

# HERALD BISHNIK

ЧЕРБЕНЬ, 2017р. HOMEР 284 PIK XXVI

JUNE 2017 NO. 284 VOL. XXVI Price \$2.25

## The Joy of Singing! in Winnipeg

— Photo: Victor Krenz



On the afternoon of Sunday, March 26, the Festival Choir of the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians sponsored *The Joy of Singing* at the Ukrainian Labour Temple in Winnipeg. A report on this unusual event, with pictures, is on Page 6 of this issue of the “UCH”.

## Trump Hits the Road

As we go to press, it is still early days in President Donald Trump’s first venture abroad as American president, but there are already some points of interest, as he moves from Saudi Arabia to Israel.

The first has been widely noted: that he chose to go somewhere other than Mexico or Canada, traditional first destinations for US president. There has been much speculation about the reason for his choice. Our guess would be that he wanted to make a big splash when he landed, which he did in Saudi Arabia by sign-

ing agreements for over \$100 billion in arms sales to the country which was not included in travel restrictions on Muslim-majority countries. That’s in addition to other trade agreements.

While President Trump made his base back home, as well as Saudi Arabia and its allies, happy with these arms sales, Israel was, undoubtedly, less pleased.

One sop to Israel, as well as an added bone to Saudi Arabia and its allies, was his attack on Iran, which also played well with his American base. However, that would hardly seem to be adequate compensation to Israel for arming Saudi Arabia, especially in light of other ways in which Trump-the-president seems less Israel-friendly than was Trump-the-candidate.

We await with bated breath the gift President Trump will announce to Israel.

We also await with great interest the Trump plan for peace between Israel and Palestine, which reports suggest should bear fruit within a year.

An interesting note in President Trump’s utterances in Saudi Arabia was the change from treating Islam as the enemy to calling on Islamic states to common war against Islamic extremists. Of course, this leaves open the question of a war against right-wing extremists in the USA, and the threat they pose to Muslims and other minorities.

These early days suggest that some very interesting possibilities lie ahead.

## Free Trade within Canada

It was the strangest situation: Canada was chasing free trade agreements around the world, but maintained trade barriers internally. In some instances, foreign firms had better trade access to Canada than did companies based in this country.

In early April, it was announced that the provinces and territories had finally negotiated the Canada Free Trade Agreement, covering the entire economy, unless specifically excluded, and providing a mechanism for standardizing standards across the country.

Navdeep Bains, Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development, spoke about the CFTA at a press conference in Toronto on April 7, 2017. We present excerpts from his comments.

“This agreement contains a number of historic firsts.

“It includes all federal, provincial and territorial governments.

“And for the first time, that includes our 14th signatory—Nunavut.

“In another historic first, this agreement will open up trade within our borders in virtually every sector of the economy.

“This agreement will allow Canadians to buy and sell more freely within our own borders, which means it will create  
(Continued on Page 7.)

## To Our Readers

There was no May, 2017, issue because of distractions created by personal issues. We extend our apologies for our failure to adhere to our publishing schedule, and regret any inconvenience arising therefrom.

Editor-in-Chief

## The Next Issue

The next issue of the “UCH” will be dated July/August, 2017. Announcements of events in July, August, or early September, 2017, as well as articles for the July/August, 2017, issue should be in our office by June 10. Thank you for your consideration.

## CETA

It was reported on April 6 that the European Union and Canada are preparing for the provisional application of the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA), with some officials suggesting that this could begin as early as July.

After eight years of negotiations, CETA was ratified by the European Parliament in mid-February. The trade accord has become increasingly high-profile over the years, given the size of the economies involved, its investment dispute provisions, and the geopolitical context.

Now, awaiting Canadian ratification, the provisional application of the sweeping trade and investment accord is said to be within grasp. The implementation bill for CETA is expected to advance, officials say, with some provinces also needing to make their own legislative changes.

According to Chapter 30 of CETA, once both sides have completed their internal procedures, the deal can provisionally apply from the beginning of the following month, unless they agree on a different start date.

The planned trade deal is expected to cut 98% of tariffs on trade in goods, with longer phase-out periods for some more sensitive products. Some agricultural goods will see the introduction of quotas, or have been excluded from the deal entirely.

CETA also is slated to see significant gains in public procurement market access, given that Canada will be opening up public contracts at all federal and sub-federal levels for bidding from European companies. Proponents have also lauded the improvements.

## In This Issue

Aboriginal People: No Cause to Celebrate .....	2
Aboriginal Woman Commands RCMP in BC .....	2
A Brief Canadian History of UNDRIP .....	2
Central Bank Chief Resigns .....	9
Commentary .....	4
Current Eclectic .....	3
Economic Update .....	9
Editorial .....	4
From Our History .....	5
Happy Birthday, Friends! .....	11
ICJ Issues an Order .....	3
IMF Presses Ukraine on Pensions .....	9
IWW Celebrated at Winnipeg ULT .....	6
Jobs in Canada .....	3
Join Us! .....	11
Joke Time .....	12
Journalistic Objectivity .....	4
Joy of Singing! .....	12
More Austerity for Greece .....	3
NAFTA Renegotiation .....	3
Open Letter On Funding ... ..	2
Regina Celebrates Diversity .....	7
Seniors Learn about Their Hearts .....	6
Speculation on Source of WannaCry Virus .....	3
Sustaining Fund Donations .....	11
Thoughts on Cultural Appropriation .....	4
TPP Revival .....	8
Ukrainian Miscellany .....	9
Ukraine’s Health Care System .....	9
Why North Korea Hates the US .....	10

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PUBLICATIONS MAIL 40009476  
POSTMASTER: IF UNDELIVERED PLEASE RETURN TO  
KOBZAR PUBLISHING CO. LTD  
595 PRITCHARD AVENUE  
WINNIPEG MB R2W 2K4

## Aboriginal People: No Cause to Celebrate

In 2016, as we marked the 125th anniversary of Ukrainian immigration to Canada, we noted that that was a good-news story to Ukrainian Canadians but not so happy for others. For Ukraine, the emigration of hundreds of thousands of its people to countries around the world was a tragedy. For aboriginal North Americans, the influx onto their traditional lands of hundreds of thousands of Europeans, including Ukrainians, was an even greater tragedy, as they were pushed from their vast territories to reserves which, by and large, reflected the genocidal intentions of the invaders.

In 2016, many Ukrainian Canadians, who were aware earlier of the hardships experienced by the immigrants, became conscious, for the first time, of the pain, both in Europe and the Americas, associated with the birth of our community. Our commemoration of that anniversary was

tempered by that knowledge.

As Jim Coyne wrote in *The Toronto Star* on April 1, "Confederation was less about beginnings for First Nations than it was their intended death knell."

In 2017, as we mark the 150th anniversary of the birth of our country, we should not forget the pain of the people who suffered both as Canada was born and as our community began to form; nor should we forget that that pain has not ended, but is part of a continuing process.

Part of that process is the myth that North American history began with the arrival of Europeans. This myth relegates the aboriginal people, the First Nations, to the same status as the beaver, the salmon, the bison, and the other native species: a resource to be used when they could be exploited, and a pest to be eradicated when they couldn't.

This myth makes the inhu-

mane treatment of the indigenous population palatable to the thoughtless. It makes it possible to make the European invasion (with its "civilizing" mission) seem to be a blessing, rather than a tragedy.

It is still rare for Canadian history classes to include words to quote Coyne again, like:

"After that grand event (Confederation -Ed), political leaders continued to speak unabashedly about Canada as 'a white man's country,' to aggressively confiscate land, and to remove whatever indigenous people stood in the way."

Or, "To indigenous Canadians, Confederation was the beginning of an ongoing betrayal and exclusion, with gusts up to atrocity and attempted genocide."

Or even, "The last 150 years include residential schools, the Sixties Scoop, Grassy Narrows, murdered and missing women, unfair policing, unequal health care, education and child-welfare systems and exploitation of resources."

That barely scratches the

surface of the ongoing crimes against the First Nations.

In his article, Jim Coyne cited figures like Paul Martin, to the effect that Canada must be willing to "address treaties, the Indian Act and the inherent right of First Nations to self-government".

The items Paul Martin addressed included "ensuring aboriginal Canadians are at the table from the beginning of any natural resource development on their land ... as key participants, not mere labourers".

Mr. Martin said that Canada must confront "... the consequences of our colonial past. By refusing to condone the repeated abuse of treaty rights. By refusing to accept the overt discrimination in provision of basic services and fundamental rights: child welfare, health care, primary and

secondary education."

At the moment, unfortunately, these declarations and others like them seem to be so much meaningless grandstanding.

Canada announced full support for the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People in May, 2016, but continues not only to fail in its "duty to consult" but also to oppose this duty in court.

As an added example, conditions faced by indigenous Canadians have drawn repeated criticism from United Nations and other human rights organizations, but the governments' main reaction, after denial, has been to argue about who should pay for what — and to seek to privatize communally held aboriginal property.

— Wilfred Szczesny

## A Brief Canadian History of UNDRIP

The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) was adopted by the General Assembly on Thursday, September 13, 2007, by a majority of 144 states in favour, 4 votes against (Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the United States) and 11 abstentions (Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Burundi, Colombia, Georgia, Kenya, Nigeria, Russian Federation, Samoa and Ukraine).

Since then, the four countries that voted against have reversed their position, and now support the Declaration.

Today, the Declaration is

the most comprehensive international instrument on the rights of indigenous peoples. It establishes a universal framework of minimum standards for the survival, dignity and well-being of the indigenous peoples of the world. It elaborates on existing human rights standards and fundamental freedoms as they apply to the specific situation of indigenous peoples.

While, as a General Assembly Declaration it is not a legally binding instrument under international law, according to a UN press release it does "represent the dynamic  
(Continued on Page10.)

## Open Letter On Funding

(The document printed below in abridged form was taken from *Windtalker*. It was dated April 10, 2017.)

### Joint Open Letter to Minister Bennett Regarding Canada's Refusal to Adequately Fund Specific Claims Research and Development

As specific claims research directors from across Canada, we write today to express our shock and disappointment regarding the 2017 budget's wholly inadequate provision of funding for specific claims research and to repeat our call for the immediate restoration of research funding to 2009 levels. This restoration of funding was a commitment you made to the political representatives of the Union of BC Indian Chiefs in person in Vancouver in February 2016.

As you know, we have been struggling under the drastic cuts instituted by the Conservatives (including a 40 percent cut between 2013-14 and 2015-16) and maintained by your government. These cuts incapacitated Indigenous research organizations across the country and, as a result, hundreds of specific claims had to be put on hold, with no clear path forward. Some organizations were so debilitated that they have been unable to submit any claims at all. The principal implication of this cut to research funding is that First Nations are being denied access to justice.

In its fall 2016 report, the Office of the Auditor General

identified cuts to funding as a significant barrier to Indigenous Nations' resolution of their specific claims. Your government agreed.

\* \* \*

[Restoration of research funding to 2009 levels] would be a concrete sign of your government's good will and of its intention to take tangible steps toward resolving claims and advancing reconciliation. It would also ensure the basic, minimal level of resources at which we could continue to advance claims while waiting for a new approach to be developed.

A new approach to funding, we understand, is a topic of the AFN-INAC Joint Technical Working Group on specific claims.... But Indigenous communities in Canada have been waiting for decades — in some cases, over a century — to obtain justice, and their claims should not be put on hold, especially in light of your government's stated commitments to renewing relationships with Indigenous Nations. Unresolved claims perpetuate social and economic inequality and create uncertainties for Indigenous Nations trying to plan for their futures. As well, Indigenous Nations and CRUs have heard decades' worth of promises of specific claims reform; at this point, we need concrete evidence of good faith and of the political will for change. For these reasons,

we are asking for an immediate restoration of research funding to 2009 levels — a step to which you had previously committed.

The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples — which your government adopted without qualification and committed to implement — states that Indigenous Peoples have the right to redress in cases where their lands have been taken, used, or damaged without their "free, prior and informed consent" (article 28). Specific claims are a critical mechanism for redress of these land-related historical grievances. Further, article 39 of the UNDRIP recognizes that "Indigenous peoples have the right to have access to financial and technical assistance from states ... for the enjoyment of the rights contained in this declaration." In short, adequate funding is an inextricable part of Indigenous rights. Only with adequate funds to research historical wrongs will Indigenous Nations be able to seek redress for the injustices by which they have been so long affected. Restoration of funding would demonstrate that Canada is willing to do what is necessary to meet its international obligations.

Your government has repeatedly identified reconciliation between Canada and Indigenous Nations as a key priority. In your response to the Auditors report, you emphasize the mutual benefits when Canada takes concrete steps to advance reconciliation with Indigenous Nations....

(The document was signed by 16 individuals.)

## Aboriginal Woman Commands RCMP in BC

In its May 15, 2017, issue, *First Nations Drum*, which bills itself as "Canada's Largest First Nations Newspaper", reported that Brenda Butterworth-Carr was the first aboriginal woman promoted to Commanding Officer of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

The article by Frank Larue said that Ms. Butterworth-Carr was the first Indigenous woman to head the RCMP's BC division.

The report said that she was born in the Yukon, a member of the Tr'ondek Hwech'in Han Nation, and has been a member (of the RCMP) for 30 years.

Ms. Butterworth-Carr's career began in the Yukon in 1987, as one member of a three-person detachment.

After the Yukon, she went on to serve at the National HQ in Ottawa, followed by a tour of duty in Saskatchewan,

where she was eventually promoted to commanding officer.

When Ms. Butterworth-Carr returned to British Columbia in 2016, she did so as Officer in charge of Criminal Operations Core Policing.

One challenge facing Ms. Butterworth-Carr is addressing sexual harassment, a behaviour, she says, as does any other inappropriate behaviour, that needs to be met with a policy of zero tolerance.

Brenda Butterworth-Carr supports and prioritizes the building and maintaining of a strong connection between police and the people of all communities, large and small.

Ms. Butterworth-Carr currently serves as chairwoman of the RCMP's National Women's Advisory Committee, is a member of the Canadian and International Association of Chiefs of Police, and is a member of the Order of Merit of the Police Forces.

## Current Eclectic

### ICJ Issues an Order

On April 19, the International Criminal Court issued an order on the application brought by Ukraine on January 16, 2017, against the Russian Federation, in which Ukraine charged Russia with violations of the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism (ICSFT) and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD). Pending a decision on the charges, which could take years, Ukraine asked that the ICJ indicate provi-

sional measures against Russia.

The Ukrainian application listed 12 orders it wished to have applied against Russia with respect to the purported violation of the ICSFT. In the interim, Ukraine asked the Court to indicate four provisional measures it wished to have applied against Russia.

After examining the issues concerning Ukraine's application for interim measures under ICSFT, the court concluded "that the conditions required for the indication of provisional measures in re-

spect of the rights alleged by Ukraine on the basis of the ICSFT are not met."

In essence, this ruling means that Ukraine, in its application, did not present strong enough evidence concerning Russia's support of terrorism to justify imposition of interim measures.

The ruling does leave room for Ukraine to make its case when the matter goes to trial.

The order by the ICJ addressed the application by Ukraine, with respect to CERD.

Ukraine listed 12 complaints against Russia in Crimea, and asked for 5 provisional orders to be applied against Russia

"With respect to the CERD," the ICJ notes, Ukraine requests that the Court order the following provisional measures:

"(a) the Russian Federation shall refrain from any action which might aggravate or extend the dispute under CERD before the Court or make it more difficult to resolve.

"(b) the Russian Federation shall refrain from any act of racial discrimination against persons, groups of persons, or institutions in the territory under its effective control, including the Crimean peninsula.

### Jobs in Canada

Statscan reported a net increase of 3,200 jobs in April, compared to March, 2017, with a loss of 31,200 full time jobs, and an increase of 34,300 part time positions, reflecting a continued impoverishment of the working class.

About 18,500 were added to the rolls of the self-employed. We suspect they were not all doctors and lawyers setting up new practices.

### More Austerity for Greece

Almost a decade ago, the people of Greece elected to government a party which had promised that it would stand up against the country's international creditors, and refuse to take the country deeper into austerity. Not long after being elected, however, the coalition government, led by Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras, accepted an agreement which included the very austerity measures the people were rejecting.

Seven years later, Greece is still struggling to climb out of the hole created by the international financiers and their Greek counterparts. Unemployment is around 23%, and life is hard.

In June of this year, Greece is scheduled to make a 7.5 billion euros payment on its debt to the European Stabil-

"(c) the Russian Federation shall cease and desist from acts of political and cultural suppression against the Crimean Tatar people, including suspending the decree banning the *Mejlis* of the Crimean Tatar People and refraining from enforcement of this decree and any similar measures, while this case is pending.

"(d) the Russian Federation shall take all necessary steps to halt the disappearance of Crimean Tatar individuals and to promptly investigate those disappearances that have already occurred.

"(e) the Russian Federation shall cease and desist from acts of political and cultural suppression against the ethnic Ukrainian people in Crimea, including suspending restrictions on Ukrainian-language education and respecting ethnic Ukrainian language and educational rights, while this case is pending."

The ICJ found it notewor-

thy that Ukraine, concerning Crimea, based its claim solely upon CERD, meaning that the only issue the Court is called to rule upon is allegations of racial discrimination."

It is interesting that Ukraine did not apply to the court with a charge that Russia illegally took over the Crimea.

The ICJ found that the Ukraine's claims under CERD were "plausible", rather than established. The court specifically said that it was not deciding whether Russia was guilty of the charges brought by Ukraine. It was only judging whether, if Russia was indeed acting as charged, the result would be irreparable harm.

Furthermore, "Based on the information before it at this juncture, the Court is of the opinion that Crimean Tatars and ethnic Ukrainians in Crimea appear to remain vulnerable.

(Continued on Page 8.)

### Speculation on Source of WannaCry Virus

There was an interesting line of development in the stories concerning the recent outbreak (starting on May 12), reportedly in over 100 countries, of the ransomware virus known as WannaCry. Initially, there was no information about the source of this "unstoppable" virus.

Over 300,000 computers were infected around the world before someone found a kill switch, removing the threat, but not before much harm had been done, including damage to such institutions as the health service in Britain, the Ministry of the Interior in Russia, tax offices in Brazil and 30,000 organizations in China

(according to *China Daily*), to name just a few.

Analysis of the WannaCry virus led to information that, at its core, was EternalBlue, a hacking tool created years ago by the National Security Agency in the USA to gather foreign intelligence by targeting vulnerabilities in Microsoft systems. The NSA recognized that EternalBlue was very dangerous, and considered alerting Microsoft to the vulnerability.

The NSA decided that EternalBlue was too valuable to shut down. Then cybercriminals, whose identity is not known as this is written, ac-

(Continued on Page 8.)

### NAFTA Renegotiation

President Trump gave formal notice on May 18 that he will undertake renegotiation of the North American Free Trade Agreement, the free trade deal between the USA, Canada and Mexico.

Administration officials sent a letter to Congress, triggering a 90-day consultation period involving the administration, Congress and businesses. This means that negotiations can begin in mid-August, at the earliest.

This is the first step toward reshaping NAFTA, the trade deal that became law in 1994.

During the most recent American presidential election, Donald Trump labelled NAFTA the worst trade deal in history, and promised voters to either throw it out or renegotiate the deal which, he claims, sent millions of US manufacturing jobs to Mexico.

"Since the signing of NAFTA, we have seen our manufacturing industry decimated, factories shuttered, and countless workers left jobless. President Trump is going to change that," Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross said in a statement on May 18.

According to the US Chamber of Commerce, 14 million US jobs depend on trade with Canada and Mexico. Exports and imports between the three countries have boomed since NAFTA became law in 1994.

The tone of Mexico's reaction to the American announcement was a little different.

"The trilateral agreement has been an immense benefit for all parties," Mexico's economic ministry said in a statement. Mexico reaffirmed its willingness to Renegotiate NAFTA.

Mexico's Foreign Secretary Luis Videgaray Caso said in a press conference held at the US State Department that Mexico is prepared to "make

it better".

Canada expressed support for NAFTA and said that this country is already prepared to negotiate.

"NAFTA's track record is one of economic growth and middle-class job creation," Canada's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Chrystia Freeland, said in a statement.

US lawmakers echoed a similar sentiment, expressing a desire to update NAFTA while recognizing its benefits.

"There is no question that NAFTA has been tremendously successful for American workers, farmers, and businesses," Kevin Brady, a Republican congressman from Texas, said in a statement. Mr. Brady leads the House Ways and Means Committee, which will play a big role during negotiations.

American officials have not been specific about what they want to change in the deal. This will become clear, at least to the American negotiators, over the next three months.

President Trump's decision to start the 90-day period comes a few weeks after he threatened to pull out of NAFTA. Early in his presidency, he also threatened to impose a 20% tariff against imports from Mexico.

Trump slapped a 20% tariff on Canadian lumber in April and Mexican officials have repeatedly warned him not to use tariffs, saying they would retaliate with their own tariffs against American products.

Analysts estimate that the time line to complete negotiations is narrow. Mexico has presidential elections in July, 2018, and President Enrique Pena Nieto can not run because of term limits.

US congressional midterm elections in fall of 2018 are also a consideration, with the Republicans concerned about losing control.

UKRAINIAN CANADIAN

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595 Pritchard Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba R2W 2K4  
Phone: (800) 856-8242; Fax: (204) 589-3404  
E-mail: mail@auuckobzar.net**Ukrainian Canadian Herald editorial offices are located**  
at 1604 Bloor Street West, Toronto, Ontario M6P 1A7  
Phone: 416-588-1639; Fax: 416-588-9180  
E-mail: kobzar1@on.aibn.com**Subscription price: \$30.00 annually (including GST)**  
**\$40.00 Foreign subscriptions.**  
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## Journalistic Objectivity

**AN EDITORIAL by WILFRED SZCZESNY**

Journalism has been in the news in Canada quite a bit of late. Among the stories have been accounts of police spying on journalists and hacking their equipment, as well as putting plain old fashioned pressure on them to uncover sources.

There were a string of resignations firings and demotions related to the discussion of cultural appropriation, with some members of the media showing rather poor judgement.

The situation has been such that international organizations which monitor such things have lowered Canada's score in the freedom-of-the-press sweepstakes.

One of the topics which has been part of the discussion was journalistic objectivity, which became an issue when a *Toronto Star* columnist moved from observer and commentator to activist. He was not fired, but he left his job with the paper because the cause was more important to him.

It is not insignificant, it seems to us, that he was hired, at least in part, because he was an activist, and he was hired to write about the area in which he was active.

His critics were of the opinion that maintaining journalistic objectivity, the most important journalistic value, was incompatible with activism. They suggested (except for those who said it outright) that lack of involvement was the same as objectivity.

An irony in the situation is that one of his strongest critics, who bragged about maintaining her objectivity to the point of not even voting in elections, is famous for being quite biased in favour of the military and the police for example. The slant of her reportage when she is covering a story involving either group is quite predictable.

The best journalists are not those who adopt an attitude of detachment and are unaware of their own prejudices. Journalism is at its best when the writer cares about the subject, and is able to use that connection to express the truth.

Objectivity is not in presenting two sides of a story, regardless of how false one side may be, but in discerning and expressing the truth, whether it be one side or two or several. The person was correct who said that formal objectivity is activism in favour of the status quo.

Not all cause journalism is good journalism, of course, because there are many considerations in determining the quality of journalism. But some of the best journalism is cause journalism, because, at its best, it makes the story matter, and can lead to positive change.

## COMMENTARY

### Thoughts on Cultural Appropriation

It seems like such a long time ago that many Canadians were concerned about the extinction of Canadian art and culture, smothered by the weight of American imports. At the time, Canadian talent had no option, other than to go abroad (usually to the USA) to get the rewards associated with larger audiences.

In the debate on this issue were those who called for American art and culture to be banned, and those who claimed that Canadian art and culture were inferior and should be allowed to die, if they could not compete successfully in the marketplace. Between those two extremes were people who thought that banning American art and culture was unrealistic, but who also believed that the Canadian product, given an opportunity, could thrive.

The government adopted policies which would provide Canadian arts and culture more access to audiences. Among other measures, broadcasters (and particularly the CBC), were required to devote a certain portion of their schedules to Canadian content and funding was made available to support creative artists and their productions.

The result of those policies has been a thriving Canadian culture with strong Canadian arts. Canadians can stay at home to create, and compete successfully on the world stage. There has always been room for improvement, but few now doubt the quality of Canadian arts and culture.

Unfortunately, the policy of support for the program has fallen victim to the drive for privatization, higher profits and smaller budgets. Artistic opportunity in Canada is being reduced, and cheap is becoming the main artistic value. Nevertheless, the lesson is there to be learned, and may serve a useful purpose in the discussion of cultural appro-

prium.

There appear to be two aspects to cultural appropriation: what is happening, and how people feel about what is happening.

People's feelings are their own and they are certainly entitled to them. Much of the discussion of cultural appropriation has been about feelings: about the appropriation of religious or cultural symbols, feelings about the way a writer portrays a group, feelings about who has a right to write about particular topics.

Feelings can be useful in establishing that there is a problem, and in helping identify the problem. However, feelings are seldom a reliable guide to the best resolution of a problem.

My first thoughts on the subject of cultural appropriation were simple and primitive. I was originally in the camp that considers this much ado about nothing. Early in my life, I was taught, and still tend to believe, that "Imitation is the most sincere form of flattery." Why, then, would anyone object to being imitated?

That was my reaction a few years ago, when I came upon a group of black teenage women harassing a white counterpart for, they said, "dressing black" — that is, appropriating their style. All those young women had gone into stores, perhaps even the same store, one in a chain of stores, and bought the same mass-produced garments, available in thousands, perhaps even tens of thousands, of identical items. Why would (or even could) any of them claim exclusive rights to a style? Why would they be unhappy that somebody so admired them as to want to be like them?

Those young women were acting on their feelings. Certainly, their behaviour suggested that there was some sort of problem, but it did not

help define the problem. Other than allowing them to vent their feelings (which some people think is enough, or at least good), it resolved nothing.

A new element was brought into my thinking with the information that some high-profile public figures were claiming a heritage which was not their own, and drawing on it for their livelihood, in some instances drawing resources away from people who were legitimately entitled to them.

That made me start to consider that, perhaps, those commentators were correct who said that "it's all about the money".

That, in turn, was part of my becoming aware that cultural appropriation is not at all a simple matter.

Many writers on the subject, both those with simple answers like "it's all about the money" and those who feel victimized by cultural appropriation, seem to think that it is simple, often in a "but I know what I like" kind of way. However, their explanations of how simple it is, especially when considered in their collective variety, soon make it clear that the situation can be quite murky, with many nuances.

By way of example, let me say that, as a Ukrainian Canadian, I feel no pain if someone of a different background wears a Ukrainian embroidered shirt, sings a Ukrainian song, or claims to make better perogies than my mother ever could. On the other hand, I feel somewhat offended by, and probably would not buy, a "Canadian" or "Ukrainian" souvenir with a "Made in China" (or some other foreign country) stamp.

Perhaps the difference is that the first case can have authenticity in some sense, and is not usually exploitative, while the "souvenirs" lack authenticity, and have no purpose other than commercial exploitation.

In neither case I do feel a compulsion to ban anything or insist on a different behaviour. My "take it or leave it, attitude may well be a consequence of my fortunate circumstances, such that I do not feel threatened or deprived.

(Continued on Page 8.)

## SEE US ON THE WEB!

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We invite readers to submit their views in letters to the editor. Letters must be signed. Letters may be edited, but their sense will not be changed.

## Winnipeg Marks AUUC Women's Jubilee



Honorary praesidium of Winnipeg District AUUC women — pioneer members of the ULFTA-AUUC.

Winnipeg holds the historic distinction of being the city in which the first women's branch of the Ukrainian Labour Temple Association (now the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians) was

organized in 1922. For many years (up to World War II) the Central Committee of the Women's Section ULFTA gave guidance to the women's branches throughout the country, and it was in Winni-

peg, also, that the women's magazine "Robitnitsya" (Workingwoman) was published.

The Golden Jubilee of the AUUC women's branches was fittingly marked March

## AUUC Women Honoured In Hamilton



Top photo shows the head table at the special banquet honouring the local AUUC women on the occasion of their golden jubilee. On the right, the main table with the principal guests of honour from the Hamilton women's branch of the AUUC.

Hamiltonians honoured the AUUC women on their 50th anniversary at a special banquet that saw the Ukrainian Labour Temple in the Steel City packed to the doors. The banquet and dance were held on April 1. In addition to the roster of speakers, with the main address by Stanley Ziniuk from the national executive of the Association, the Berizka Women's Choir under the direction of Mrs. Stefanyshyn entertained the guests with a number of selections. Mary Kaludjer, Hamilton member of the national committee of the Association, presided.



## From Our History

Next year, the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians will celebrate its centennial. One of the interesting aspects of an organization that is 100 years old is its history. Looking back, one can find significant anniversary celebrations which took place long ago, sometimes marking aspects of the organization which no longer exist.

Forty-five years ago, in 1972, the AUUC cel-

ebrated the 50th anniversary of the Women's Branches in the AUUC, formed five years after the organization came into being.

The May, 1972, issue of *The Ukrainian Canadian*, then a 48-page magazine, reported on these celebrations in Hamilton, Ontario, and Winnipeg, Manitoba.

We present those reports, with some of the pictures

12 in Winnipeg's Ukrainian Labour Temple. A large audience attended the celebration sponsored jointly by the Provincial Committee, AUUC, its women's committee and all AUUC branches of Winnipeg district. Canada as equals with men.

A truly festive atmosphere was provided by a beautiful display of colourful Ukrainian embroidery, a wide selection of dolls of many countries, lovely examples of other forms of handicrafts, a large photo exhibit of the manifold activities of AUUC women throughout the 50-year span.

It was an emotional and inspiring event. Chairman of the Manitoba Provcom AUUC, William Hluchaniuk, opened the proceedings by presenting to the audience the honorary praesidium of 18 pioneer women members seated on the stage.

Mary Wynogradoff, first woman organizer told of the difficult beginnings and of the undaunted determination of the immigrant Ukrainian women to take their place in all aspects of life in Canada as equals with men.

The main address by Mary Kardash, secretary of the Manitoba

AUUC Women's Committee, outlined the contribution of progressive Ukrainian women in the struggles of Canadians for a better life.

Warm greetings were extended from the National Executive Committee of the AUUC by provincial secretary Michael Mokry, from the

national president of the Workers Benevolent Association Anthony Bilecki, from Anna Choma of the first Winnipeg Women's branch, from representatives of The Federation of Russian Canadians, United Jewish People's Order, Congress of Canadian Women and former Winnipeggers now living in Toronto: Mary Navis, Katherine Shatulsky, Helen Kassian and Anna Chachkowsky.

Paul Kutynych extended greetings and a donation of \$50 in memory of his beloved wife, Olga, also one of the pioneers, who passed away a year ago.

There was also a silent tribute to all those who have passed away, but will always be remembered.

Pretty young Ukrainian dancers handed the women pioneers the Honour Scrolls especially made for the occasion, others pinned on gold tags as people came in.

The day's program concluded with an enjoyable concert provided by the AUUC cultural groups — the "Barvinok" women's choir, the "Bandurist" Male Chorus and the string orchestra, all under the direction of conductor William Philipowich; the Veselka dancers and a younger group of the AUUC school of folk dancing under the direction of Ron Mokry and Robert Pawlyk and the popular Kozub family folk singers. Beth Krall, chairman of the Manitoba Women's Committee AUUC, acted as MC.



The (Winnipeg) handicraft committee: L. to R.: Kay Hladly, Anna Nahorniak, Anna Semenov, Kalyna Mateychuk, Anna Krenz.

## IWW Celebrated at Winnipeg ULT

— Photo: Glenn Michalchuk



Presenters at the celebration of International Women's Week at the Ukrainian Labour Temple in Winnipeg on March 12: (left to right) Althea Guiboche, Nancy Kardash, Maryam Razzaq, Erica Wilson, Alka Kumar, Nalini Reddy and Hope McIntyre.

On March 12, International Women's Week was celebrated for the second year running at the Ukrainian Labour Temple in Winnipeg. The collaboration between Sarasvati Productions and the Winnipeg Branch of the AUUC resulted in the presentation of three short one-woman monologues interspersed with talks by three women activists.

The theme for the monologues was "Starting Over", and the speakers were asked to incorporate this into their talk.

The meeting opened with remarks by AUUC Winnipeg Branch Vice-President Emily Halldorson. Fittingly her welcome included recognition that the Ukrainian Labour Temple is located on Treaty 1 territory, on the original lands of the Anishinaabe Cree, Oji-Cree, Dakota and Dene peoples, recognition of those treaties, and acknowledgement of the past injustices and harms in the spirit of reconciliation and collaboration.

What followed was a in-

formative event in which art and politics merged in a celebration of women's struggles to define themselves.

The speakers for the event were: Althea Guiboche, an indigenous woman born in Swan River but now living in Winnipeg; Nancy Kardash, who, from her earliest years, was engaged in the progressive movement of the Ukrainian community, organized by the AUUC at the Ukrainian Labour Temple; and Maryam Razzaq, who, as a young Muslim woman, has had to deal with the experience of being a woman and Muslim in a world increasingly being polarized into "us" and "them".

Early in the program, the audience was given lyrics to "Bread and Roses". Led by AUUC member Tusia Kozub, everyone joined in singing the song as a group celebration of women's struggles.

The talk presented by Nancy Kardash dealt with the life of women in the AUUC and how it mobilized them. As members of a progressive, secular organization rooted in

the life and struggles of working people, a number of women distinguished themselves as organizers and activists. Her talk was accompanied by a slide presentation of some of these women to whom Nancy spoke about their particular efforts and contributions. The talk emphasized the political role of women in society.

Maryam Razzaq brought a sense of two worlds and two cultures (she has lived both in Pakistan and Canada) to her talk. She spoke of how this experience has given her a strong voice to speak out for the rights of women and against injustice. As an activist in the Muslim Students' Association (she is studying Health Sciences at the University of Manitoba) and having worked with the Manitoba Islamic Association, she spoke to the present-day realities of being a Muslim in an increasingly xenophobic environment. She described her religious values as giving her the orientation to face and fight injustice. She explained that her parents were highly

supportive of her finding her value and strength as a woman in a traditional Pakistani society that gave more value to the role of men. This outlook has conditioned her work as an activist here.

Althea Guiboche spoke both of her life in the traditional ways of her people, living on and in harmony with the land, and of the modern, urban experience as an indigenous person in a society geared to less human values. Her talk documented her experience of homelessness and a Canadian society which, for all its talk of modernity, easily lets people slip into living on the street. It was the struggle to find her way that shaped her life. She explained how she could have given up but did not. She explained how she found purpose in groups such as the Indigenous Writers Collective and getting in touch with traditional aspects of indigenous life such as the making of bannock as a reminder of what indigenous people once had. Althea is also known as the "bannock lady" because of her efforts to feed people on the street with her home-made bannock. Her story was an affirmation of the need for people to see all people as the same and with a spirit of humanity. This came out in her description of work amongst the homeless on the street which mainstream society ignores, treats with charity or, what is worse, is afraid of. Her activism is now focused on finding solutions to homelessness, and she noted the importance of Winnipeg hosting the Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness Conference in October this year.

Between speakers were the presentations of three of the Sarasvati monologues that

were part of International Women's Celebrations.

Each monologue was introduced by Hope McIntyre, Artistic Director of Sarasvati Productions. Sarasvati Productions produces theatre for social change, and for International Women's Week it seeks out plays by women on their experiences.

The three chosen by the AUUC were: *Aabamii* (Rise Up) by Madison Thomas; *Diaspora* by Angie St. Mars with Alka Kumar; *You Say Tomato, I Say...Fine* by Angie St. Mars.

*Aabamii*, tells the story of Tempest, a young Ojibwe activist dedicated to standing up for her people's rights, but she's also just a twenty-two year-old woman trying to navigate life. The monologue is centred around a choice she has to make when she delivers an emotionally charged speech aimed at a politician at a rally. It takes us through a difficult choice she must make — apologize or stand by what she believes in.

*Diaspora* is about defining "home" — something important for newcomers to Canada. In this monologue, while trying to welcome a newcomer to Winnipeg, Amna, once a newcomer herself, is faced with the difficulty of defining 'home'.

*You Say Tomato, I Say...Fine* is about a young woman, who with the freedom of graduation and adulthood, struggles to tell her family difficult news about her plans for the future, which are to leave Canada and return to Nigeria.

Following the talks and monologues, the audience engaged with the presenters in a question and answer session.

— Glenn Michalchuk

## Seniors Learn about Their Hearts

The "UCH" received the following article about a recent meeting of Edmonton AUUC Seniors Club.

It has been several months since I have had the joy of sharing the Edmonton Seniors' activities with you!

As Lucy Antoniwi said a few years ago, we have had so many speakers that we know everything about everything! More or less, those were Lucy's words!

However, one of our seniors, Eva Dorskosh, arranged for the Alberta Heart Foundation to do a most beneficial presentation for us — how to keep a healthy heart!

Based on an audiovisual presentation by the techno wizard Winston Gereluk, we learned many things about our heart which I wish to share below!

— Every 7 minutes, someone in Canada has a stroke!

— Our heart pumps 100,000 times per day!

— Our coronary artery is the size of a drinking straw!

— Plaque collects loosely in our arteries, primarily because of diet and genetics!

— Now children as young as 10 years old have strokes!

### Symptoms of a Heart Attack

Symptoms of a heart attack include: chest discomfort/pressure (women have pain in their neck and jaw as well), shortness of breath, sweating, nausea, and dizziness

### Action

If someone has a heart attack, or if a heart attack is suspected, in Alberta or Ontario, call 911 immediately.

CPR may be used to reduce the chances of death.

Stroke happens in the brain. Check the person's face

shape, ability to raise and sustain both arms, and ability to speak.

### Control

To reduce your chances of suffering a stroke, do not smoke. Check your blood pressure often, control your cholesterol level, reduce fat intake, and eat many, many fruits and vegetables. Do physical exercise.

In Eva's introductory remarks she reminded us to be aware of "what we have to do for ourselves" to maintain a healthy heart!

We started our gathering by having a minute of silence for one of our members, Nestor Bagan, who passed earlier in the month. Condolences were sent from us to Nestor's wife Morindi and her family.

Our birthday celebrants this month were Lucy Antoniwi and Clarence Kapowski, both

of whom were unable to attend.

William and Shirley Uhryn gathered Lucy's birthday cup cake and candle, along with their bouquets of pussy willows, and with all the best of wishes expressed by the seniors, delivered them.

Lucy has a beautiful new residence in Devon, Alberta, a community south of Edmonton, Alberta. There, after greeting each other with many hugs and kisses and tears of pleasure, we went with the cake to the social room, where her friends were gathered. We sang "Happy Birthday" and "*Mnohaya leeta*". Lucy cut the one cupcake into about 10 pieces and shared it with the others at our table.

We brought book marks with verses of Shevchenko's words. Lucy said with a gentle, modest smile of surprise, "I translated that!" Lucy then proceeded to read and interpret the stanzas to us!

Lucy's bouquet of pussy

willows, she insisted, must also be shared with all, so she placed them in a vase in the lounge.

In April we will be gathering to celebrate Ann Husar's birthday.

Following that, Winston Gereluk will be our speaker. Winston is writing a history of the Ukrainian early settlers in Alberta. He is in the first year of a three-year time line.

Winston's mission is to record the early history of the Ukrainian people because, though history has been written about early Alberta settlers, few lines are about the Ukrainian people and their contribution.

Somewhere in the readership of the *Ukrainian Canadian Herald* there is someone who told me that she has clipped and saved each article that I have written about my Edmonton Seniors!

Whoever you are, I dedicate this article to YOU!

— Shirley Uhryn

## CTFA

(Continued from Page 1.) more business and job opportunities for middle-class Canadians.

“Importantly, it will maintain strong provisions to ensure that Canadians can work in different parts of the country.

“Carpenters, insurance adjusters, welders and plumbers, and even accountants like me — folks who work in these licensed professions will be able to have their Canadian credentials recognized across the country.

“This agreement will also give consumers more choice, especially if they want to buy goods and services from other parts of Canada.

“This agreement will make it easier and less costly for companies to sell their goods and services across the country, which means Canadians can expect to pay less for

what they buy.

“Additionally, this agreement will enable more businesses to sell to governments across the country.

“In fact, for the first time ever, Canadian companies operating in certain regulated professions, such as engineering and architecture, will be able to compete for government contracts across the country.

“In another historic first, suppliers to most publicly owned energy utilities can bid for a range of government contracts in many parts of the country.

“These contracts are estimated to be worth more than \$4.7 billion annually.

“As well, this agreement will require governments to work on having fewer rules and regulations that stifle the growth of Canadian businesses.

“This agreement will also ensure that businesses based in Canada have the same or

better access to their home market as our international trading partners.

“It sets out a process and timetable for working toward enhanced trade in the few sectors of the economy that are not currently covered.

“That includes the sale of alcoholic beverages.

“Finally, this agreement will automatically apply to new and emerging sectors.

“We also made sure the agreement focused on cutting red tape so businesses could expand and innovate more easily.

“And we took a strong stand to make sure that the agreement had teeth.

“The result is that this agreement has strong mechanisms to hold all governments to account for living up to the terms of the agreement.

A critique of the CFTA was prepared by Scott Sinclair of the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives. Because governmental statements should not

be taken at face value these days, we present selections from “Five things to know about the Canadian Free Trade Agreement”

“The CFTA replaces the Agreement on Internal Trade (AIT), which was completed in 1995 and updated a half-dozen times since to respond to business complaints about its usefulness (to them).

“But this makeover is pretty far-reaching and things have never been as simple as the media or business groups imply when they talk about Canada’s so-called internal trade barriers....

“The alleged costs of internal trade barriers are frequently exaggerated.

“Actual examples of significant internal trade barriers are few and far between.

“Back in 2006, a Conservative senator on the banking committee came up with a widely cited estimate that internal trade barriers cost up to \$50 billion annually. But when the Canadian Press ran that number through its ‘Baloney Meter’ it found that, on a scale from ‘no baloney’ to ‘full of baloney,’ the \$50-billion estimate was full of baloney, meaning ‘the statement is completely inaccurate.’

“In fact, over the years, most empirical studies have found that the costs of internal trade barriers were small, ranging from 0.05% to 0.10% of GDP. One outlier, a 1991 Canadian Manufacturers’ Association study, suggested that the costs of internal trade barriers were as high as 1% of GDP.

“A good argument can be made that the CFTA has less to do with reducing internal trade barriers than with implementing international trade obligations. Under Canadian constitutional law, the federal government can negotiate international trade treaties but can’t implement them in areas of provincial jurisdiction. The CFTA solves that problem by getting the provinces to voluntarily bind themselves to the terms of the international deals and making their obligations enforceable within Canada.

“In line with CETA (Canada-Europe Trade Agreement), the new CFTA effectively eliminates the ability of provincial, municipal or broader public sector institutions such as schools, universities and hospitals to use their procurement to favour local suppliers or to encourage any kind of local economic development. Public purchasers can still give preferences (of up to 10%) for Canadian suppliers so long as this is consistent with international trade agreements, but they can’t use, or even consider, any conditions in their tenders to increase local economic benefits.

“So how does that affect local food purchasing policies? In all provinces except Al-

berta, New Brunswick and PEI, which have exempted local food, favouring local food in any tender over the \$100,000 threshold is forbidden.

“This is a sad case of over-kill and a setback for the budding local food movement, which has been encouraging public bodies to use their purchasing power to give local food and local growers a boost. One wonders if municipalities such as Toronto and Vancouver, which already have such local food policies in place, were asked for their views.

“There has been considerable hand-wringing over the exclusion of alcohol and agricultural supply management from the deal. No question, restrictions on taking alcohol across provincial boundaries are annoying. But in most provinces there are pretty liberal personal exemptions.

“Most Canadian citizens understand that policies such as agricultural supply management or liquor monopolies are legitimate regulatory choices. While they may result in costs or lost opportunities for some, they also bring significant benefits.

“Canada has had a very negative experience with investor-state dispute settlement (ISDS) under NAFTA. We’ve been challenged more times than any other NAFTA party, and many of these challenges are against provincial measures, ...

“Yet the CFTA includes a person-to-government complaint mechanism that bears some similarity to ISDS. To their credit, the provinces have limited the process in some significant ways. Fines are capped at \$10 million for the biggest provinces and prorated for the smaller ones. More importantly, the payouts don’t go to the persons or companies bringing the claim, but into a fund to advance internal trade.

“It is inappropriate, in a federal system such as ours, to label provincial differences in approaches to environmental protection, regional economic development, public services, consumer protection or other policies and regulations as “internal trade barriers.”

“Remember that regulations are created for a reason. While protecting the environment, workers or consumers can increase costs for business, it also has significant benefits.

“But if any province, territory or the federal government identifies a regulation as a potential barrier to trade, it can compel others to enter into a regulatory reconciliation process. This process is mandatory and “shall achieve” a reconciliation agreement. At the end of the day, a government can refuse to submit to a reconciliation agreement entered into by others, but its distinctive regulation must then be listed as an exception to the CFTA.

## Regina Celebrates Diversity

—Photos: Mark Greschner

Spring Free from Racism was a multicultural gathering at the Italian Club on Sunday, March 19, in Regina. It was the event’s 18th year celebrating cultural diversity.

The event coincides with the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, which is celebrated each year on March 21.

It was a day of celebration, as the Spring Free From Racism kicked off with lots of fanfare.

The Regina Branch of Association of United Ukrainian Canadians participated in this annual event with students of the AUUC Poltava School of Performing Arts. Members of Lileya and pre-Poltava classes presented several numbers as their part in the cultural performances.

This event, for 18 years, has emphasised that multiculturalism in Saskatchewan has become extremely important, and events like this bring us all together and make us all feel like one. This gathering not only celebrated multiculturalism and diversity, but it also promoted education and acceptance.

“We’re here to celebrate and bring awareness to the [up-coming] International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination,” said Barb Dedi, president of Spring Free from Racism and the Saskatchewan Association of Human Rights.

She said that Spring Free from Racism not only plans this annual event, but also works with issues of discrimination and racism throughout the year, using public awareness campaigns and educa-



The Lileya dancers (above) and the Pre-Poltava group (below) presented several dances at Spring Free from Racism on March 19. Both collectives are instructed by Emery Millette and Daniel Hebert.



tional programming for schools.

“It’s a day where people can not only share their ethnic dancing, but also taste food from around the world,” said Ms. Dedi.

She said that this year’s event brought the largest number of participating food booths they’ve ever had.

“I think it’s just important to take time to celebrate the different cultures, the wide diversity of cultures that we have in Regina. It’s really neat to come and see,” said Emma Kramer-Rodger, a volunteer representing Amnesty International at the event.

Ms. Dedi said that admis-

sion to the event is free, and attendants only have to pay for food purchased.

“This is our big event, [so we] open it up to every family in Regina — not dependent on your economic status — so people are not paying money to go see a cultural event,” said Ms. Dedi.

“Racism is still alive in the city of course.”

“We still have some ways to go. We still need to teach our children in the school system, because racism — you’re not born with it, racism is something you learn,” Spring Free From Racism Chairperson Barb Dedi explained.

## TPP Revival

Canada and ten other countries agreed on the May 21 weekend to re-evaluate the Trans-Pacific Partnership, the controversial trade deal that has been assumed dead since the USA pulled out in January.

Trade officials said the deal would change significantly without American involvement, although leaders from the eleven remaining countries

are still figuring out what a revised trade plan would look like.

In its current form, the partnership requires US participation before it can go into effect. But a revised TPP would not be as simple as taking the US out of the existing deal: each of the eleven remaining countries will have to re-evaluate its own trade needs without of American involvement.

Ministers attending the Asia-Pacific Economic Conference (APEC) in Hanoi, Vietnam, discussed taking another look at the terms of the deal. Officials from the countries involved, which include Australia, Malaysia, Mexico, and Singapore, among others, have agreed to present assessments to their leaders when they meet for an annual APEC summit in Vietnam in November, which will also include US President Donald Trump, Russian President

Vladimir Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping.

Since the US withdrawal, Japan and New Zealand have been leading efforts to revive the deal. Both countries have ratified the agreement and moved forward on legislation related to the deal.

New Zealand Trade Minister Todd McClay said the remaining countries are open to

others joining, provided they accept the trade agreement's high standards on labour and environmental protection. He said the door remains open to the USA, even after President Donald Trump withdrew from the pact, saying he prefers bilateral free trade deals.

Supporters of the agreement argue that opening the Canada (Continued on Page 11.)

## CJ Issues an Order

(Continued from Page 3.)

Ukraine asked for five interim measures against Russia. The court indicated interim measures that the Russian Federation must, in accordance with its obligations under the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, refrain from maintaining or imposing limitations on the ability of the Crimean Tatar community to conserve its representative institutions, including the *Mejlis*, and ensure the availability of education in the Ukrainian language.

The court, then, ruled positively on two of Ukraine's five requests.

What difference the court's ruling will make is open to speculation, as Russia claims that the rights of the minori-

ties are already safeguarded, and the banning of the *Mejlis* was matter of security, rather than discrimination.

Additionally, the ICJ ordered that, "Both Parties shall refrain from any action which might aggravate or extend the dispute before the Court or make it more difficult to resolve."

The court ruled:

"(w)ith regard to the situation in eastern Ukraine, the Court reminds the Parties that the Security Council, in its resolution 2202 (2015), endorsed the 'Package of Measures for the Implementation of the Minsk Agreements', adopted and signed in Minsk on 12 February 2015.... The Court expects the Parties, through individual and joint efforts, to work for the full implementation of this 'Pack-

age of Measures' in order to achieve a peaceful settlement of the conflict in the eastern regions of Ukraine."

Concerning the Minsk agreements, in other words, the court made both Ukraine and Russia responsible for working toward a peaceful settlement of the conflict.

Ukraine and its supporters put the best face possible on the court's decision, but they must have been disappointed. The court granted only a minimal amount of what Ukraine was seeking, and even that little bit may be inconsequential. Furthermore, the court told both Russia and Ukraine to accept their responsibilities under the Minsk agreements. Ukraine did not challenge Russia's claim to the Crimea, but its arguments in support of the rights of the Crimean Tatars and Ukrainians can be turned to support the rights of Ukraine's Russian minority.

## Cultural Appropriation

(Continued from Page 4.)

There is no sense that something has been stolen from me, unlike those who say that cultural appropriation is theft.

That is just one of the many nuances in my feelings on the subject.

Aside from nuanced feelings, a subjective matter, there are also objective complexities in consideration of cultural appropriation.

One such complexity is the issue of identification. For example, there appears to be some differences of opinion (as well as differences of definition) concerning who can be legitimately identified as aboriginal, indigenous, or First Nations. One reason Canada used to give for rejecting the "United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples" was that it lacked a definition of indigenous peoples. That may have been a ploy by people who merely did not want to accept the declaration, but it relied on, and gained plausibility from, the reality that definitions — agreeing on what we are talking about — is very important in many circumstances.

In the Canadian context, with so much intermarriage

and interpenetration of cultures, individual identity is often far from straightforward.

So, who is to decide? In a number of areas, we are increasingly accepting individual self-identification, and that works in a broad range of situations. However, there are limits; for example, if a community does not accept someone, then (regardless of how that person feels or what definitions apply) there are at least some ways in which the individual is not a member of that community.

Those limits become particularly important under two circumstances: when there is competition for limited resources, and/or when the community feels threatened, exploited or oppressed.

Some commentators, particularly those who think that concern about cultural appropriation is political correctness gone wild, ask, "Does this mean that straight, white, middle-class men can not have gay and/or black and/or workingclass men and/or women in their novels?" The question contains its logical extension: "Does it mean that we can only write about ourselves, the only character we

know fully?"

The answer has to be, and they know it, "It does not mean that at all. Any novelist (and, by extension, any creative artist) should be allowed to include any character, living or dead, real or imaginary, in a creation." Any other answer can only lead to a sterile culture which fails to reflect any creator's reality.

Nor should it mean that the creator, as some insist, should treat any and all subjects with respect, compassion or any other particular way. There are many reasons why this should not be the yardstick. For one thing, it is totally subjective. What one person thinks passes this test may be a total disaster in another person's opinion.

For another thing, there is no shortage of historical examples, some of them in effect today, of insistence that certain topics, at least, be treated in certain ways. Is there a single one which can be called a positive experience?

Perhaps the main reason why this can not be the yardstick is that nobody means it. Nobody means, "Write with compassion, respect, and understanding about my oppressor." What everyone means is, "Write with compassion,

## WannaCry

(Continued from Page 3.)

quired EternalBlue, modified it, and unleashed "a cyber-attack that now ranks as among the most disruptive in history", as it was characterized by Ellen Nakashima and Craig Timberg in *The National Post* and reprinted in the *Toronto Star* on May 22.

It is possible that the EternalBlue virus was included in the set of viruses (known as exploits, which are hacking tools) released in August by a "mysterious group" calling itself Shadow Brokers. This would have made the virus available for use even by novice hackers.

Systems in the USA, according to the report in *The Washington Post*, were mostly spared, as American agencies were given a security patch, after Microsoft was alerted to the danger, to protect against the vulnerability. (Of course, this patch was not made available internationally

perhaps because NSA wanted to keep the EternalBlue virus as a tool.)

For no apparent reason, other than the opportunity presenting itself, the USA quickly prepared to ban Chinese tech firms operating in the USA, including Huawei Technologies.

Around May 17, it was announced that the Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea (aka North Korea) was thought to have unleashed it, because (reportedly) the virus had some identifying features of coding used by the DPRK in the past.

Because everybody has a favourite villain, and everything can be added to the propaganda mill, as of this writing, we are still waiting for Chrystia Freeland, Canada's Minister of Foreign Affairs, to release information that "the attack was part of Russia's ongoing effort to destabilize democracy in the Western world, against which Canada should be alert" (to provide a possible wording).

respect, understanding and a historical perspective about me, and if you can't, or won't, do that, then don't write about me at all."

Freedom of expression is not an absolute value, but it is an important one, even when it is being supported by heterosexual, even privileged, old, white guys. The first victims of its elimination are invariably the exploited, oppressed minorities, who do not normally set the rules.

Sometimes names like Gord Downie, Mark Twain, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Alan Paton, Joseph Boyden, and Harper Lee are cited in support of some definition of cultural appropriation. Sometimes it is suggested that the elimination of these people would have created room for minority voices. Both sides of this dichotomy are debatable, but both sides also bear some truth.

The first part points out that, in circumstances where a group has no space for self-expression, "advocates" (let us call them) on their behalf can play a positive role. The second part points out that space must be made for people's telling of their own stories.

It can not be assumed, how-

ever, that space created by elimination of the "advocates" will be filled by people telling their own stories. As was done with Canadian art and culture, measures must be taken not only to create the space for minority voices, but also to encourage the minority voices to take those places.

More institutions have to be created to feature minority voices, and existing institutions (like the CBC) have to provide more openings. Minority arts and culture have to be promoted and funded so that audiences gain access and knowledge about minority offerings.

Multiculturalism must be rejuvenated, to break down the rigidity imposed by the structures which were created to make administration easier. In some cases, they enabled political exclusion which continues to this day.

One positive difference today, compared to the 20th century, is the internet, which provides space and opportunities which were not available in earlier times. The uphill struggle minority voices still face in reaching a broad audience illustrates the need for active measures if minority (and specifically aboriginal) voices are to thrive in the public arena.



## Ukrainian Miscellany

### Economic Update

Check out the graph at far right. It is a prime example of “Make Ukraine Look Good” reportage. At first glance, it looks as though Ukraine’s economy is booming, well above the base line.

Now, look closer. What it actually shows is not that

Ukraine is doing well, but that in 2019 Ukraine’s economy is projected to be substantially smaller than it was in 2012. The Gross Domestic Product dropped by more than 16% from 2012 to 2015, and is projected to grow only about 12% above its 2015 level by 2019.

### Central Bank Chief Resigns

In its *Ukraine: Daily Briefing* for April 10, the Ukrainian Canadian Congress reported the resignation of Valeria Hontareva, the head of Ukraine’s Central Bank.

The UCC cited the report by Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty that, “Hontareva, a reformist who won praise from the West, told reporters in Kyiv that, ‘I think my mission is accomplished as the reforms have been implemented’.”

She also said that “her successor will face the same political pressure that she faced, and that the National Bank of Ukraine (NBU) should be independent from politics.”

The report said that Ms. “Hontareva’s efforts to clean up Ukraine’s financial sector irked tycoons who critics say have treated the country’s

banks like their private coffers.

“She also came under fire from some ordinary Ukrainians who blamed her for losses they suffered after she was appointed to follow the *International Monetary Fund’s* advice (Our emphasis. —Ed) to partially abandon state support for the hryvnya currency.”

While Ms. Hontareva left the impression, when resigning, that it was because “my mission is accomplished”, she earlier “hinted that she might soon resign, citing protests that included someone leaving a coffin at her door”.

At that time, IMF First Deputy Managing Director David Lipton said that, “it was important for Ukraine to safeguard the independence of the central bank.

The World Bank makes it sound as good as possible, but has to recognize that poverty increased significantly in 2015 and has had only modest recovery.

The government’s deficit grew in 2016, and is expected to grow more in 2017. Reducing public debt, according to the world bank, “will require a systematic fiscal consolidation effort grounded in structural reforms. In other words, more austerity. “Reforms to bolster investor confidence and competitiveness are needed” is another way to say the same thing.

With Ukraine struggling to sell its products on international markets, and the trade blockade with Donbas forcing the shut down of steel plants, economic growth will be lower than projected. The blockade is expected to increase the current account deficit to 4.1 percent of GDP in 2017.

Ukraine will require significant external financing to meet repayments on external debt of banks and corporations amounting about \$7 billion per year during 2017-2019. Maintaining cooperation with the IMF and other official creditors will be important to meet external financing needs, bolster international reserves, and bolster investor confidence.

In other words, Ukraine is going to have to borrow a lot of money to make its pay-

treatments. Patients, it is asserted, will have bribe-free access to doctors.

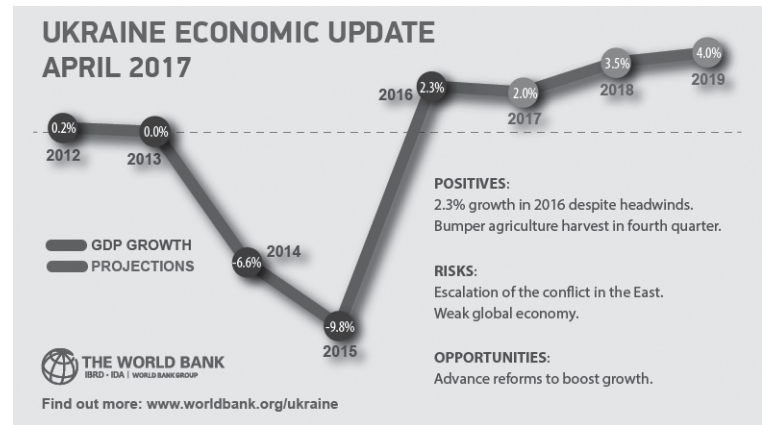
It remains to be seen whether the new system will eliminate bribes, but it is already known that “bribe-free” is not the same as “free”. Canadians know all too well that health coverage tends to erode, and that many people can not afford “bribe free” access to services. Diane Francis writes that:

“... Dr. Suprun remains optimistic her teams’ reforms will become law because of support from the prime minister as well as religious leaders, reformers, the *G7, European Union, IMF, World Bank, and increasingly the public* (Our emphasis — Ed).”

She also writes, “And in this case, the public is firmly on her side.”

Whether the people are supporting her “firmly” or “increasingly”, Dr. Suprun is energetically promoting the case for reform through a public campaign, with the message that health care reform is an extension of the Revolution of Dignity.

Many sceptical Ukrainians are asking, “What health care? What dignity?”



ments on the money it has already borrowed, so it better do what the IMF demands. What the International Monetary Fund demands is more austerity.

Reducing the deficit “will require systematic fiscal consolidation anchored by re-

forms to the tax, pensions and social assistance systems. In addition, reforms are needed to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of health and education expenditures.

That’s part of the price Ukrainians are paying for the “Revolution of Dignity”.

### IMF Presses Ukraine on Pensions

On April 5, the National Bank of Ukraine announced the receipt of the new International Monetary Fund tranche (instalment), which together with the second disbursement of the European Union macro-financial assistance received the day before, would allow increasing international reserves to \$16.7 billion, the highest level since the middle of 2014.

On April 3, after announcing the payout of \$1 billion in aid to the country, the IMF urged Ukraine to raise its pension age, and do more to tackle corruption.

The IMF is propping up Ukraine’s economy with a \$17.5 billion bailout decided in the spring of 2015, helping it climb out of recession following the overthrow of Ukraine’s elected government.

(Bailout suggests a gift, but it is actually a loan which will cost the Ukrainian people plenty. While the decision was officially taken in spring, 2015, it was actually the payment to Ukraine’s oligarchs for putting the country under European and NATO influence.)

Ukraine’s Finance Minister Oleksandr Danyliuk said that receipt of additional money from the IMF is conditional on pension reform. According to the IMF, this must include raising the effective retirement age.

The IMF urged Ukrainian authorities to accelerate structural reforms to achieve faster and more sustainable growth, starting with the privatization and development of the agricultural land market. The IMF also stressed that corruption needs to be tackled decisively.

Ukraine and the IMF are not in complete accord. President Poroshenko and the government called the additional aid “a vindication of their

reform efforts”. The IMF, praised Ukraine’s economic recovery and lower inflation, but urged the authorities to implement structural reforms and tame high public debt. “Corruption needs to be tackled decisively,” IMF First Deputy Managing Director David Lipton said in a statement, but noted that, “Despite the creation of new anti-corruption institutions, concrete results have yet to be achieved.”

Mr. Lipton said that, “The urgency of structural fiscal reforms to ensure medium-term sustainability has increased, as pressures to raise wages and pensions are building. Ukraine cannot afford to delay comprehensive pension reform much longer, including by raising the effective retirement age.”

Ukraine is reportedly preparing to reform its pension arrangements, but does not plan to increase the retirement age.

Ukraine’s Social Policy Minister Andriy Reva was reported by UNIAN to say that the government “plans to raise pensions from October 1 as part of the pension reform, which, according to preliminary estimates, would involve 5.6 million Ukrainians. The government also pledges to abolish taxes for working pensioners.

“The government’s pension reform does not provide an increase in the retirement age, but offers other tools to build a fair and deficit-free pension system.”

The IMF insists that the country can not delay comprehensive pension reform, including raising the effective retirement age. Ukraine’s failure to comply with the IMF demand could result in suspension of future instalments of loans from the IMF.

### Ukraine’s Health Care System

This is how Diane Francis, Senior Fellow at the Atlantic Council, described Ukraine’s health care system in a blog on April 17:

“In Ukraine, bribery in health care is rampant. Hospitals pay bribes to get funding from ministry officials and politicians, contractors pay bribes to build hospitals that aren’t needed, doctors pay bribes to get licensed, pharma and equipment companies pay bribes, and patients pay bribes to get treatment and then, to boot, overpay for drugs.”

These comments were part of an article whose message was that a package of reforms introduced by Dr. Ulana Suprun, a Ukrainian-American radiologist who is Acting Minister of Health, “will provide decent, affordable medical care for the first time in Ukraine’s history”.

With all the corruption, health care is very expensive, both to the state budget and to the people, 97% of whom fear financial ruin if they become ill. It would seem natural, therefore, that the government seek to eliminate the

corruption.

In Ukraine, however, reforms are not motivated by the best interests of the state and the people. They are motivated, instead, by the demands of foreign corporations and money lenders. Quoting Ms. Francis again, we learn, for example:

“The scams were so blatant, and *foreign drug manufacturers concerns so great* (our emphasis —Ed.), that in 2015 Ukraine handed over the procurement of drugs and equipment to the United Nations, UNICEF, and the UK’s nonprofit entity Crown Agents.”

The foreign actors, who motive the changes, determine the nature of the reforms. That explains why Ukraine’s Acting Minister of Health is a Ukrainian American, and why the move is to “a western fee-for-service system”.

The system will be, essentially, a co-pay government insurance system such as exists in Europe, with the government paying the full medical costs for the poor, and for palliative, emergency, and cancer

## Why North Korea Hates the US

Sometimes North American journalism is a truly weird and wonderful phenomenon. A case in point is an article which appeared in the May 22 issue of the *Toronto Star*, reprinted from *The Washington Post*.

The article, by Anna Fifield, was called “Why does North Korea hate the U.S.?”

The article provides what might seem to be useful information in working toward an answer.

It starts with “a little history”. At the end of World War Two, Dean Rusk, then an army colonel and later Secretary of State, drew a line across the Korean peninsula at the 38th parallel, which was accepted as a temporary measure by the Soviet Union.

In the war which started in June, 1950, and ended in 1953, three million Koreans were killed or wounded or went missing (about 10% of the population), most of them in

the north, which had half as many people as the south. The US dropped 576,000 tonnes of bombs (again, mostly in the north), compared to the 456,000 tonnes dropped in the entire Pacific theatre during all of WWII. It also dropped 29,000 tonnes of napalm.

The article does not even mention that the 28,500 US troops in Korea are there in violation of the 1953 armistice agreement, which calls for all foreign troops to leave. Nor does it mention the nuclear capable missiles stationed in the south and the American submarine based missiles in the area.

The devastating American sanctions against the DPRK barely get a mention in passing, as an excuse used by the “Kim regime” for its economic plight.

Does Ms. Fifield consider any of this to be of significance in determining DRPK

attitudes to the USA?

No.

The author attributes the attitudes of the people who have been so badly battered, continue to be victimized, and continue to feel the threat of renewed war entirely on — official propaganda!

The first paragraph, one long sentence, sets the tone, telling the reader in derisive language that the anti-American propaganda spews anti-American vitriol every day. The second paragraph continues the theme.

The third paragraph, just before the history lesson about the Korean War, “a brutal one”, and the destruction wreaked on North Korea, admits only that there is an element of truth (“only a kernel” and “grossly exaggerated”) in the story told by the DPRK.

In spite of the statistics provided right in the story, the author has the cheek to cite authors who write about “fake atrocities”.

What else would one expect from a writer who pens, concerning WWII, that “Rus-

sia perceived itself as being attacked by Germany”, instead of “The Soviet Union was attacked by Germany”? Nothing. However, one might expect some better judgment from editors publishing such biased nonsense. Additionally, one might hope that readers would laugh such drivel out of existence.

This nonsensical garbage is included in the story to belittle the DPRK narrative on its own history. Where “Russia” speaks about the “Great Patriotic War”, Korea, which has adopted the propaganda model, talks about the “Victorious Fatherland Liberation War”, with America standing in for Germany.

For all its flaws, the article “It’s time to put an end to the Korean War” by Thomas Walkom in the April 19 issue of the *Toronto Star* gives a much better answer to “Why does North Korea hate the U.S.?” It provides a foundation, rather than a vilification of the government of the DPRK, for understanding why North Koreans may have le-

gitimate reasons to prepare to defend themselves against American aggression.

Mr. Walkom points out that the Korean War was between the USA (assisted by the 16 nations of the UN Command, including Canada), and North Korea (assisted by China). “The war was brutal and nasty. American bombers flattened the North.”

In the war the DPRK learned that it could survive a war against the USA, and that China would help.

American domestic politics, with its strong anti-North Korean thread, has thwarted occasional progress in negotiations. An example is calling the DPRK part of an “axis of evil”.

Given the examples of regime change around the world, nuclear defence capability against American hostility is a necessity.

Why does North Korea hate the U.S.? Because the USA is an international bully which abuses people, and expects them to meekly accept America’s hegemony.

## History of UNDRIP

(Continued from Page 2.)

development of international legal norms and it reflects the commitment of the UN’s member states to move in certain directions”; the UN describes it as setting “an important standard for the treatment of indigenous peoples that will undoubtedly be a significant tool towards eliminating human rights violations against the planet’s 370 million indigenous people and assisting them in combating discrimination and marginalisation.”

UNDRIP codifies “Indigenous historical grievances, contemporary challenges and socioeconomic, political and cultural aspirations” and is the “culmination of generations-long efforts by Indigenous organizations to get international attention, to secure recognition for their aspirations, and to generate support for their political agendas.”

All four member states that voted against have their origins as colonies of the United Kingdom, and have large non-indigenous immigrant majorities and thriving indigenous populations. Since 2007, all four countries have moved to endorse the declaration in some informal way in which it would not actually become binding law pleadable in court.

Since 2006, Canada has made official public statements that directly attack the UNDRIP.

The Canadian government said that while it supported the “spirit” of the declaration, it contained elements that were “fundamentally incompatible

with Canada’s constitutional framework”, which includes both the Charter of Rights and Freedoms and Section 35, which enshrines aboriginal and treaty rights. In particular, the Canadian government had problems with Article 19 (which appears to require governments to secure the consent of indigenous peoples regarding matters of general public policy), and Articles 26 and 28 (which could allow for the re-opening or repudiation of historically settled land claims).

Former Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development Chuck Strahl described the document as “unworkable in a Western democracy under a constitutional government.” Mr. Strahl elaborated, saying “In Canada, you are balancing individual rights vs. collective rights, and (this) document... has none of that. By signing on, you default to this document by saying that the only rights in play here are the rights of the First Nations. And, of course, in Canada, that’s inconsistent with our constitution.” He gave an example: “In Canada ... you negotiate on this ... because (native rights) don’t trump all other rights in the country. You need also to consider the people who have sometimes also lived on those lands for two or three hundred years, and have hunted and fished alongside the First Nations.”

Canada’s Assembly of First Nations passed a resolution in December, 2007, to invite Presidents Hugo Chávez and

Evo Morales to Canada to put pressure on the government to sign the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, calling the two heads of state “visionary leaders” and demanding Canada resign its membership on the United Nations Human Rights Council.

On 3 March, 2010, in the Speech From the Throne, the Governor General of Canada announced that the government was moving to endorse the declaration. “We are a country with an Aboriginal heritage. A growing number of states have given qualified recognition to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Our Government will take steps to endorse this aspirational document in a manner fully consistent with Canada’s Constitution and laws.”

On 12 November, 2010, Canada issued a “Statement of Support” endorsing the principles of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples but without changing its position that it was ‘aspirational’.

Anishinabek spiritual leader Chief William Commanda (1908 – 3 August, 2011) was honoured at the 21st annual week-long First Peoples Festival held in Montreal from 2–9 August, 2011, celebrating Canada’s 2010 adoption of the U. N. declaration. AFN Innu representative, Ghislain Picard’s tribute praised Grandfather Commanda for his work that was “key not only in the adoption of the U.N. declaration, but in all the work leading up to it throughout the last 25 years.”

In 2015, Romeo Saganash

(a Cree Member of Parliament for Abitibi—Baie-James—Nunavik—Eeyou) sponsored Private Member’s Bill C-641, the “United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act”, which would have required the Canadian government to ensure that the laws of Canada are in harmony with UNDRIP, but it was defeated on May 6, 2015.

In November, 2015, the Prime Minister of Canada asked the Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs and other ministers, in the mandate letters, to implement the declaration.

In May, 2016, almost a decade after it was adopted by the General Assembly, Canada officially removed its objector status to UNDRIP. Canada officially adopted and promised to implement the declaration fully. Speaking at the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada minister Carolyn Bennett announced, “We are now a full supporter of the declaration, without qualification. We intend nothing less than to adopt and implement the declaration in accordance with the Canadian Constitution.” Bennett described the Declaration as “breathing life into Section 35 [of the Canadian Constitution] and recognizing it as a full box of rights for Indigenous Peoples in Canada.” In July, 2016, Kwakwaka’wakw Justice Minister Jody Wilson-Raybould stated that “adopting the UNDRIP as being Canadian law (is) unworkable”, due to its incompatibility with the Indian Act, the current governing statute.

In May 2016, the Minister

of Indigenous and Northern Affairs announced Canada is now a full supporter, without qualification, of the declaration.

“We are now a full supporter of the declaration, without qualification,” Ms. Bennett said, as she addressed the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues at the United Nations in New York City.

“We intend nothing less than to adopt and implement the declaration in accordance with the Canadian Constitution.”

Ms. Bennett told the UN that Canada is in a unique position to implement the declaration.

“Canada is now a full supporter of the [UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples] without qualification,” Indigenous Affairs Minister Carolyn Bennett told the United Nations.

“Through Section 35 of its Constitution, Canada has a robust framework for the protection of Indigenous rights,” she said. “By adopting and implementing the declaration, we are excited that we are breathing life into Section 35 and recognizing it as a full box of rights for Indigenous Peoples in Canada.”

“It was a very emotional moment for me,” said Chief Wilton Littlechild, a Cree lawyer and former commissioner of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, who was at the UN.

Mr. Littlechild said that the announcement marked a beginning to what could be a long process of “harmonizing” Canada’s laws with the standards set in the declaration, and improving the country’s relationship with Indigenous Peoples.

# TPP Revival

(Continued on Page 11.)  
 dian economy to foreign markets could benefit sectors including forestry, manufacturing and agriculture, especially production of canola, beef and pork. But there are also concerns about intellectual property provisions, including patent extensions, as well as the potential for job loss within Canada.

The Council of Canadians,

called the TPP "a huge corporate power grab" that should be abandoned completely rather than re-worked. The group takes particular issue with the policy's investor-state dispute settlement, which allows companies to sue governments over any regulations that reduce their profits.

"These trade agreements are old-school because our world problems have changed," Dey said, citing environmental crises. "Until we stop copying and cutting the old trade agreement that we've been doing for the last 30 years, it's not going to be a trade agreement that works for our new reality."

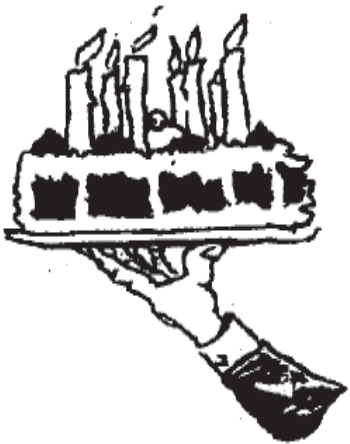
In response, a Liberal government official who did not

want to be named indicated that the concerns of Canadians will be taken into account in formulating a new deal. Trying to sell a new version of the TPP to the public that doesn't include free and progressive fair trade would be an uphill battle for the federal

government, he said.

The China-led 16-member Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership will meet Monday in Hanoi to further discussions on a separate deal seen as an alternative to the TPP. It is expected to be finalized by the end of this year.

## Happy Birthday, Friends!



(The "UCH" apologizes to these seniors for the delay in recognizing their birthday. - Ed)

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

Pauline Warick

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

The **Toronto AUUC Senior Citizens Club** extends best birthday wishes to May celebrant:

Nita Miskevich

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

The **Vancouver Seniors Club** wishes the best of health and happiness in the coming year to May celebrants:

Charles Hegeous  
 Carol Snider  
 Sylvia Surette  
 Anna Withers

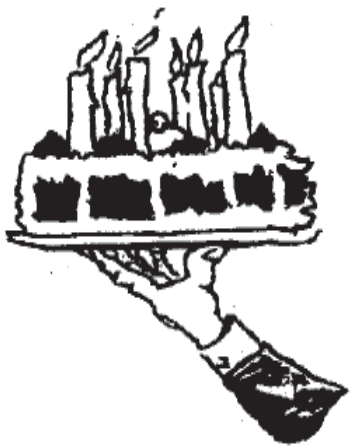
Enjoy your day with family and friends!

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

Melissa Hercanuk  
 Millie Kish  
 Jennifer Labenski  
 Karen Longfellow  
 Mike Lusak  
 Joan Sitak

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

## Happy Birthday, Friends!



The **Edmonton AUUC Senior Citizens' Club** wishes a happy birthday to the celebrants of June:

Sandy Gordey  
 Paul Greene  
 Nick Kereliuk  
 Sophie Sywolos  
 Mike Uhryn

Virginia Witwicki

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

The **Toronto AUUC Senior Citizens Club** extends best birthday wishes to June celebrant:

Natalie Mochoruk

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

The **Vancouver Seniors Club** extends best June birthday greetings to:

Mary Fedosenko

Hope you have a great day!!

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

Lida Braun  
 Leonard Whatmough

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

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— Photo: Victor Krenz



Walter Mirosh blew the trembita to invite people to *The Joy of Singing* at Winnipeg's ULT on March 26



— Photo: Victor Krenz



Choir director Lina Streltsov, accompanied by Anna Khomenko on the piano, conducted a voice warm-up. Annis Kozub, Nancy Grodzik, and Brent Stearns also provided instrumental accompaniment.

— Photo: Victor Krenz



Snacks during a break provide renewed energy for continuing the rehearsal.



Participants could view a display of musical instruments and artifacts of Ukrainian and Russian origin, including a trembita, a bandura, a mandolin, a balalaika, a bayan, a harmoshka, a sopilka, a bubyn, a tambourine and *loshkie* (spoons).

— Photo: Walter Mirosh



Conductor Lina Streltsov, with pianist Anna Khomenko.

On the afternoon of Sunday, March 26, at the Ukrainian Labour Temple in Winnipeg, a trembita came to life in the balcony of the Hall to call over 60 people together to participate in *The Joy of Singing*, an event sponsored by the Festival Choir.

The afternoon started with a professional voice warm-up conducted by choir director Lina Streltsov, accompanied by Anna Khomenko on the piano.

The audience and the choir

members had music sheets and text transliterations on their chairs so even if they couldn't read Ukrainian or Russian they could sing, hum or just lah, lah lah to the music.

Other musical accompaniment was provided by Annis Kozub on violin, accordionist Nancy Grodzik, and Brent Stearns on guitar.

The program started with "*Katyusha*" a Russian folk song, followed by the Ukrainian folk song "*Misyats na*

— Photo: Victor Krenz



"*Horachi bublitschki*" as a bonus for a job well done.

*nebi*" (*Moon In the Sky*). Each song was rehearsed two or three times with half the group singing the alto and baritone parts and the other half singing soprano and tenor parts.

During the refreshment break provided by the choir, there was a lot of reminiscing among old and new friends.

Following the break, two English folk songs, "*The Strangest Dream*" and "*Four Strong Winds*", were sung.

The beautiful song "*Dark Eyes*" (*Ochi chornye*) was sung by soloist Walter Mirosh, with the newly formed choir joining in the chorus.

Following this, we were treated to a medley of favourite songs by Annis, Nancy, Brent and Anna.

Ilena Zaramba and Nancy Kardash harmonized beautifully in the song "*Last Night I Had the Strangest Dream*".

Ilena's friend Kiva Simova sang and played the piano to an interesting method of singing called overtoneing.

At the side of the hall was a display of musical instruments and artifacts of Ukrainian and Russian origin. These included a trembita, a bandura,

a mandolin, a balalaika, a bayan, a harmoshka, a sopilka, a bubyn, a tambourine and *loshkie* (spoons).

The bayan, from 1920, belonged to Afanasy (Fred) Mirosh, who played the instrument by ear.

Also on display were two samovars in brilliant brass and silver.

To close the afternoon, the Festival Choir sang a selec-

tion from their recently released CD, one of their favourite songs, "*Susidko*" (*Neighbour*).

As people were preparing to go home, they were treated to "*Horachi bublitschki*" as a bonus for a job well done.

Everyone left for home feeling GREAT!

*The Joy Of Singing* was an accomplished fact!

— Walter Mirosh

## JOKE TIME

A man working with an electric saw accidentally cut off all of his fingers. At the emergency room, his doctor said, "Give me the fingers, and I'll see what I can do."

The injured man replied, "But I don't have the fingers!" "Why didn't you bring them?" the doctor asked.

The injured man responds, "Doc, I couldn't pick them up."

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