

# HERALD BISHNIK

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## Cuba Solidarity at Winnipeg AUUC



The Winnipeg Branch of the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians and the Manitoba-Cuba Solidarity Committee jointly hosted the Winnipeg meeting, on June 7. Two representatives of Cuba's Institute for Friendship with the Peoples (ICAP): Sandra Ramirez, director of ICAP's North-American division, and Yamil Martinez Marrero, head of ICAP's Canada Desk, were visiting Canada to attend the 8th convention of the Canadian Network on Cuba. Reporter Darrell Rankin writes that "For socialists, the meeting was very encouraging." To read the report, and view more photos, see page 5.

## The Next Issue

The next issue of the "UCH" will be dated October, 2017. Announcements of events in October or early November, 2017, as well as articles for the October, 2017, issue should be in our office by September 10. Thank you for your consideration.

## Merger May Spawm Splinters

Members of the Wildrose and Progressive Conservative parties in Alberta voted a reported 95% in favour of combining into a new party which could take power. A race for the leadership of that party is scheduled to conclude in October.

Some of the 5% who were opposed to the unification of the two parties are working toward setting up more parties, to better reflect their views.

One group, unhappy progressive Conservatives, have been talking about creating a new centrist party. Unhappy members of the former Wildrose Party already have a name, Alberta Advantage Party, approved by Elections Alberta for their new formation.

Marilyn Burns, one of the founders of the Wildrose is working to establish the Alberta Advantage Party. The Alberta lawyer suggested that there is a lot of support for the move, and a desire to get it done quickly.

Under Alberta rules, to reach official party status the AAP would have to have 44 registered candidates for the next election, lure three sitting MLAs to join them, or get signatures of support from 7,868 Albertans.

It is unlikely that the Alberta Advantage Party or any other group formed now will be ready to challenge for power by the time of the next election.

Former Conservative Party

## Trump and Afghanistan

As we go to press, President Trump is hours away from speaking to the USA about American plans for Afghanistan. There is speculation that he will announce a higher level of military commitment in that country. As one of his strong criticisms of the Democrats was excessive engagement in foreign wars, some pundits are wondering what that would do to his base.

leader Jason Kenney, one of the front runners for the leadership of the United Conservative Party, was dismissive of the efforts of the dissidents, saying that the numbers were not significant.

"We've seen a few dozen PCs leave to join one of the two Liberal parties and we've seen perhaps a few dozen Wildrose leave to perhaps start their own alternative party," he said. "Those are folks who are not comfortable in a big tent. They're not comfortable with a diversity of opinions. They want an echo chamber. They want to live in a partisan pup tent."

Among other contenders for UCP leadership are former Wildrose leader Brian Jean and conservative strategist Doug Schweitzer.

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## At the National Executive Committee

The National Executive Committee of the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians met by teleconference on July 27. The meeting reflected a busy period for the AUUC at the National level.

Highlights of the President's Report included information that the final payment had been received from the estate of Tony Mokry, thirteen years after the death of Mr. Mokry. More details were provided by the treasurer.

Mr. Seychuk also reported that the NEC had travelled to

Toronto for a range of meetings which included, among other meetings, a session with the Resident Executive Committee of the Taras H. Shevchenko Museum and Memorial Park Foundation, as well as a meeting with the AUUC Toronto Branch Executive.

The focus of the meeting with the REC was the Museum's plans, particularly any thoughts the REC had about the location of the Museum.

The meeting with the Toronto Branch Executive concentrated on plans for the future of the Branch.

The meeting accepted three membership applicants

into the AUUC. Processing of about a dozen additional applications was delayed for technical reasons.

The NEC discussed further preparations for the celebration in 2018 of the 100th anniversary of the AUUC.

The meeting received information about activity in Regina, Ottawa, Toronto, Welland and Winnipeg Branches.

In Winnipeg, work is proceeding toward renovation and upgrading the Ukrainian Labour Temple, including modernization of the building's plumbing and wiring. It is also intended to make the building wheelchair and handicapped accessible.

The National Executive Committee will meet in Winnipeg in mid-September.

## Safe Injection Site Opens

A Health Canada-approved interim supervised safe injection site opened its doors at Yonge and Dundas streets, on July 21 to combat the opioid crisis in Toronto. The interim site has approval to run until at least February, 28 at the location where a permanent site will be located.

Registered nurse Leigh Chapman said that there are no plans to shut down the Moss Park pop-up site, which runs seven days a week, with volunteers working from 4:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

The Moss Park group has received funding from a

GoFundMe campaign. In addition to supervising injections, it has handed out more than 200 kits of naloxone to block the affects of opioids.

Health Canada has already approved safe injection sites at the South Riverdale Community Health Centre and at the Parkdale Queen West Community Health Centre, but those sites remain closed pending renovations.

About 2,400 opioid-related overdose deaths were reported in Canada in 2016. Nurse Chapman said that her group has successfully responded to five overdoses.

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## NIMMIWG Under Attack

On July 6, the CBC reported that the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls had announced a schedule of nine hearings of the inquiry across the country, starting with Thunder Bay, Ontario, on September 10, and continuing with Smithers, B.C. (September 25), Winnipeg (October 16), Saskatoon (October 16), Halifax (October 30), Edmonton (November 6), Yellowknife (November 13), Maliotenam, Que. (November 27), and ending in Rankin Inlet, Nunavut, on December 4. Chief Commissioner Marion Buller said there would be more hearings in 2018, including smaller and more remote communities.

Delays were reported in the *Toronto Star* on July 21. The Thunder Bay hearing was moved to December 4, with the advance (preparatory) visit on September 11. The Saskatoon hearing was moved to November 20, and the Rankin Inlet hearing was postponed a week to December 11.

The inquiry was formed in August, 2016, to examine the systemic causes of violence directed against Indigenous women and girls in Canada, which some say could number as high as 4,000. Its mandate also included exploring ways to honour the victims, and to recommend ways to curb the violence.

The Commission has been subjected to severe criticism almost from the time it was formed. The criticism included communications failure with respect to various stakeholders, and delays in getting under way. Some critics don't like the terms of reference, and some don't like that the commissioners tend to be lawyers instead of community activists.

The first public hearing was in Whitehorse, from May 30 to June 2. As a result of that experience, further testimony was delayed to September.

The inquiry now plans advance community visits with a health and legal team to meet with, and prepare, the families, and to seek advice from Elders in each community ahead of the hearings. Two hearings with Indigenous elders and experts on decolonization and human rights have also been planned for August and October.

"We learned that from Whitehorse, that this groundwork is critical, not only to prepare ourselves, but the families," said Chief Commissioner Marion Buller. "I think primarily what I would have done differently is I would have slowed down, rather than push for time and push time limits."

As pointed out by Gillian Steward in an August 23, 2016, article in the *Toronto Star*, Judge Marion Buller, who comes from Mistawasis Cree First Nation in central Saskatchewan, became British Columbia's first aboriginal female judge in 1994. "She was instrumental in the establishment of the First Nations Court in B.C. in 2006." Though under some pressure to do so, Judge Buller has said that she has no intentions of resigning from the commission.

Some of that pressure was reflected in a CBC report posted on July 4, which said that Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak Grand Chief Sheila North Wilson told the CBC that she thinks Marion Buller needs to step down to give the probe a new beginning. The CBC reported that she said, "I'm not trying to be controversial, but I think this is just too serious of an issue to be struggling this way."

On June 30, the CBC reported the resignation of Michele Moreau, Executive Director of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, effective July 21. Three other prominent inquiry staff members also resigned in

June: Chantale Courcy, Director of Operations; Sue Montgomery, Director of Communications; and Tanya Kappo, Manager of Community Relations Marilyn Poitras, a Métis law professor from Saskatchewan, resigned in July.

Sandra DeLaronde of Winnipeg's Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre said that the resignations point to a larger problem in the inquiry. "Something is definitely wrong in the inquiry itself to have so many staff, so many qualified staff, so many people with the heart to do the work, leave," she said.

Ms. DeLaronde, who is a co-chair in a coalition representing families involved in the inquiry, echoed Ms. North Wilson's call for a restart. Without grassroots commissioners and a structure reflecting Indigenous values, she doesn't think the inquiry will be successful.

The criticism started earlier. On May 12, 2017, the *Toronto Star* carried an editorial which was very critical of the commission, primarily for its "glacial pace" in getting under way.

The CBC reported on May 16, while the Whitehorse hearing was in progress but no families had yet been heard, that, "The Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC), in its second report card on the inquiry, has singled out a number of areas where the commission holding the inquiry has let people down through poor communications, planning and outreach."

The report noted that, "The federal government launched the \$53.8-million independent inquiry in August, 2016. The inquiry is still being set up, and will not start hearing from families until the end of the month."

The NWAC rated the NIMMIWG in 15 areas, and found the commission failing in ten and "requiring action" in three. There was insufficient information in the other two areas, according to the NWAC, to give a rating.

"The families of First Na-

tions, Inuit and Métis women and girls deserve a public apology for not putting their needs first and not sharing information openly and effectively," the NWAC report said.

On that same day, the *Toronto Star* reported that an open letter with 40 signatures had been addressed to Chief Commissioner Buller on May 15. Among the signatures was that of Beverley Jacobs, former President of the NWAC. The letter was also signed by Maggie Cywink of the Whitefish River First Nation on Manitoulin Island. Ms. Cywink, whose sister Sonya is among the murdered, was appointed earlier in the year to act as special adviser between the province and families. The letter spoke of a "next phase" if there was no answer by May 22, but there was no indication what that might be.

In an earlier editorial, on March 22, the "Star" criticised both the commission and the government for failing to make adequate contact with affected families to ensure that they have an opportunity to speak.

Not all opinion was as negative. The Congress of Aboriginal Peoples, which represents Indigenous and Métis people living off-reserve, took a more positive view. "Although the inquiry has faced some administrative setbacks, CAP still believes it will shed much-needed light on the issue," Congress Chief Robert Bertrand said in a written statement issued after a June 15 meeting with NIMMIWG commissioners.

"The NIMMIWG Inquiry is an important process that many families are relying on," he said in the release. "We all need to rally behind it to ensure families have their voices heard."

On July 27, the Assembly of First Nations, meeting in Regina, declined to pass a resolution calling for the resignation and replacement of the NIMMIWG commission-

ers. Among those supporting the motion was Arlen Dumas, newly elected Grand Chief of the Manitoba Chiefs; among those opposed was Chief Bobby Cameron of the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous First Nations, representing 74 first Nations in Saskatchewan.

However, a motion calling for the government to make changes to the commission's mandate and process carried.

On August 18, the CBC posted a report on a visit by NIMMIWG staff to Rankin Inlet, where they started to hear from victims' families. The staff had a closed-door meeting on August 17 with the first family in the area to come forward, but expect others to come forward by the hearing date.

The CBC report said that Lillian Aglukark-Lundrigan, legal counsel for the inquiry, indicated staff would be available to victims' families by phone until the hearing.

The group included Vicky Laforge of Nipissing First Nation in northern Ontario, a health support coordinator. Ms. Laforge, who lost both parents through domestic violence, said, "This process isn't only about writing a report, it's also about healing."

David Ningeongan, president of the Kivalliq Inuit Association, said, "I am hoping after these hearings, that we'll have plans in place to allow for proper healing between families that have been impacted by trauma." The Kivalliq Inuit Association is encouraging people to participate in the inquiry as part of their healing process.

As in other places, Inuit coming from communities outside Rankin Inlet to testify can have their travel needs paid for by the inquiry.

It is interesting that the preliminary report of the commission is due in November, before the hearings are completed. Perhaps Jasmine Kabatay was right when she wrote in the *Metro* (Toronto edition) on July 6, "It is frankly set up to fail."

## Education Agreements

On August 16, the Ontario government issued a news release reporting that, on that day, Mitzie Hunter, Minister of Education, was in the Chippewas of Rama First Nation to join the participating First Nations in signing a Master Education Agreement.

The Ontario agreement is conditional on the signing of the Anishinabek Nation Education Agreement.

Federal Indigenous Affairs Minister Carolyn Bennett was also present, and the release also reported that Ms. Hunter had witnessed the signing of the Anishinabek Nation Edu-

cation Agreement between participating First Nations and Canada — the largest sectoral self-government agreement of its kind.

So that, at least, is a neat package.

"Together, these agreements will support the implementation of the Anishinabek Education System," said the release. The Anishinabek Education System target implementation date is April 1, 2018.

On August 17, *Metro* (Toronto edition) reported that the federal government had reached a self-governance

agreement with 23 Ontario First Nations.

As the Anishinabek Nation is a political advocate for 40 First Nations across Ontario, representing about 60,000 people, the federal agreement also allows additional Anishinabek Nation First Nations, and other communities in the province, to sign on in the future.

According to the newspaper report, the next step will be to craft and pass federal legislation to give the agreement the force of law. As of August 16, the parties had yet to agree on a date for the final agreement to come into effect.

The newspaper report said

that the federal agreement with Anishinabek Nation First Nations, the culmination of more than 20 years of negotiations, grants communities greater control over education on reserves from junior kindergarten to Grade 12. It also allows First Nations to have more administrative control of funding for post-secondary education.

The provincial agreement recognizes Anishinabek jurisdiction over education on-reserve from Junior Kindergarten to Grade 12 in the 23 participating First Nations.

However, the province notes that more than 90% of the 26,000 Anishinabek students attend provincially-

funded schools in Ontario. Under the agreement, participating parties will continue to work together to support Anishinabek student achievement, support the transition of students between Anishinabek First Nations' schools and schools in the provincially-funded education system, support the advancement of Anishinabek language and culture, and the knowledge of Anishinabek First Nations' histories, perspectives and contributions within Anishinabek First Nations' schools and provincially-funded schools, and improve administrative collaboration.

Both reports have appropriate  
**(Continued on Page 11.)**



## Current Eclectic

### NAFTA: Round One

Late on August 20, the news agency Thomson Reuters posted a report that the first round of negotiations on the North America Free Trade Agreement, started on August 16, had ended in Washington. Canada, the United States and Mexico issued a joint statement indicating that the next round of negotiations would be held in Mexico from September 1 to 5. Later in the month, the talk would go to Canada, before returning to the USA in October.

Participating were Foreign Affairs Minister Chrystia Freeland of Canada, US

Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer, and Economy Minister Ildefonso Guajardo of Mexico.

During the five-day negotiations, the three countries, it was reported, outlined their wish lists for the renegotiated NAFTA. They may also have done a quick run through to see what existing sections could stay and which needed revision.

There are probably a few remarks that can safely be made about the outcome of the negotiations.

The USA probably knows that Canada will not just walk away from the negotiations if

Canada's wish list is ignored. Canada will stay to make the best deal it can get ("best" here means best for Canadian business, not Canadian workers or Canadian public policy). One deal breaker for Canada could be an agreement that would not allow Ukraine to get its goods into the American market on favourable terms through Canada.

The USA will try very hard to squeeze Mexico. There is a limit to what Mexico will accept before it walks away and looks for other markets. If the USA becomes too protectionist, those other markets could become easier to find.

The United States will negotiate a deal which will favour the USA more than the current one does. It may not get as much as President Trump would like. Left to his own devices, President Trump might leave the table, but he will face a lot of pressure to reach a deal with Canada, if not with Mexico.

Will Canada, as promised, stand by Mexico? Don't bet the farm on it. Remember that countries don't have friends, they have interests. Canada tends to see access to the American market as its supreme interest.

With a Mexican election coming up, it is suggested that time is a limiting factor. Maybe, but many observers doubt that an agreement can be reached that quickly.

Some suggest that borrowing wording from the agreed items in the Trans-Pacific Partnership could speed the process, but it must be remembered that President Trump rejected the TPP. That would suggest that TPP formulations will not find favour with USA negotiators. New wording will have to work out.

### Sonic Weapon Attacks US Diplomats

One of the most bizarre stories that came to light in the last few months was a report from The Associated Press, published in the *Toronto Star*, August 11 issue, saying that US diplomats had been affected by some sort of sonic device.

Apparently a group of American diplomats in Havana had suffered severe hearing loss, thought to have been caused by an advanced (a step up from "some sort of") sonic device.

The story also reported that the Canadian government had indicated on August 10 that at least one Canadian diplomat in Cuba had been treated for hearing loss after the American pains were disclosed. (Almost seems like a move supporting Canada's allies.)

Then the Global Affairs Canada representative chimes in that Canadian officials are aware of the problem, which is affecting American and Canadian diplomats — and their families. (The story unwinds one detail at a time.)

Canadians were reassured that there was no reason to think that tourists or other visitors would be affected.

Actually, the problem has been known since the fall of 2016. Some of the diplomats were so severely affected that they had to curtail their tour of duty early.

After months of investigation, US officials concluded that the problem was caused by an attack by an advanced sonic weapon deployed either inside or outside the diplomats' residences. (In other words, after several months, they still had not found it.)

In addition, though it was an attack, it was still not known whether the (un-

known) device was a weapon or had some other purpose.

In retaliation for this maybe attack by a maybe weapon, the US had expelled two Cuban diplomats from the Washington embassy.

State Department spokesperson Heather Nauert could not say how many American diplomats were affected, or whether they had suffered hearing loss, but she did say that they had "a variety of physical symptoms". (So now it's not just loss of hearing.)

The Cuban Foreign Ministry reacted with a straight face, saying that it had been informed of the problem on February 17, and had taken measures to investigate and to provide added security to the US embassy and its staff.

US officials told The Associated Press that "about five diplomats, several with spouses" had been affected, but no children were involved.

Investigators, which included the FBI and the diplomatic Security Service were investigating, and not overlooking the possibility that a third party, like Russia (always a likely villain) was involved.

Apparently, American technology can not detect and locate sonic devices operating "outside the range of audible sound".

Investigators do not have a definitive explanation for the incidents (that is, they have no idea what, if anything, is going on) but they take them very seriously.

It is interesting that this suddenly comes up after the election of an American president who would like to restore Cuba to axis-of-evil status. Stinks like two-weeks-old, unrefrigerated fish. Ugh!

## Resisting the Right

The election of Donald Trump as President of the United States of America was interpreted by the ultra-right in the USA, and in Canada as well, as a green light for increased activity. Right wing terrorism increased against Muslims, Jews, people of colour, and other targets.

President Trump's intemperate rants against Mexicans, Muslims, the media and others whom he demonized encouraged hatred-filled individuals and organizations to attack people on the street, in places of worship and anywhere else they might be found.

Neo-Nazi organizations, white supremacists, Islamophobes, racists, anti-Semites and other groups felt emboldened not only to act in the darkness of night to commit their antisocial deeds, but also to hold rallies in broad daylight in public places to spew their threatening messages and incite violence against minorities.

The activities of the ultra-right did not go unchallenged. In the USA and in Canada people spoke up and organized to oppose the call to hate. Gatherings of the haters were met by greater numbers of people rejecting their messages, and declaring that messages of hatred and incitement to violence had no place in their community. The ultra-right actions were about demonstrating dominance and power. They came prepared for battle, and sometimes the gatherings would erupt in violence.

One such occasion was a Unite the Right demonstration of strength by the ultra-right

— Neo-Nazis, white supremacists, Ku Klux Klan members, and other ultra-right figures — marching armed in the streets. They had gathered to oppose the removal of a statue of Robert E. Lee. In their hundreds, they were met by hundreds of counter-demonstrators. A person attending the demonstration drove his sports car into the counter-demonstration, killing Heather Heyer and injuring a score of others.

The reaction of President Trump was to blame both the ultra-right and the counter-demonstrators for the violence. Later, he read a statement regretting the loss of life and opposing fascism, but soon he reverted to his original position. The ultra-right sent him messages of gratitude for his honesty and courage in refusing to condemn them.

In many cities in the United States, action to remove statues supporting the confederacy, symbols of the fight to uphold slavery, was accelerated. In many cities, and notably in Boston, where 40,000 counter-demonstrators appeared, ultra-right demonstrations were resisted by counter-demonstrators.

In Canada, large ultra-right demonstrations in Vancouver and Montreal were foiled by larger counter-demonstrations. On August 20, as the "UCH" was preparing to go to press, counter-demonstrators prevented a right-wing demonstration in Quebec City by containing Le Muete (The Wolf Pack) in a parking garage for hours, until the police declared the counter-demonstration illegal.

### Fertility Dropping

Those of you who have read *The Handmaid's Tale*, or watched the television series based on Margaret Atwood's novel of a dystopic society, know that one of the problems in the society she depicts is widespread male sterility.

Now a study has been published that establishes that the author may have known something the rest of us did not. In the July 26 issue of the *Toronto Star* appeared an article by Ariana Eunjung Cha, reprinted from the *Washington Post*, which starts, "The Quality of sperm from men in North America, Europe and Australia has declined dramatically over the past 40 years, with a 52.4-per-cent drop in sperm concentration...."

Actually, the study in question is one of those that does not involve original research. What this study did is analyze the data from 185 studies in-

volving 42,000 men around the world between 1973 and 2011.

While the original studies might be criticized for such reasons as the age of the men, the size of the sample (number of men), or the sample selection process, the theory is that the combination of all the smaller studies eliminates (or at least, reduces to insignificance) any biases in the smaller studies.

In this particular case, the finding is that there has been a strong decline in male fertility, and the decline is continuing.

While the findings are certainly suggestive, nevertheless they should be taken with a grain of salt. First of all, it used all the literature available in English. Thus, if a number of significant studies had a major shared bias, this could skew the results.

Even if an effort was made to eliminate studies with obvi-

ous errors, there is no guarantee that some overlooked bias was present in some, or even all, of the studies.

In some areas of research using this method, a new "definitive" study appears every few years, correcting for earlier flaws, and resulting in new recommendations. Research in such areas as diet seems particularly vulnerable. For example, members of the public can be excused for wondering whether eating more than a couple of eggs a week will kill you, and whether butter is the better choice or margarine.

The report on the study, which found no drop in fertility among African, Asian or Latin American men, gave no reason for the drop in fertility. Perhaps those racists who are concerned about the decline of the "white race", should devote less energy to attacking people of colour and put more effort into reversing the fertility trend.



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## About Omar Khadr

AN EDITORIAL by WILFRED SZCZESNY

As soon as they were in a position to do so, the Conservative Party of Canada, in government, under the leadership of Stephen Harper, launched a vendetta against Omar Khadr. Their bitter antagonism, arising from the kind of party they were under Mr. Harper, continues because of the kind of party they remain under Andrew Scheer.

Unfortunately, many Canadians read stuff like the utter nonsense Mr. Scheer wrote for the *Toronto Star* July 27 issue, and think, "Yeah. That sounds right."

However, it only sounds right if you ignore all the realities that make it wrong.

The first of those realities is that Omar Khadr was a child soldier, pressed into service by his father at age 13, shot twice in the back and captured at age 15. In addition to responsibilities under Canadian laws, the Harper government violated its obligations under international law, for Canada (like the USA) is signatory to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, which applies to everyone under age 18. Under that Convention and other international law, child soldiers are to be treated as victims and rehabilitated, not tortured and imprisoned.

The reality is that Omar Khadr did not get merely "rough treatment"; he was severely tortured. That included sleep deprivation for weeks, long terms in solitary confinement, forced stress positions, and more. Descriptions of these tortures are available — look them up.

Then, think about the reality that the Harper government was complicit. And before them, the Liberals.

Another of those realities is that it has not been proven that Omar Khadr killed Christopher Speer. He may not have done so. When the grenade was thrown, there was at least one other person alive who may have done it.

While the Conservatives make much of Mr. Khadr's confession, no legitimate court would put much stock in a confession extorted under such duress: years of torture which started while he was severely injured, and (after eight years in custody) no hope of release without a confession.

It is also a reality that the prison at Guantanamo was deliberately established in a location where American law could be flouted. The court which was set up later, in which Omar Khadr was convicted (for crimes not defined in 2002), was of questionable legality, and operated with different rules than American criminal courts. "A legal black hole", the American President called it.

## COMMENTARY

### The Logic of Korea

From 1910, and into World War II, Korea was part of Imperial Japan. As the war came to an end, with Japan having surrendered, the Soviet army was moving south on the Korean peninsula, and the American army was moving north. The Soviets agreed to stop at the 38th parallel, where they waited for the arrival of the Americans.

Thus was Korea divided between two occupying powers that could not agree on the terms of Korean independence. In 1948, this arrangement resulted in two Korean governments: the People's Democratic Republic of Korea in the north, and the Republic of Korea in the south.

The war between the two governments, which started in June, 1950, was recognized internationally as a civil war. However, when the RoK forces were quickly pushed south, with massive defections to the army from the north, President Truman decided to intervene, in pursuit of the US goal of global containment of Communism.

At the time, the Soviet Union was boycotting the Security Council, so the USA was able to engineer United Nations' adoption of a resolution to make this a United Nations' action. (This was a tactic adopted often in later years.)

The American-led force landed at Inchon in September, 1950, and was soon pushing its way north. This success led President Truman to adopt a policy of roll-back to overthrow the government of the DPRK. However, as the battle-line approached its border, to prevent an attack into its territory, China entered the war. The battle soon raged back and forth, with Seoul changing hands four times.

While the land battle was more or less a stalemate, the USA launched a devastating air war against the north, with massive bombing. Before the fighting ended on July 27,

1953, when an armistice was signed, more than 1.2 million people had died, millions more were injured, and a huge number were homeless as most northern cities were destroyed.

There was an armistice, as all parties (including the USA, by then led by President Eisenhower) were ready to stop fighting, but no peace treaty, so the war is technically still on. Over the years, the various RoK governments, for self-preservation, have generally opposed negotiations, while the Americans have continued to hope for regime change by other means.

Particularly since 1991, encouraged by their success in encircling Russia after the elimination of the USSR and most of the world system of socialist states, the United States has tried very hard to isolate the DPRK and impose severe sanctions.

In early August, the UN Security Council adopted, by a 15-0 vote, a resolution drafted with the cooperation of China, imposing additional sanctions against the DPRK.

It remains to be seen what the significance of the Russian and Chinese votes supporting the sanctions will be. The sanctions are quite specific, and leave many options for support to the DPRK. Russia and China (particularly China) both have significant reasons for preventing the collapse of that country.

As for the DPRK, also known as North Korea, it is acting in accordance with the lessons of its own history, and that of the world. The main lesson is that a country has to be ready to stand alone in its own defence.

In the period from 1950 to 1953 (that is, during the war) Russia and China provided material assistance, but China only entered the war when its own border was threatened, and Russia never did — at least officially.

While Vietnam got a lot of

material support in its war against foreign occupation, assistance by the big countries stopped short of military engagement with the USA. After 1991, regime change has been the fate of many countries, with no counteroffensive by Russia or China.

Both Russia and China have reverted to capitalist modes of production and are, whatever strains there might be, deeply entangled with the threatening enemy. Their support is bound to be limited and conditional, influenced by pressures by the enemy.

The DPRK faces powerful enemies, some of whom have nuclear weapons capability. The DPRK can not hope to win a war against the USA. What it can do is be strong enough to deter an attack by threatening to exact an unacceptable price for any attack.

The only credible threat of exacting such a price is to have nuclear weapons and the means to deliver them. Therefore, the DPRK will continue to develop its weapons systems at all costs, until it has an adequate nuclear deterrent. It will make sure its enemies are aware of its capabilities.

The leadership of the DPRK is neither insane nor stupid. Nor is it suicidal. Quite the contrary. It is determined to survive, and is following a logical course to achieve that goal. The government of North Korea does not need to be as repressive as the USA and its supporters paint it. The external threat will generate patriotic support for the government. As have other countries suffering sanctions, the DPRK will find ways to cope with the sanctions, and become more self-reliant in the process.

If it is not there yet, the DPRK will soon join the ranks of the nuclear-armed countries, able not only to wreak havoc on Japan and Guam, but even to bring destruction to mainland USA. Nor will it be deterred by promises of non-aggression, for it has seen the value of NATO's promises to Russia, the threats against China, and the continuing hostility to Venezuela, to name just a few instructive examples.

## SEE US ON THE WEB!

**AUUC (National)**  
auuc.ca

**Edmonton AUUC, Trembita Ensemble**  
www.ukrainiancentre-edm.ca

**Regina AUUC, Poltava Ensemble**  
http://www.poltava.ca/

**Taras Shevchenko Museum:**  
www.infoukes.com/shevchenkomuseum

**Vancouver AUUC**  
http://www.auucvancouver.ca/

**Winnipeg AUUC**  
http://ult-wpg.ca/

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## July 1 at AUUC Toronto Branch

The annual Canada Day/Shevchenko Day tradition of AUUC Toronto Branch continued, with a new twist or two, as Branch members, relatives and friends gathered at the AUUC Cultural Centre at noon on July 1.

The theme, of course, was Canada 150, and the team of Connie Prince and Bernardine Dobrowolsky made special efforts to decorate the hall with the appropriate symbols. Nostalgia with a pronounced “Do you remember?” flavour greeted the participants at every turn, with artifacts and photos, as well as verbal stimuli, ranging from sports memorabilia from the extensive Dobrowolsky collection to photos and a variety of other cues to jog memories of by-gone days in Canada.

At the entrance, where Lorna Clark greeted arrivals with proof-of-payment in the form of a tag, Canadian flag lapel pins were freely available.

Once inside, to the sound of accordion music provided by Albert Iaboni, attendees could walk around the hall to take in the rich Canadiana adorning the walls. They might, before beginning their tour, or to slake the thirst generated by the journey around the hall, enjoy a libation at a table staffed by Nancy Stewart and Diane Garrett.

While in that area, they had an opportunity to invest in a 50/50 game involving cards, offered by Nancy Stewart, and a chance to take home a gift basket, available from Anne Bobyk. The basket, a \$200.00 value donated by Bernardine Dobrowolsky, was filled with Canadian items such as, for example, maple cookies, maple syrup, Canadian wine, a set of Canada 150 postage stamps.

With lunch still a while off, MC Connie Prince, after bidding everyone welcome, drew attention one of this year’s innovations: a station offering a borsch shot with a perogy chaser. The line formed quickly; and some seekers were disappointed, reflecting the otherwise happy reality that attendance at this event surpassed expectations. The borsch and perogies were provided by Connie.

None of that was of the slightest interest to the youngest person in attendance – seven-week-old Alexis Griff, grandchild of Dianne and Russ Garrett, accompanied by parents Sarah and Ryan.

Lunch was the annual barbecue of hot dogs, sausages and hamburgers prepared by Jerry Dobrowolsky, with a variety of salads supplied by Dianne Garrett, Nancy Stewart, and Bernardine, topped off with cupcakes provided by Gabriele Bajin, and



Lyudmyla Pogoryelova (left) and Nancy Stewart performed the traditional tribute to Taras Shevchenko.

a “Canada 150” birthday cake.

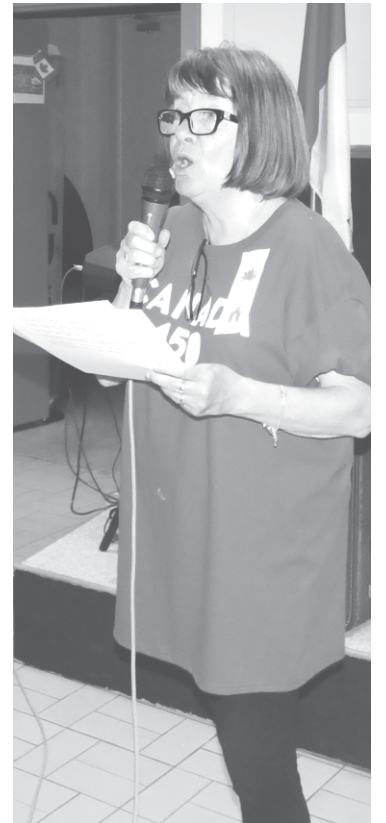
At about 1:00 p.m., Connie got the program under way with the singing of “O’ Canada”.

Formalities were few that afternoon; one was the traditional presentation of a floral tribute to Taras Shevchenko. Lyudmyla Polgoryelova, on behalf of the Taras H. Shevchenko Museum, and Nancy Stewart on behalf of the AUUC Toronto Branch, set potted plants at the base of a photo representing the statue

(Continued on Page 8.)



Connie Prince, MC for the afternoon, bade everyone welcome.



Bernardine Dobrowolsky led participants in the traditional Canada trivia game.

— Story photos: Jerry Dobrowolsky



A traditional activity on Canada Day/Shevchenko Day is singing.

## Cuba Solidarity at Winnipeg AUUC

— Photo: Dennis Lewycky



After their presentations, the Cuban visitors answers questions from audience members. In the photo, left to right, are: Yamil Martinez Marrero, head of ICAP’s Canada Desk; moderator Rosemary Hnatiuk; Sandra Ramirez, director of ICAP’s North-American division.

Two representatives of Cuba’s Institute for Friendship with the Peoples (ICAP), Sandra Ramirez, director of ICAP’s North-American division, and Yamil Martinez Marrero, head of ICAP’s Canada Desk, recently vis-



AUUC Winnipeg Branch President Glenn Michalchuk welcomed guests to the Ukrainian Labour Temple.

ited Canada to attend the 8th convention of the Canadian Network on Cuba.

Following the convention, they spoke to meetings organized by solidarity groups in the Niagara region, Winnipeg and Vancouver. The theme, “Cuba after Fidel”, created an opportunity to exchange views and to strengthen ties of solidarity.

Fidel Castro died last year. ICAP brought people together to remember the outstanding leader of the revolution in Cuba and a unifying symbol globally for the last twenty-five years for all the oppressed nations and all workers who want a socialist society.

The Winnipeg Branch of

the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians and the Manitoba-Cuba Solidarity Committee jointly hosted the Winnipeg meeting on June 7.

AUUC Branch President Glenn Michalchuk welcomed the two representatives to the Ukrainian Labour Temple which he said had a “long cultural and revolutionary history”.

MCSC President Diane Zack spoke on the history of the Cuba solidarity movement in Winnipeg since the



MCSC President Diane Zack spoke on the history of the Cuba solidarity movement in Winnipeg.

MCSC’s founding in 1990 “at a difficult time for Cuba”. (Three of the group’s original members were in the audience.)

Sandra Ramirez described Cuban society today and developments with the Obama and Trump administrations regarding Cuba. The normalization of ties with the USA started by President Obama might be interrupted by President Trump, she said, but the Cuban people are ready to assert and defend their sovereignty.

Yamil Martinez Marrero, described the role of mass organizations in nominating candidates and how the electoral process strengthens popular participation and democracy.

The ICAP representatives fielded questions ranging from the role of the Communist Party and the mood of the Cuban people to the attitudes of young people towards Fidel and socialism.

For socialists, the meeting was very encouraging.

A number of activities were announced at the meeting, demonstrating the Cuba solidarity movement’s ties to other movements in Winnipeg.

— Darrell Rankin



## Spring Flowers in Calgary



The Rushnyky group, choreographed by Dianne Gereluk, present "Bukovynska zabava".



The youngest group, Cherevichky, dancing "Kochanochka".



Chervony Venocek presenting the "Cornfields" dance.

## CALGARY UKRAINIAN FESTIVAL

— Photo: Trevor Shular



The Hopak Senior Dancers, instructed by Trevor Shular, performed a dance of welcome, with the traditional bread and salt, at the Calgary Ukrainian Festival

Once again, Calgary Hopak Ensemble participated in the annual Calgary Ukrainian Festival (the eighth) on June 3 and 4 at the Acadia Recreation Centre in south-east Calgary. We were so proud to be included among the 850 performers from across Canada

who brought their love of Ukrainian music, song and dance to share with ever-enthusiastic Calgarians.

Festival organizer, Lysia Smandych, encouraged our involvement, by allowing the Hopak Orchestra, Choir and Dance School and Hopak

Calgary's Hopak Ensemble presented the final concert of the year, entitled *Spring Flowers* on May 14, at the Leacock Theatre, Mount Royal University. We were delighted to have Edmonton's Trembita Choir join us. Many thanks to Edmonton's choir director, Olesya Nazarenko, for her efforts to have the two choirs unite in song.

The Calgary Hopak Ensemble Orchestra, conducted by Violetta Dimitrova, and the Hopak Dancers, choreographed by Trevor Shular, opened the afternoon concert with a rousing rendition entitled "Ukrainian Greeting".

The concert continued with performances by the Hopak Ensemble Dance School, under the great leadership of Dance School Director, Trista Bailey. It must be said that each dance school instructor found the best choreography to highlight each group.

Need we say that, as usual, our youngest dance group, Cherevichky, choreographed by Natasha Jeanson, stole the show with "Kochanochka"?

Nevertheless, perhaps it was our boys group, Harniy sharavary, choreographed by Dianne Gereluk, with their "Shoemaker" dance, that brought the most smiles to the audience.

Or perhaps it was the young foursome Chervony venocek, directed by Liza Makarova, with the "Cornfields" dance, that had the audience clapping for more!

I do know that our boys, Christopher and Hayden, continued to impress, in both their "Bukovinian" and "Lisoruby" dances. Dianne Gereluk loves working choreography with these boys because they really know how to turn on the charm!

Another lovely foursome,

Dancers to open Saturday's Performance Program with a 15-minute mini-concert! This allowed the choir and dancers to be accompanied by the Hopak Orchestra, and eliminated the need to move instruments, music stands, and people for every number! It's so incredible to sing and dance to live music!

A special thank you to Trevor Shular and the Hopak Dancers, who not only performed five dances on Saturday, but also returned on Sunday to perform four of them again. Way to go!!

We always enjoy the sights, sounds, and food of the Festival. The kitchen was kept hopping as Ollies Homestyle Catering provided tons of food, including pyrogies, kielbasa (sausage), kapusta (cabbage), borscht, holubtsi (cabbage rolls), and makivnyk (poppyseed cake). Yum.

Ukrainian beer is always  
(Continued on Page 10.)

this one of girls, Tynok, choreographed by Kathryn D'Arnot, showed everyone that Ukrainian dancing was fun in "Pleskach".

The joint choirs singing "Oy na Ivana na Kupala" awhile the girls group Rushnychky, under the direction of Dianne Gereluk, danced to this beautifully orchestrated number was indeed another highlight of the concert.

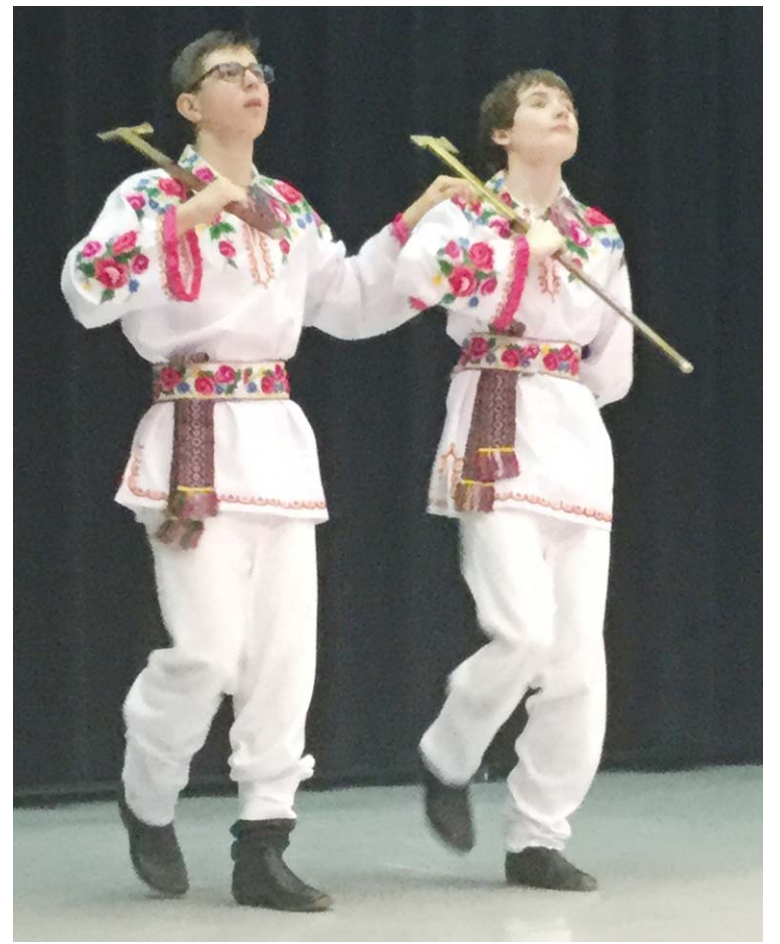
However, it is the Hopak Dancers, an all-girls group, who continue to awe and enthrall the audience. Trevor has done such an amazing job with the choreography and costum-

ing for this group. From opening the concert with "Ukrainian Greeting", through "Kuban" and "Razeshaska", to closing the concert with the "Hutsul Dance", the proficiency and skill of these girls brought people to their feet. Way to go, girls!

The finale included a march on by all performers and an exhilarating chorus of "This Land is Your Land", followed by "O' Canada".

This was indeed a wonderful way to celebrate Mother's Day, Canada's 150, and the AUUC's Calgary Hopak Ensemble!

— Darlene Hrynchyshyn



Christopher and Hayden present "Lisoruby" with humour and style.



Tynok, our group of four lovely ladies, presented "Pleskatsh".



The "Shoemakers" dance — an all-boys character dance choreographed by Dianne Gereluk.



# Regina's Mosaic — 50th Anniversary

—Story photos: Mark Greschner



Kuban Dance — “Tersky Tanets”



Poltava Dancers with ‘Lacemakers’



From the dance “Palekh Box”.



Dan Hebert in “Hopak”.



Poltava Pavilion Ambassadors Dion Tchorzewski and Noah Evanchuk with Trent Wotherspoon (middle).

The Regina Multicultural Council (RMC) was established in 1973 as a successor to the Regina Folk Arts Council and the Regina Folk Arts and Cultural Council. The RMC acts as an umbrella organization for over 60 member groups that represent approximately 45,000 people.

The Regina Branch of the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians (AUUC) has been a leading member since its inception, with Executive Members, committee members, and Chairs of various committees within the RMC and the coordinating body of Mosaic.

Among the aims of the RMC is “To promote and retain heritage languages and cultural traditions as essential components of multiculturalism.” The RMC organizes and participates in a number of activities, of which the best known is Mosaic.

Mosaic, dubbed a “Festival of Cultures”, has been held annually, from the time it began as a one-day festival. Since 1978, it has been a three-day event held in early June at pavilions throughout Regina. Every pavilion features traditional foods, arts and crafts displays, music and dancing.

The AUUC has participated in every event for over 50 years, and is extremely proud to have opened its doors to Ukrainian culture at the Poltava Ukrainian Pavilion,



Vocal Soloist Valeria Honchar.



Eleanor Lekach and Emery Millette present the bread and salt in the traditional “Pryvit”, the welcoming dance.



Nick Dmyterko in “Hopak”, with the Poltava Dancers.

for every one of the 50 years that we celebrate in 2017.

As members of a city that is composed of many different ethnic backgrounds, the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians can hold its head high in supporting and encouraging the diversity and multiculturalism within our city, province and country.

The first Mosaic – Festival of Cultures was an on-stage performance held at the Exhibition Auditorium on May 13, 1967. Participating groups were French and German choirs, the London Scottish Pipe Band, the Polish, Verchovyna, Irish, Gaelic, Romanian and AUUC Dancers, and the International Chorus.

The price of admission in 1967 was \$1.00/Adults and 50 cents/Students.

In the early 1970s, Regina opened the 2,300-seat Saskatchewan Centre of the Arts, a world-class performing arts and theatre complex located within the heart of Wascana Centre in Regina, Saskatchewan. With the popularity of the Mosaic On Stage performance at the aging Exhibition Auditorium, the Multicultural

Council moved its home to the Saskatchewan Centre of the Arts.

In 1977, Mosaic on Stage concerts converted to a three-day Mosaic pavilion format, which included twelve participating pavilions.

The Regina AUUC Poltava Pavilion was located in the Ukrainian Cultural Centre. The lower auditorium offered Ukrainian cuisine, while the upper auditorium featured folk art displays and cultural performances by the AUUC Poltava Ensemble and School, as well as special guest artists directly from Poltava, Ukraine. The tradition of inviting guest artists from Ukraine continued for the next ten years.

Preparation for this first-ever 3-day Mosaic pavilion-style event was difficult as participating groups did not know exactly what to expect. As it turned out, pavilions experienced long line-ups, and food for that first evening quickly ran out. Our own AUUC kitchen staff stayed up all night making perogies and cabbage rolls for the following day.

(Continued on Page 10.)



# July 1 at AUUC Toronto



Marg Panasiuk won the 50/50 prize.



Lorna Clark won the gift basket.

(Continued from Page 5.) of the Bard of Ukraine, the first such statue in the Americas.

The afternoon continued with the introduction of the traditional Canada Day trivia quiz, conducted by Bernardine Dobrowolsky. This year, the competitive aspect was taken out of the activity, so players were encouraged to consult while answering the multiple-choice questions. Nor was there any report on the results. Instead, Bernardine just announced the answers, and told us (among other information) that Tom Thomson was the artist who was not actually a member of the Group of Seven (the tough question this year).

Marg Panasiuk won the 50/50 draw cash prize, and Lorna Clark took the gift basket full of Canadian-themed articles, donated by Bernardine. Six people took home a Canada-theme door prize — red and white carnations with a sprig of cedar in a mason jar.

A sing-along of songs in English and Ukrainian, led by Connie and accompanied by Albert, was followed by expressions of thanks to a list of people who had contributed to the success of the event. These included Albert Iaboni for his music, Bernardine and Jerry Dobrowolsky, Nancy and Mark Stewart, Lorna Clark, Dianne and Russ Garrett, Gabriele Bajin, Hunter Zepp, and Vera Borusiewich — and, of course, Connie Prince (as we were reminded from the audience, in case we hadn't noticed.).

Most participants took their leave at this point. However, as is usual at these AUUC Toronto Branch events, some stayed longer, reliving the past with some favourite songs.

## JoKe TiMe

A man died and went to The Judgment. They told him, "I should tell you — we've looked over your life, and to be honest you really didn't do anything particularly good or bad. We're not really sure what to do with you. Can you tell us anything you did that can help us make a decision?"

The newly arrived soul thought for a moment and replied, "Yeah, once I was driving along and came upon a person who was being harassed by a group of thugs. So I pulled over, got out a bat, and went up to the leader of the thugs. He was a big, muscular guy with a ring pierced through his lip. Well, I tore the ring out of his lip, and told him he and his gang had better stop bothering this guy or they would have to deal with me!" "Wow that's impressive! When did this happen?" "About three minutes ago."



Albert Iaboni provided background music, as well as accompanying the singing.



The invitation to a borscht shot with a perogy chaser evoked a quick and enthusiastic response.



The photo above and two below provide a sampling of the Canadiana decoration.



## Celebrating 90 Years



Helen Baker, former member of the Hahilka Choir in Toronto celebrated her 90th birthday with a party on Saturday, July 22. The event was organized at Cummer Lodge, where Helen now lives, by her daughter Lesley. Lesley was visiting from Spain, where she lives and works.

**Why not renew now?**



## Ukrainian Miscellany

### Ukraine to Join NATO

In a report updated on July 10, *Euronews* indicated that, "Seeking a roadmap to NATO membership, Ukraine rolled out the red carpet for the military alliance's Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg...."

President Poroshenko of Ukraine, the report said, has pledged reforms by 2020 to meet the necessary requirements.

In a joint news conference with President Poroshenko, Mr. Stoltenberg reportedly said, "NATO will continue to support Ukraine on the path towards a close relationship with NATO, to implementing reforms and to meeting NATO standards. And then the message is whether Ukraine is going to become a NATO member or not is for

the allies and Ukraine to decide. No one else has the right to try to veto such a process."

This last was directed at Russia, which suggested that Ukraine joining NATO would not boost stability and security in Europe.

On July 10, Mr. Stoltenberg addressed Ukraine's Parliament. Among much else, he noted that:

"Last month, NATO welcomed Montenegro as the 29th member of our Alliance. This shows that NATO's door remains open. The road to NATO membership is not easy. For those who seek it, it requires dedication and substantial reform. But in the end membership is a decision for the 29 members of the NATO Alliance and for those who wish to join. And for them alone. No one outside has the right to try to intervene or to veto such a process.

...  
Ukraine needs modern, ef-

ficient armed forces. It needs strong, accountable, democratic institutions. It needs strong, accountable and democratic leaders. Ukraine needs you to be the best you can be! For twenty years, NATO has stood by Ukraine's side and NATO will continue to stand with you in the long and difficult years ahead."

Ukraine's entry into NATO will indeed create a very dangerous situation. In his remarks, Mr. Stoltenberg said,

"NATO does not, and will not, recognise Russia's illegal and illegitimate annexation of Crimea. Russia, and you know this better than anyone else, is trying to destabilize Ukraine, through its support of the militants in the east, its cyberattacks, disinformation and not least by the presence of Russian forces in Eastern Ukraine. This must end. Europe and North America are united in their condemnation of Russia's actions and in their con-

tinued support for economic sanctions. Russia must withdraw its forces and military equipment from Ukraine's internationally recognised and sovereign territory."

Such a position has one set of implications in the current situation, in which support for sanctions and threatening talk may suffice. If Ukraine becomes a NATO member, it will be in a position to insist on military action in support of the NATO position when it applies to a NATO member.

That could mean war.

### US Coal for Ukraine

In our March, 2017, issue, the "UCH" reported:

"In its daily briefing from Ukraine on February 16, the Ukrainian Canadian Congress had a report that the Ukrainian government had, on February 15, introduced "temporary emergency measures" to deal with a shortage of coal in the country created by a blockade of railroad lines by one of Ukraine's right-wing militias." ("Ukraine Tolerates Terrorists", Page 9.)

In its July 31, 2017, daily briefing, the Ukrainian Canadian Congress reported on part of the solution to the coal shortage. The report said:

**"US to supply coal to Ukraine for upcoming winter"**

"The US Department of Energy stated today that Pennsylvania based Xcoal Energy and Resources will supply American thermal coal to Ukrainian state-owned power generation company Centrengo PJSC ahead of the upcoming winter season.

"US Secretary of Energy Rick Perry stated, 'In today's

turbulent world, geopolitical turmoil can create uncertainty for nations without access to an abundance of their own natural resources. No one knows this more than Ukraine. In recent years, Kyiv and much of Eastern Europe have been reliant on and beholden to Russia to keep the heat on. That changes now.

"The United States can offer Ukraine an alternative, and today we are pleased to announce that we will. U.S. coal will be a secure and reliable energy source for Centrengo and its electricity customers."

"According to media reports, under the terms of the agreement, Xcoal Energy will supply 700,000 tons of thermal coal to Centrengo."

We have two immediate observations. One, there is no mention of the reason why Ukraine does not have its own coal — the blockade by right-wing militiamen. Two, President Trump can now point to another promise kept — American jobs in coal mines.

### Yanukovich on Trial

With nothing better to do than keep the pot boiling, authorities in Ukraine have put Viktor Yanukovich, former President of Ukraine, on trial, charged with treason, violating Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity, and abetting Russian aggression. As Mr. Yanukovich is not in Ukraine, he is being tried *in absentia*.

On July 6, Mr. Yanukovich announced that he would not participate in the trial which, he said, was politically motivated. His lawyers withdrew from the case, as they had been told that their services were no longer needed.

The court decided to hold the trial without Mr. Yanukovich present, and to provide him with a state-appointed lawyer.

On August 3, Judge Vladyslav Devyatko rejected a motion by Vitaliy Meshechek, Yanukovich's state-appointed lawyer, for a one-month delay to allow him to become acquainted with the case. He then adjourned the hearing.

On August 15, the trial resumed, with a testimony lasting over an hour by Yuriy Serheyev, Ukraine's ambassador to the United Nations from 2007 to 2015. Mr. Serheyev spoke about the situation at the UN, and in Ukraine and Russia, in February and March 2014.

It was early in that period that President Yanukovich left Ukraine for Russia, rather than mobilizing loyal military and police forces in support of the government against armed attacks by right-wing militias encouraged by the USA and

Germany with the backing of NATO.

Mr. Serheyev, whose UN career included over a year in the service of the usurpers in Kyiv, spoke as though the legitimately elected government led by President Yanukovich had no rights, while the government of installed by armed insurrection was legitimate.

August 17 was a busy day in the proceedings. On that day, Vitaliy Meshechek told the judge that he was withdrawing from the case. He said that the case was particularly difficult, and he would be unable to manage it properly without assistants. Judge Devyatko accepted Mr. Meshechek's resignation, and ordered that a new lawyer be appointed to represent the former president.

On that day, too, Judge Vladyslav Devyatko said that Mr. Yanukovich would be invited again to participate in the trial. The judge reaffirmed an earlier ruling that Mr. Yanukovich can take part in the trial via video-link. However, to avoid dealing with Russian authorities, the judge declined to formally request Russia to help set up a video link. Instead of an official link, which would be stable and secure, Mr. Yanukovich can use any video link available on the internet.

Judge Devyatko then recessed the trial until September 6, with 12 more hearing dates set from September 7 to October 26.

With the prosecution seeking a sentence of life imprisonment, it is quite remarkable that the judge is making so little effort to present even a facade of a fair trial.

### Weapons for Ukraine?

In August, particularly after President Trump signed the Congressional bill on added sanction against Ukraine, Iran and Korea, there was a notable increase in the pressure from the Ukraine lobby in Europe and North America to provide lethal weapons ("lethal defensive weapons" is nonsense) to Ukraine.

On August 14, The Associated Press reported, "Seeking leverage with Russia, the Trump administration has reopened consideration of long-rejected plans to give Ukraine lethal weapons [...]"

"The proposal, endorsed by the Pentagon and the State Department, reflects his administration's growing frustration with Russian intransigence on Ukraine and a broader deterioration in U.S.-Russian ties. The tensions were seen most recently in Russian leader Vladimir Putin's order for America to eliminate more than half its diplomatic personnel in Russia.

"Awaiting Trump and his closest advisers is an authorization to provide Ukraine with anti-tank and potentially anti-aircraft capabilities, ... It's not dramatically different from proposals rejected by President Barack Obama.

The Atlantic Council, which is essentially the civilian arm of NATO, has published a number of articles in support of providing lethal weapons.

Michael Carpenter, Senior Director at the Biden Center for Diplomacy and Global Engagement, has joined the chorus.

*The New York Times* reported on August 1 that, the Pentagon and the State Department have presented a plan to the White House to supply Ukraine with anti-tank missiles and other arms.

Ukraine would use such arms against its own citizens, instead of implementing its Minsk agreement obligations.

### Healthcare Reform

In spite of the best efforts of Dr. Ulana Suprun, Acting Minister of Health of Ukraine, the Supreme Council (*Verkhovna rada*), Ukraine's parliament, went into its summer recess without adopting draft legislation on healthcare reform.

What the Deputies to the Supreme Council, working in parliamentary committee, did accomplish, was to suggest 396 amendments to the draft legislation.

At a press conference on July 12, Dr. Suprun said that most of the proposed amendments were directly contrary to the "very essence of the healthcare reform proposed by the Ministry of Health and the Government of Ukraine".

An example given by the Minister of Health was elimination of the idea of co-payments for health services. The

amendments returned to the separation of services into those totally paid for by the state and those which are totally unsubsidized. Dr. Suprun said, "For 25 years, we have guaranteed free healthcare, which in reality doesn't exist."

In a strong call to parliamentarians to maintain the principles presented in the original draft bill, Dr. Suprun said, "The reform of a healthcare system in a European country with over 40 million citizens can not be threatened by the personal ambitions and corrupt interests of a few Deputies of the parliamentary committee."

Before recessing the Supreme Council, Prime Minister Volodymyr Groysman urged that the fall session, scheduled to begin in September, start with consideration of healthcare, education, and pension reforms.



## Canada 150 at AUUC Vancouver Branch

The sun shone brightly in Vancouver on Sunday, May 28 — a perfect day for a celebration — as the cultural forces of the Vancouver AUUC gathered at the hall for the annual year-end concert, this time in celebration of Canada 150.

The dancers, singers, musicians and audience arrived ready to enjoy an afternoon of sharing their love of Canada and their Ukrainian culture. Thanks to the hard work of the cultural directors (Debbie Karras, Beverly Dobrinsky, Pavel Rhyzlovsky and Laurel Lawry) everyone was treated to a beautiful concert experience.

In honour of the Canada 150 theme, the program for the concert included acknowledgements of First Nations and the English and French cultures. As well, the Dovbush School of Dance students had the opportunity to showcase what they had accomplished during the cultural season.

The show began with a presentation and greeting

from the Eagle Song Dancers, acknowledging our presence on their ancestral lands. They shared two songs from their rich culture in their beautiful traditional regalia.

The program continued with our youngest students from the School of Dance.

First, the Zaychyky Dancers took the stage, some for the first time, and showed us their “*Malenkiy tanets*” (Little Dance). They were followed by the Bilka Dancers, with “*Malenkiy kvity*” (Small Flowers). Our youngest dancers always steal the audience’s hearts with their energy and enthusiasm.

The Barvinok children’s choir, directed by Beverly Dobrinsky, took the stage next, and sang two Ukrainian children’s songs: “*Vesnyanochka*” (Spring Song) and “*Dva pivnyky*” (Two Roosters). This is the second year that the choir has been performing, and it is a complement to the Ukrainian language classes that are being offered on Saturday mornings, providing an opportunity for



**Mistress of Ceremonies Libby Griffin presented an illustrated tribute to the 150th Anniversary of Canada.**

the students to sing in Ukrainian.

The Veselka Dancers then took the stage and performed “*Hutsulsky tanets*” (Hutsul Dance).

Following a year of hiatus and rebuilding, the Vancouver Folk Music Ensemble has taken up the tradition established by its predecessor, the Vancouver Folk Orchestra. Under the direction of Pavel Rhyzlovsky, they have performed this season at the Christmas recital and Malanka, and now took the stage to perform three Ukrainian pieces. It was wonderful to have live orchestral music back at the hall!



After the performance, the buffet was a time for sharing food and conversation.

The Barvinok Choir continued the celebratory atmosphere with two songs: the traditional Ukrainian “*Oy vesna*” (Oh Spring) and “*She’s Like the Swallow*”, a traditional Newfoundland folk song.

The first half was rounded out by three more dances —

the Yalynka Dancers with “*Vesnyanka*” (Spring Dance), the Druzhba dancers with a “*Kozachok*” and the Dovbush Dancers performing “*Pleskach*”.

The second half opened with the afternoon’s MC, (Continued on Page 12.)

—Story photos: Dan Fung



**Bukovinian Celebration encapsulates youthful joy and demonstrates the challenging syncopated steps of Western Ukraine.**



**The Barvinok Choir sang songs in Ukrainian, French and English.**



**Vancouver Folk Ensemble with director Pavel Rhyzlovsky played selections of Ukrainian folk music.**

## Regina’s Mosaic

(Continued from Page 7.)

The success of those early Mosaic years encouraged groups to look for more spacious venues, and in 1989 the Poltava Pavilion moved to its present location, the Regina Performing Arts Centre, and this has been our Mosaic home for the past 28 years.

As part of the Regina AUUC tradition of informing the audiences of our AUUC history, the commentary of the Master of Ceremonies always included the following: “In the late 1800’s, and into the turn of the century, many Ukrainian immigrants came to Canada, lured by the promise of free land. Most settled in rural Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, and as you can imagine, these were very difficult times. In order to support and socialize with each other, settlers would get to-

gether, speak their own language, discuss issues, and recall life in their home country through music, song and dance. At the same time, the AUUC would offer classes in the English language to the young and old so they could better adapt to their new Canadian way of life, and from this, many organizations, dramatic and performing groups emerged from these early Ukrainian immigrants. Answering the needs of these early Ukrainian immigrants who came to the prairie provinces between 1891-1915, the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians was established in 1918. The first (Branch was) located in Winnipeg and (it) quickly (emerged) in cities and towns across Canada.

“The Regina AUUC along with its educational and social program began to develop its

cultural program in 1922 with the formation of a children’s string orchestra, which then led to the formation of music classes for children and adults, the formation of adult mandolin orchestras and choirs. In the 1930’s and 1940’s the pioneers of our Association took their art into the rural communities and performed in farm yards, churches, schools and where ever they could — often exchanging entertainment for food and a place to camp. These early performances were always accompanied by live orchestral music and that tradition proudly continues today. Since that time the Ensemble has grown to include dancers, singers and musicians and remains the only Ukrainian ensemble in Saskatchewan to provide orchestral accompaniment for all of its dancers. The present Poltava Ensemble is comprised of fifty dancers, musi-

cians and vocalists and the Poltava School of Ukrainian Performing Arts includes seventy children.”

We are indeed proud of our fifty-year commitment to Mosaic and we pay tribute to all cultures, pavilions and to the Regina Multicultural Council for its tireless work in sustaining the multicultural fabric of Regina and Saskatchewan.

Regina Branch President Sasha Lapchuk thanks all the volunteers, a few for all 50 years, some for many years, and those who assisted for the very first time in making this 50th Anniversary a resounding success. Thanks go to David Yaffe – Pavilion Manager, Jen Swicheniuk – Kitchen Manager, Shawn Swicheniuk – Bar Manager, Michaelina Yaffe – Children’s Costume Room Coordinator, Lynne Lapchuk and Joanne Laslo – Financial Managers, Dion Tchorewski and Noah Evanchuk – Ambassadors,

Paige Lekatch and Bob Millette – Youth Ambassadors, Instructors of the Poltava School of Ukrainian Performing Arts and the Poltava Ensemble of Song, Music and Dance, all of whom helped make the Poltava Pavilion the success that it was.

— Gerry Shmyr

## CALGARY FESTIVAL

(Continued from Page 6.) served along with other beverages.

Of course after a busy day of shopping the many booths, which include Ukrainian clothing, music, pysanky, pottery and even jewellery, many people stayed for the after-hours zabava! More food, music and dancing, but this time everyone could participate.

We look forward to returning next year.

— Darlene Hrynchyshyn



# Education Agreements

(Continued from Page 2.)  
ate approving and optimistic quotations from comments by Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Chief Patrick Wedaseh Madahbee.

It can only be hoped that the optimism is justified. Unfortunately, there is more than a little room for concern.

For one thing, the agreements seem to be broad statements of principle. The details

of implementation will determine the real value of the agreements. Especially as the agreements involve three parties, none of them monoliths, there is a lot of room for disagreement on the details.

For another thing, neither report mentioned money, except to say that the First Nations will have more control. The question becomes, more control of what? Without

funding, these agreements are merely wasted ink and paper.

Concerns about funding are not without foundation. The example of health care, with the history of jurisdictional disputes between the federal and provincial authorities, and the federal government's legal opposition to meeting its obligations as established by the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal, demonstrates clearly what can happen.

Nor is it comforting that an agreement has been signed between the First Nations and the federal government, but the enabling legislation still has to be drafted, and enacted. That seems a lot like buying a pig in a poke, as the saying goes.

Then there is the fact that some 24,000 Anishinabek students attend provincially funded schools. Will this change, or will those students still travel hundreds of miles from their homes to places like Thunder Bay, where they will face isolation from their communities and racism?

Will the added responsibility, without adequate funding, just provide another opportunity to accuse the First Nations leadership of incompetence and/or corruption, as happened, for example, with housing?

If the promise of these agreements is met, all parties will deserve applause. April 1, 2018, is the earliest time for expressions of congratulations; it may be years after that before a final judgment can be made.

## Who, What, When, Where

**Calgary — 2017–2018 Season begins in September, 2017.** Activities include: Calgary Hopak Ensemble Choir; Calgary Hopak Ensemble Orchestra; Calgary Hopak Ensemble Dancers; Calgary Hopak Ensemble Dance School. **For more information, contact 403-289-8480 or 403-246-1231.**

\* \* \*

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

### Sustaining Fund Donations

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



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## Happy Birthday, Friends!



The **Edmonton AUUC Senior Citizens Club** wishes a happy birthday to the celebrants of September.

Bill Askin  
Olga Horon  
Ann Parfeniuk  
Shirley Uhryn

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 September celebrants:

Wilfred Szczesny  
Vicky Vuksinic

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

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

Anne Cain  
Lucy Labinsky  
Robert Young

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

# JOIN US!

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

### AUUC NATIONAL OFFICE

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

### VANCOUVER BRANCH

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

### CALGARY BRANCH

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

### EDMONTON BRANCH

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

### REGINA BRANCH

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

### WINNIPEG BRANCH

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

### OTTAWA BRANCH

c/o Robert Seychuk  
24 Attwood Crescent  
Ottawa ON K2E 5A9  
Phone: (613) 228-0990

### TORONTO BRANCH

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

### WELLAND BRANCH

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



## Canada 150 at AUUC Vancouver Branch



The Eagle Song Dancers welcomed us to their territory.



The Barvinok Children's Choir, singing their selections in the Ukrainian language, were very well received.



The Veselka dancers had the audience clapping along to their *Hutulsky Tanets*, choreographed by Danya Karras.



The Yalynka dancers performed with emotional intensity in *Vesnyanka*, a spring lyrical dance.

(Continued from Page 10.)

Libby Griffin, presenting a tribute to the 150th Anniversary of Canada. Focusing on the Ukrainian immigrant experience, and complemented by a slide show presentation, the text shared thoughts about Canada and the importance of the Canadian immigrant experience that makes up much of the fabric of Canada. Libby's tribute set the tone for the celebratory nature of the rest of the program which included four more dances — the engaging character dance, "*Buryany i buryaky*" (Weeds and Beets) by the Zirka Dancers, "*Zhinochka kozachok*" (Women's Kozachok) by the Dovbush Dancers, "*Tropotyanka*" by the Yalynka Dancers, and "Bukovinian Celebration" by the Druzhba Dancers.

The Vancouver Folk Music Ensemble took the stage once more with a "Medley of Ukrainian Melodies and Dances", leading up to the concert's finale.

The Barvinok choir brought the afternoon to a close with three more songs, including "*Dumy moyi*" (My Thoughts, a beloved Ukrainian song with words by Taras Shevchenko, and "*Un Canadien Errant*" (A Wandering Canadian Lad), acknowledging the French Canadian community. The final song, Woodie Guthrie's classic "This Land is Your Land", sung in English, French and Ukrainian, tied together our Canadian experience. Gratitude was expressed to a number of key people: the cultural directors, the executive members, and the volunteers who work tirelessly to keep the hall operating.

The audience was then invited to join together for a cold buffet supper in the lower hall.

Following the show, AUUC Vancouver Branch President Dianna Kleparchuk provided some very welcome news. A small group of individuals had diligently applied for grant money from various government agencies — Federal, Provincial and City of Vancouver. She announced that, through the federally funded New Horizons Grant for Seniors, our Ukrainian Archival Project was successfully completed. The grant allowed us to renovate the hall mezzanine and archival room, and purchase new computer equipment and new office and archival materials, storage and furniture. We have also received funds for future projects, including a City of Vancouver Arts and Cultural Infrastructure Grant to be used for painting the upper hall, upgrading the hall lighting, and providing dance mirrors for the back wall. Another New Horizons Grant will also help us replace our lighting with new LED lights, including vintage/period hanging lamps reminiscent of those



The school's senior dancers enlivened the stage with their Central Ukrainian dance, *Druzhba*.



*Pleskatch*, a favourite, was performed by Dovbush women.



Joseph Bizovie was the male soloist with Dovbush women in "*Divochy kozachok*".



*Buryany i buryaky*, which tells the story of three little gardeners and a very big beet, was impressively executed by, Zirka, one of the school's younger groups.

installed in the hall in 1928. These projects were started during the summer.

The Dovbush School of Dance also received a second cultural grant to produce a new choreographic work. The AUUC, in collaboration with the Troika Collective, received funding for their production of "*Richka*" (River), a captivating new multidisciplinary work melding contemporary dance with Ukrainian music and traditions. This work was very suc-

cessfully presented at the Firehall Theatre on June 27.

Special thanks were extended to Patti Mateyko, Dan Fung, Audrey Moysiuk, Margot Chitrenky and Laurel Lawry for spearheading these grant applications. It was exciting to hear of all of the proactive work being done by the AUUC Vancouver members and volunteers to keep the hall a vibrant part of the Vancouver cultural community.

— Janice Beck