year from September, 2016, to September, 2017.

Ukraine Business Journal reported that Elena Belan, Chief Economist at Dragon Capital, was optimistic about continued growth. She is reported as saying, “We expect that the growth in household consumption will accelerate in the next year in the run-up to presidential and parliamentary elections in 2019, and will be the main driver of GDP (Gross Domestic Product –Ed.) growth, which we forecast

will be 3.3% year-over-year, compared to 2.2 % in 2017.”

In early November, the National Bank of Ukraine increased its GDP growth forecast for 2017 from 1.6% to 2.2%, because of “better results of economic activity in most industries” in the second and third quarters of 2017 than previously expected.

The bank predicted continued growth at 3.2% in 2018 and 3.5% in 2019, with private consumer activity continuing as the main economic driver. Higher wages and pensions, more consumer confidence, and increased consumer lending (that is, growing consumer debt) are expected to fuel the

Corruption in Ukraine

(Continued from Page 9.) against Akhmetov, who took control of his main assets during the presidency of his friend, ex-president Viktor Yanukovich.”

However, there has been a reconciliation

“The main deal between the two groups was reached at the intersection of business, law enforcement and politics. The Prosecutor’s Office did not charge anyone in the investigation into the kidnapping of Oleg Seminsky, the direc-

tor of Neftegazdobycha, and Ukraine’s energy regulator raised tariffs on electricity bought from Akhmetov twice in the course of 12 months.

“To increase Akhmetov’s wealth further, a new coal-price calculation formula ... was introduced. According to this formula, Ukrainian coal power networks buy domestic low-quality coal at a price which includes the cost of sale at (a) Dutch port, plus its transport to Ukraine.

“At the same time, the

Poroshenko-linked ICU investment company bought DTEK Eurobonds prior to the formula’s introduction, making Akhmetov an invisible beneficiary of the scheme.”

The article adds that, “The fact that the Ukraine TV channel (owned by Rinat Akhmetov -Ed.) joined in the campaign to discredit anti-corruption activists, who have criticised Poroshenko and exposed schemes of unlawful enrichment, was a nice addition to the deal. For instance, this year the channel broadcast an entire series in which regime critics are presented as living prosperously on American grants — much in the same vein as Russian discreditation campaigns.”

The article names Viktor Medvedchuk as “another participant in the new oligarchic consensus”. It says that, “There are also allegations that the Ukrainian security services have disrupted competition in the LNG (liquid natural gas -Ed.) market in favour of Medvedchuk. Earlier this year, the security services held a large assignment of fuel contracted by independent traders at the Ukrainian border for several months, as a result of which companies close to Medvedchuk managed to seize 40% of the market.

The article says that,

“Dmytro Firtash, another Ukrainian oligarch (and business partner to Arkady Rotenberg, a key Putin ally), also continues to successfully conduct business in Ukraine ... Ukraine’s post-revolutionary authorities have created privileged conditions for Firtash in the nitrogen fertilizer market, which lead to significant profits at the expense of Ukraine’s growing agricultural sector.”

The final name named in the article is Alexander Babakov, the former Vice-Speaker of the Russian State Duma and a Special Presidential Representative, who voted for the annexation of Crimea in 2014 and is under US and EU sanctions. Alexander Babakov, Mr. Leshchenko writes, “not only controls electricity distribution in a third of Ukraine’s regions, but is developing a network of hotels by raiding other people’s businesses. The investigation into this raiding is being blocked by Yuri Lutsenko, Ukraine’s fourth General Prosecutor since 2014 and a presidential ally.”

Mr. Leshchenko charges that “support in parliament is generated in exchange for new preferences for oligarchs”.

In preparation for the coming elections, President Poroshenko is attempting to change the public discussion

from corruption to security.

“Now pseudo-patriotism is in fashion, with the president, whose confectionary business paid taxes to the Russian Federation’s budget until April, 2017, suddenly becoming the main defender of Ukraine against the influence of Russian propaganda. Hence, the closure of the highly popular social network VKontakte, the law on language quotas for television and radio, the re-naming of streets as part of de-communisation and the new discussion on introducing a visa regime for Russian citizens.

There are also attacks on anti-corruption institutions and critics of the authorities. The latter are becoming targets of harassment not only online, but also in real life. Mikheil Saakashvili’s, loss of his Ukrainian citizenship is one example.

Even more telling is “the persecution of anti-corruption activist Vitaly Shabunin, ... who runs the Anti-Corruption Action Center.... Pro-regime bloggers are creating a scandal around his construction of a single-storey house, the security services have organised fake protests against him, parliamentary deputies from the ruling coalition have accused him of not paying taxes, and military officials have visited his home to check if he is fit for military service.”

The National Anti-Corruption Bureau, created two years ago, is another target.

Mr. Leshchenko writes that President Poroshenko is trying to consolidate the power ministries in his own hands. “The security services are gathering information on regime critics, and the General Prosecutor’s Office is pressuring them by opening criminal cases against them. More than a year ago, the Prosecutor’s Office opened a new department for investigating economic crimes — its staff were chosen personally by president’s circle. Together with the security services, they are now attacking small and mid-sized businesses, which were the main economic base for protest moods under Viktor Yanukovich.”

The article warns that, “Today, Ukraine’s democracy is entering a period of turbulence.” With the visa-free regime with the European Union “in the bag”, “it will be much harder to push through reforms under resistance from the authorities.... In these conditions, the president is moving to more repressive methods.”

The US and Europe, he concludes, must be vigilant in defending the achievements of the Ukrainian revolution against the authorities, who still rely on the International Monetary Fund, and are vulnerable to threats to re-examine the visa-free regime.

Ukrainian Canadian Herald

Season’s Greetings

Remember your family and friends with a message! We invite you to express seasonal greetings through an ad in the *Ukrainian Canadian Herald*, either in the January, 2018, issue. One line (name and city) on two columns is only \$10.00. A five-line ad as shown is only \$35.00. **See the diagram on this page for sizes.** Larger ads are \$5.00/col./cm.

Deadline: December 10, 2017

Send your request to:

SEASON’S GREETINGS MESSAGE
595 Pritchard Avenue,
Winnipeg MB R2W 2K4
Phone 1-800-856-8242, Fax: (210) 589-3404
e-mail: auuckobzar@mts.net

or: SEASON’S GREETINGS MESSAGE
1604 Bloor Street West
Toronto ON M6P 1A7
Phone : 416-588-1639 Fax: 416-588-9180
e-mail: kobzar2@aim.com

Please indicate the desired ad size:
\$10.00 (One line: name and city only)
\$20.00 (Two-line greeting — up to 10 words)
\$25.00 (Three-line greeting — up to 15 words)
\$30.00 (Four-line greeting — up to 20 words)
\$35.00 (Five-line greeting — up to 25 words)
Other

Issue requested:
_____ December issue (deadline November 10)
_____ January issue (deadline December 10)

Greeting in: English _____ Ukrainian _____

Request sent by:
Mail: _____ Phone: _____ Fax: _____
e-mail: _____ Or in person: _____

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ Prov. _____
Phone: _____ Fax: _____
e-mail: _____

MESSAGE:

Date: _____ Signature: _____
Cheque enclosed _____
Invoice required _____ Office receipt # _____

Season’s Greeting Ad sizes at Various Prices

Name and city (one line only)	10.00
Two-line greeting..... (up to 10 words)	\$20.00
Name and city	
(up to 15 words)	\$25.00
.....	
Three-line greeting.....	
Name and city	
(up to 20 words).....	\$30.00
.....	
Four Line Greeting.....	
.....	
Name and city	
(up to 25 words).....	\$35.00
.....	
Five-line greeting	
.....	
Name and city	

Canada's Peacekeeping

(Continued from Page 3.) countries fear its results for their own situations. Two examples are Spain and the four countries that are threatened by dreams of a Kurdistan. There are many others: Scotland in Britain, Palestine in Israel, and even Quebec in Canada, to mention just a few.

While the oppressor countries were happy enough to dis-mantle Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia, and fight Argentina over some islands (to mention just a few violations of national territorial integrity) they are not at all interested in granting their own minorities the right to secede.

Canada should be very cautious in accepting a role in occupying eastern Ukrainian regions. Unless it is interested in participating in a bloodbath, this country would be looking at a very long-term commitment. The Ukrainian lobby, including Paul Grod, Chrystia Freeland and others, must not be allowed to push Canada into exacerbating the war in Ukraine.

Who, What, When, Where

Vancouver — Dovbush School of Ukrainian Dance will present the school's **Christmas Recital** at the **Ukrainian Cultural Centre**, 805 East Pender Street, at **2:00 p.m.** on Sunday, **December 10**. The recital will be followed by a **light buffet**, a **Christmas Carol Sing-A-Long** and a visit by **Dyid Moroz**. **Tickets available at the door.**

* * *

Vancouver — AUUC Vancouver Branch will host the annual **Malanka** (Ukrainian New Year) celebration at the **Ukrainian Cultural Centre**, 805 East Pender Street, starting at **6:00 p.m.** on Saturday, **January 20, 2018**. Enjoy **cocktails**, **concert program**, a delicious traditional **Ukrainian supper** and **dancing** to a live band. For tickets call **(604) 254-3436**. Don't be disappointed, book your tickets early. Admission: **\$60:00**.

* * *

Calgary — Calgary Hopak Ensemble will present a **Winter Concert**, starting at **2:30 p.m.** on Sunday, **December 3**, at the **Ukrainian Cultural Centre**, 3316 – 28 Avenue S.W. Join us for **refreshments after the concert**. For tickets, call **Darlene at 403-271-2379**. Admission: **\$15.00 at the door**.

* * *

Calgary — AUUC Calgary Branch presents **Malanka** on **January 13, 2018**, at the **Ukrainian Cultural Centre**, 3316 – 28 Avenue S.W. Come early and stay late! Join us as we bring in the New Year. **6:00 p.m. cocktails**, **7:00 p.m. traditional Ukrainian supper**, **8:30 p.m. program**, **9:15 p.m. dance** to a live band. Tickets can be purchased by calling **403- 289 – 8480**.

* * *

Regina — Poltava presents its 20th Annual **Malanka**, our **Ukrainian New Year's Celebration**, at the **Regina Performing Arts Centre** on Saturday, **January 13, 2018**. **Cocktail Hour — 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.**, with appetisers; **Full Buffet Supper: — 6:30 p.m.**; brief **Poltava Ensemble** performance; **Door Prizes and Raffle; Cabaret Dance to Slow Motion Walter — 9:00 p.m.**; a traditional **kolomeyka — 10:30 p.m.**; **snacks — midnight**. Admission: **\$50.00/person**.

This event sold out very early last year. Avoid disappointment — tickets are on sale at the Regina Performing Arts Centre Box Office, or online on the Regina Performing Arts website!

* * *

Toronto — The Taras Shevchenko Museum, 1614 Bloor Street West in Toronto, continues **REFLECTIONS**, an exhibition of pastels by **Roksolyana Pidhainy-Benoit** to **December 15**. **Gallery hours** are 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Monday to Wednesday and Friday, noon to 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, and by appointment on weekends and holidays. **Admission** is free; donations appreciated.

* * *

Readers of the Ukrainian Canadian Herald are invited to submit items of interest to the progressive Ukrainian Canadian community for free listing in this column. The deadline for material is the 10th of the month preceding the month of publication.

JOIN US!

Join the AUUC community! Each Branch has a unique schedule of events and activities. To discover what we have to offer, contact the AUUC in your area:

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595 Pritchard Avenue
Winnipeg MB R2W 2K4
Phone: 800-856-8242 Fax: (204) 589-3404
E-mail: mail@auuckobzar.net Web site: auuc.ca

VANCOUVER BRANCH

Ukrainian Cultural Centre
805 East Pender Street
Vancouver BC V6A 1V9
Phone: (604) 254-3436 Fax: (604) 254-3436
E-mail: auucvancouver@telus.net
Website: www.auucvancouver.ca

CALGARY BRANCH

Ukrainian Cultural Centre
3316-28 Avenue SW
Calgary AB T3E 0R8
Phone: (403) 246-1231
E-mail: Calgaryhopak@shaw.ca

EDMONTON BRANCH

Ukrainian Centre
11018-97 Street
Edmonton AB T5H 2M9
Phone: (780) 424-2037 Fax: (780) 424-2013
E-mail: auucedm@telus.net

REGINA BRANCH

Ukrainian Cultural Centre
1809 Toronto Street
Regina SK S4P 1M7
Phone: (306) 522-1188 Web site: www.poltava.ca

WINNIPEG BRANCH

Ukrainian Labour Temple
591 Pritchard Avenue
Winnipeg MB R2W 2K4 ult-wpg.ca
Phone: (204) 582-9269 Fax: 589-3404
E-mail: auucwinnipeg@gmail.com

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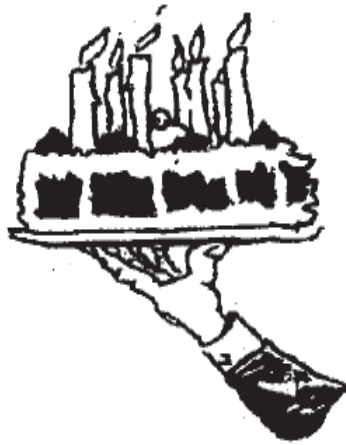
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AUUC Cultural Centre
1604 Bloor Street West
Toronto ON M6P 1A7
Phone: 416-588-1639 Fax: 416-588-9180
E-mail: auuctorontobranch@gmail.com

WELLAND BRANCH

Ukrainian Labour Temple
342 Ontario Road
Welland ON L3B 5C5
Phone: (905) 732-5656

Happy Birthday, Friends!



The **Edmonton AUUC Senior Citizens Club** wishes a happy birthday to the celebrant of December:

Nina Uhryn

May you have good health, happiness and a daily sense of accomplishment as you go through life.

The **Toronto Senior Citizens Club** extends best birthday wishes to December celebrants:

Lydia Kit
Lori Miskevich

May good health and happiness be yours in the coming year!

The **Vancouver Seniors Club** extends birthday greetings to December celebrant:

Elizabeth Montagliani

We wish you the best of health and happiness in the coming year!

The **Welland Shevchenko Seniors** extend a happy birthday wish to December celebrants:

Pat Shipticki
Mary Sielski

May the coming year bring you all the best in health and happiness!

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Reception at Shevchenko Museum

— Story photos: Jerry Dobrowolsky



Eighteen pastel paintings by Roksolyana Pidhainy-Benoit graced the walls of the gallery at the Taras Shevchenko Museum as the exhibition and sale of her work was opened on October 28. The artist, along with a few of the over 50 art lovers who were present for the occasion, are shown above.



Lyudmyla Pogoryelova, Shevchenko Museum Director who acted as MC, started the formal part of the late afternoon by expressing a welcome to those in attendance.



Myroslava Boikiv, who had an exhibition at the Shevchenko Museum in February, spoke at this reception.

Late in the afternoon on Saturday, October 28, the Taras Shevchenko Museum in Toronto opened its new season with a reception to launch *Reflections Pastels* by Roksolyana Pidhainy-Benoit, an exhibition and sale of 18 works by the artist. The launch drew an audience of over 50 art lovers.

(A discussion of the artist and her work appeared in the November, 2017, issue of the "UCH".)

Lyudmyla Pogoryelova, Director of Taras Shevchenko Museum, acted as MC for the opening. Ms. Pogoryelova started the formal part of the reception with a welcome to those in attendance, and a few comments about the exhibition and the artist.

First to speak following the introductory remarks was Myroslava Boikiv. Ms. Boikiv, who had her own art exhibition in the Museum's art gallery in February of this year, spoke about the art, the artist, and the importance of such events as this exhibition. Ms. Boikiv spoke in Ukrainian; her remarks were translated into English by Oksana Hrycyna.

Arif Virani, Member of Parliament for Parkdale – High Park, was present with his family and an aide from his constituency office. In his remarks, Mr. Virani pleaded



Member of Parliament Arif Virani attended the reception with his family, expressing his thanks for the invitation.

innocence of qualifications as an art critic. This did not disqualify him from appreciation of the invitation to attend the event and to speak. He spoke, among other things, about the importance of immigration and about Canada's close ties to Ukraine.

Final scheduled speaker was the artist, Roksolyana Pidhainy-Benoit.

After reading a few brief remarks in Ukrainian, Ms. Pidhainy-Benoit, who was born in Toronto and lived her life in Canada and the USA, switched to English. She spoke about her work, her motivation and her influences.



Roksolyana Pidhainy-Benoit introduced her father, the model for her piece "Old Cossack".

(Roksolyana Pidhainy-Benoit had work displayed at the Shevchenko Museum in September to November, 2016, as part of a group show commemorating the 125 anniversary of Ukrainian immigration to Canada.)

The opening ceremonies ended with a performance by the talented young bandura player Borys Ostapienko. To the delight of his audience, Mr. Ostapienko played a medley of Ukrainian music. A short time later, he played briefly as people socialized over a bit of food and drink.

Lyudmyla Pogoryelova thanked everyone who had made a presentation, as well as those attending, and particularly the artist. She then invited everyone to enjoy the balance of the event by viewing the pieces of art (and, perhaps, even buying one) and enjoying the refreshments being offered.



Talented bandura player Borys Ostapienko delighted his audience with a medley of Ukrainian music.



Over 50 art lovers attended the opening of *Reflections: Pastels* by Roksolyana Pidhainy-Benoit. They were treated to a variety of refreshments.

Grassy Narrows

(Continued from Page 2.)
Canada today for inaction on the tragic decades-long mercury crisis in his community."

Contrasting Ottawa's inaction with Ontario's pledge of \$85 million, Chief Fobister is quoted as saying, "While the depth of the unique mercury crisis in our community is clear, we get only the same inadequate level of services that other First Nations who are not dealing with a mercury crisis receive. How long must our children wait to get the support that they need to thrive?"

The release says that Chief Fobister wrote to the Prime Minister "today", requesting an immediate commitment to building a Mercury Home and Treatment Centre in Grassy Narrows, as well as a commitment to provide "full compensation and support to members of Grassy Narrows First Nation whose health, culture, and livelihoods have been severely impacted by the decades of mercury poisoning".

The letter to Prime Minister Trudeau included an invitation to visit Grassy Narrows. Three previous invitations have gone unanswered.

Near the beginning of 2017, there were promises that the federal government would act, "However, Canada has yet to provide any additional support or health care resources to Grassy Narrows.... Grassy Narrows people report incidents of racism, denial, indignity, and neglect when they seek care for well-documented symptoms of mercury poisoning at distant facilities. They also report intense loneliness and alienation at medical institutions where they are separated from their families, their community, and their culture."

Canada agreed to provide "mugger compensation" in 1985 to end years of litigation, but has done nothing more to improve the lives of people living with mercury poisoning in Grassy Narrows, beyond occasionally studying the problem.

The payments, to those who do receive them (and most victims do not) have not increased since 1985, and are "totally inadequate to meet the cost of living on this remote reserve, let alone compensate for the loss of health, well-being, and livelihood resulting from mercury poisoning."

Judy Da Silva's comment in this release is, "Our people suffer every day from this preventable tragedy. It feels like Canada has forgotten us and doesn't care about our pain and loss. The dreams of our youth and elders for a better life go frustrated because Canada ignores us."

Welcome to the only
Taras Shevchenko Museum in the Americas!

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