

# HERALD BICHIK

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## Mosaic 2018



“Zaporozhian Cossacks” was one of the numbers on the program as AUUC Regina Branch sponsored the Poltava Pavilion at Mosaic 2018, featuring the hundredth anniversary of the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians. A report, with photos by Mark Greschner, appears on Page 7.

## Tackling Saudi Arabia

Canadians learned on August 6 that Saudi Arabia was expelling Canada’s ambassador and recalling its own, and freezing all new trade and investment transactions with Canada. This information was sent as a message on Twitter in response to a tweet from Global Affairs Canada.

Canada’s message, issued on August 3, urged the Saudi authorities to immediately release civil society and women’s rights activists, including Samar Badawi, and all other peaceful human rights activists.”

The Saudi foreign ministry objected to the use of “immediately release” in the tweet, calling it “unfortunate, reprehensible, and unacceptable in relations between states”.

It said that Canada’s characterization of the activists was “an incorrect claim” and called Canada’s attitude “surprising”.

Saudi Arabia threatened retaliation if there was “any other attempt to interfere with

(Continued on Page 6.)

## The Next Issue

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

## It’s Not Too Late!

The next issue of the *Ukrainian Canadian Herald* will carry messages related to the 100th anniversary of the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians, whether it be a greeting to other readers, an expression of feeling toward the AUUC, a “Congratulations” or a “Best wishes”.

It is not too late for your message to be included. See details on Page 11, and send your message to reach us by September 10, 2018.

## WSIB Shortcomings

Workers have complained for ages that Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB), which is supposed to ensure fair compensation for workers injured on the job, actually acts to protect negligent employers at the expense of their victims.

Recent articles in the *Toronto Star* tend to support that view. An example is the article “Denial of health claims for GE workers demands inquiry” by occupational health researchers Robert and Dale DeMateo, which appeared in the print edition on August 19.

The researchers write, “Our GE Occupational Health Advisory Committee is deeply upset by the way the WSIB has gone about reviewing previously denied claims.

“This reinforces our conviction that the board’s policies and practices need to be subject to a public inquiry with a view to radically reforming Ontario’s worker compensation system. This latest reconsideration process overturned 71 of 233 previously denied claims — but the lion’s share remain denied.

“Every one of the denied claims was subjected to major systemic obstacles to disease recognition at the board. These include:

“ An onerous burden of proof that was recently rejected by the Supreme Court of Canada.

“Overemphasis on workers’ medical histories rather than exposures at work and science.” (Continued on Page 10.)

## Welcome, Readers!

Welcome, readers! Welcome back from summer holidays to a new season of activity!

We hope you had a good rest, and are coming back fully recharged.

A new season means a renewal of activity in your local Branch of the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians. On Page 11 of this publication, you will find information about the AUUC Branch nearest to you.

Give them a call! Get involved with their activities for a great experience!

If you can’t participate weekly, then find out what their calendar of events contains. Check out the concerts, social events and other activities.

Get involved! You’ll have fun, and meet a great bunch of new people. Who knows where that could go!

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## Attacks on Roma in Ukraine

The government of Ukraine goes on endlessly about the abuses of Chechen human rights in Crimea, but is doing very little about attacks on the estimated 100,000 Roma in Ukraine.

In early August, the *Regina Leader Post* carried a report from The Associated Press detailing attacks on Roma people and camps, and the mild reaction by Ukraine’s authorities.

The report refers to the thugs who attacked eleven encampments and carried out “forced removal of civilians” as “ultranationalists”, but they are in fact the fascist gangs which brought the current government to power and keep it there.

A photo of such an attack on June 4 on the outskirts of Uzhgorod in western Ukraine was provided by a project coordinator of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). The caption accompanying the photo noted that the leader of an action near Kyiv posted pictures of his gang conducting the raid, beating the residents, and the burning tents they left behind.

Serhiy Mazur, a C14 activist, posted on Facebook that the action was “persuasive legal arguments”, and wrote that, “Further raids are planned.”

During an assault in a wooded area near Lviv in western Ukraine, a gang

armed with chains and pieces of metal pipe killed a 23-year-old man and injured four others, according to the report.

The fascists have claimed responsibility for these actions, and have said that they are carried out in concert with police, which the police (of course) deny.

After one attack, Mazur was charged with hooliganism (!). After two “lawmakers” spoke in his support, he was ordered to await trial under house arrest. At trial, Mazur claimed that police and area officials often asked for C14’s help.

Four suspects were detained after the attack near Lviv, and another twelve were (Continued on Page 9.)

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## Planning a New Holiday

Number 80 on the list of the 94 calls to action issued in 2015 by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission is for a new statutory holiday, the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. The day is meant to honour survivors and their families, and ensure public commemoration of the history and legacy of residential schools.

Simon Ross, Press Secretary to Heritage Minister Pablo Rodriguez, said that the Truth and Reconciliation Commission spent seven years documenting the history and impact of residential schools before releasing its recommendations.

The Commission found that tens of thousands of children were taken from their families and placed in the infamous church-run schools, where they were indoctrinated in the culture, languages and reli-

gions of Canadian settler society. The aim was to “take the Indian out of the child”, a genocidal purpose designed to eliminate Indigenous consciousness in Canada.

Now the government of Canada, led by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, is consulting First Nations, Métis and Inuit groups as it moves toward establishing the new holiday.

Mr. Ross repeated the federal government’s commitment to “fulfilling all of the calls to action”.

National Chief Perry Bellegarde of the Assembly of First Nations says that the AFN has been pushing for such a national holiday since 2010, and that First Nations need to be involved in choosing an appropriate date.

Among possible dates, National Chief Bellegarde suggested, are June 21, which is

now National Indigenous Day, and September 30, which is now Orange Shirt Day in British Columbia as part of a residential schools awareness campaign.

As a holiday legislated by the federal government, a National Day for Truth and Reconciliation would apply to workers under federal jurisdiction, such as banking and the federal civil service. Each province and territory would have to decide whether to declare the day a holiday in its own jurisdiction. Alberta has declared general support for such a day.

The recently elected government in Ontario declined to answer questions about the proposal, but perhaps its attitude may be revealed by one action: one month after the Ontario election, workshops to update curriculum to include information about Indigenous history, were suddenly cancelled as wasteful spending.

## Drafting a Code of Conduct

Crown-Indigenous Relations Minister Carolyn Bennett told the annual Assembly of First Nations gathering in Vancouver that Canada needs a mechanism to protect their rights and title to end the practice of court battles and protect inherent and treaty rights.

Ms. Bennett said that the federal government must “get out of the way” of First Nations seeking self-determination by abandoning colonial policies and working with Aboriginal leaders to address such issues as justice, health,

racism and child welfare.

The Minister announced that the government is working to develop a framework, a code of conduct, for Canada that would ensure that it follows the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and the demands of generations of Aboriginal leaders.

The code of conduct, it is hoped, will be in place before the federal election in 2019.

Perry Bellegarde, re-elected National Chief of the

Assembly of First Nations, and his four competitors, in their election speeches, said that the status quo, based on a colonial approach, cannot continue. Ms. Bennett acknowledged that Canada itself had been the greatest barrier to self-determination, and said that the help of Indigenous leaders is needed to find a new path.

Ms. Bennett said that the “denial of rights” approach, which requires that rights be claimed proven in court, had to be replaced by an automatic recognition of rights.

The code of conduct would serve to ensure that First Nations can’t be “taken backwards” by future governments.

BC Civil Liberties Association and the Union of BC Indian Chiefs are also concerned about police stops which are not recorded as a street check, so do not show up in police department data. The two groups had filed a complaint in June, based on the earlier information, and filed amendments to their complaint when the data about women was received.

In a news release, Chief Bob Chamberlin of the BC Union of Indian Chiefs asked: “How can we speak about true reconciliation when Indigenous peoples, and particularly women, are being targeted by the police on a daily basis?”

In Ontario, and particularly Toronto, carding was abandoned following a storm of controversy. With a spate of recent shootings in the Toronto area, pressure is rising to bring carding back, even though the evidence is that the practice hinders, rather than enhances, crime-fighting.

## Bellegarde Re-elected

Perry Bellegarde defeated four other candidates to win a second term as the National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations. The victory came on the second ballot, when Chief Bellegarde received almost 63% of the 522 votes cast (60% was required).

The other candidates were Sheila North of Manitoba, Russ Diabo of Quebec, Miles Richardson of British Columbia, and Katherine Whitecloud of Manitoba.

Chief Bellegarde is from the Little Black Bear First Nation in the Treaty 4 Territory of Saskatchewan.

Controversy followed the election as a result of the presence during the vote of Crown-Indigenous Relations

Minister Carolyn Bennett. Unsuccessful candidates claimed election interference by the federal government.

A statement from the Office of Ms. Bennett denied that the Minister intervened in the election. The statement said that Ms. Bennett was invited by Chief Marlene Poitras of Alberta to listen to regional concerns, and did not discuss the election.

Criticized by other candidates for being too cosy with the government, National Chief Bellegarde said that, in his first term, billions of dollars in new funding for Indigenous issues have been the result of his close relationship with the federal government.

## Separating Families

While most Canadians were commenting in our self-righteous way about the recent American experience, based on a president’s whim, with heartless separation of children from their parents, many others were writing articles pointing out our own lack of innocence.

Various articles discussed various aspects of Canadian history, but most of them were devoted to a review of Canada’s shameful history of ripping apart Indigenous families.

An example of such articles is Gillian Steward’s “Separating children from parents, the Canadian way”, which appeared in the print edition of the *Toronto Star* on June 27.

With sentences like, “I could hardly bear to listen to the recording of the children sobbing for their parents in one of the detention camps on the Southern US border,” Ms. Steward acknowledges the heartbreaking palpable pain of the horrifying process.

She tells us that we know the consequences of such an event, for, “It certainly happened here in Canada.”

Ms. Steward begins, of course, with the residential schools. She writes, “But there were no cameras to record their fury and sobs when over decades 150,000 First Nation, Inuit and Métis children were rounded up, forcibly taken from their parents and carted off to residential schools. There was no public outcry even though the children spent years away from their parents and often lost touch with them altogether. There were no investigations when children died at residential schools.”

Ms. Steward then turns to the so-called Sixties Scoop (she does not use that term, a term which blithely refers to a bitter reality of intense sor-

row from family disruption).

Ms. Steward writes, “In the 1960s some provincial governments decided the best way to deal with the rising costs of their Indigenous populations was to put their children up for adoption. Recent research indicates upwards of 20,000 kids were removed from their homes, mostly in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba, and adopted by non-Indigenous families thousands of miles away.”

To address the continuing Canadian reality of family separation, Ms. Steward cites an email by Cindy Blackstock, Executive Director of First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada and a Professor of Social Work at McGill University, who says, “First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Peoples know the trauma of unnecessary removals of children away from their parents by the State. Every separation is traumatic and that trauma deepens as time away increases often resulting in life long and multi-generational harms.”

Ms. Steward notes that, “As a consequence (of Canada’s underfunding of social services in Indigenous communities), more Indigenous children are likely to end up separated from their families in foster care, group homes or detention facilities than non-Indigenous children. In Manitoba, for example, 10,000 of the 11,000 children in care are Indigenous. In Alberta about 70 percent of children in foster care are Indigenous.”

Ms. Steward concludes, “Separating kids from parents en masse as is happening on the US border attracts a lot of attention. But it is no less painful when it happens one parent and child at a time and away from the cameras.”

## Discrimination in Practice

We have anecdotal evidence that people of colour face discrimination as they go through their daily routine. There is also no shortage of documentation and study to give general validity to the individual experiences.

For example, in Vancouver police use random street checks, also known as carding, as part of their crime-fighting program. In July, the Vancouver Police Department provided information on the program in response to a freedom of information request by the BC Civil Liberties Association and the Union of BC Indian Chiefs.

The report showed that Indigenous women, who make up only 2% of Vancouver’s female population, accounted for 21% of all checks of women in 2016. An earlier freedom of information request got information showing that 15% of street checks conducted between 2008 and

2017 were of Indigenous people, who were only 2% of the population of the city.

That earlier information also showed that Indigenous men (1% of Vancouver’s population) accounted for about 12% of street checks. During that same period (2008 to 2017) 3% of checks involved Black men, who form just 0.5% of the population.

During the street checks, also called carding, police stop individuals and record their identification and other personal information, even though no offence has occurred. Some individuals find themselves targeted repeatedly for no reason other than their appearance.

At least in Toronto, and probably in other places, these stops have led to subsequent public police statements that these individuals are “known to police”, suggesting that they have a history of criminal activity.

# Current Eclectic

## Militarizing Space

The General Assembly of the United Nations set up the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in 1959 to govern the exploration and use of space for the benefit of all humanity: for peace, security and development.

The Committee was instrumental in the creation of the five treaties and five principles of outer space.

The General Assembly adopted the "Declaration of Legal Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space". The Declaration stipulated that in the exploration and use of outer space States should be guided by certain principles, among them:

1. The exploration and use of outer space shall be carried on for the benefit and in the interests of all mankind.

2. Outer space and celestial bodies are free for exploration and use by all States on a basis of equality and in accordance with international law.

3. Outer space and celestial bodies are not subject to national appropriation by claim of sovereignty, by means of use or occupation, or by any other means.

4. The activities of States in the exploration and use of outer space shall be carried on in accordance with international law, including the Charter of the United Nations, in the interest of maintaining international peace and security and promoting international cooperation and understanding.

6. In the exploration and use of outer space, States shall be guided by the princi-

ple of co-operation and mutual assistance and shall conduct all their activities in outer space with due regard for the corresponding interests of other States.

7. Ownership of objects launched into outer space, and of their component parts, is not affected by their passage through outer space or by their return to the earth. Such objects or component parts found beyond the limits of the State of registry shall be returned to that State.

9. States shall regard astronauts as envoys of mankind in outer space, and shall render to them all possible assistance in the event of accident, distress, or emergency landing on the territory of a foreign State or on the high seas. Astronauts who make such a landing shall be safely and promptly returned to the State of registry of their space vehicle.

Clearly, the United Nations opposed the extension of terrestrial hostilities to outer space. In later resolutions, it addresses issues of weapons in space and other related matters.

Over the decades, the rules against the weaponization or militarization of outer space have been eroded. Useful activities, like establishing communications satellites, have eventually been co-opted for military purposes like spy satellites.

The United States has put its system of satellites to many military uses, as have the other states with the ability to launch satellites. Control and use of these purposes has been, so far, dispersed among the various agencies which

initiated them. Various suggestions, like Ronald Reagan's Strategic Defence Initiative, "Star Wars", for robust use of outer space of military ends in an integrated way have proved fruitless.

Then, along came Donald Trump. President Trump has a vision of a Space Force as a separate branch of the military, like the army, the navy, the airforce, and so on.

The word was that the Pentagon, with officers always keen to maintain their fiefdoms, opposed a separate Space Force, but were interested in a Space Command to coordinate its many projects in outer space. Apparently that opposition has evaporated.

It has now been announced that Trump's administration has agreed to establish a sixth branch of the military.

While the administration, it seems, has the power to establish something like the Space Command, establishing a Space Force would require action by Congress. With the midterm elections approaching there may not be enough time to pass the legislation. Unfortunately, there is little reason to believe that the Democrats, even as a majority in Congress, would stand up against President Trump's bullying. Congress declined last year to fund a separate force, but the army changed its position, and Congress can too.

An interest sidelight on this project is that it is being seen as a way for President Trump's re-election campaign to raise funds by selling merchandise, just like any other commercial huckster, as announced by campaign manager Brad Parscale.

A Pentagon report says that the new military force, joining the army, navy, air force, marine corps and the coast guard, would develop aerospace war-fighting operations to protect US national interests.

## US Opposes Breast Feeding

Hundreds of delegates representing the world's governments who gathered in Geneva for the United Nations-affiliated World Health Organization Assembly were shocked by US opposition to a resolution to encourage breast feeding. Based on decades of research, the resolution, which says that mother's milk is healthiest for children and that countries should strive to limit the inaccurate or misleading marketing of breast milk substitutes, was expected to be approved quickly and easily.

However, American officials sought to water down the resolution by removing language that called on governments to "protect, promote and support breast-feeding" and

another passage that called on policy-makers to restrict the promotion of food products which many experts say can have deleterious effects on young children.

When that effort failed, the US turned to threats, according to participants. Ecuador, which had planned to introduce the measure, was threatened with punishing trade measures and withdrawal of crucial military aid.

The Ecuadorean government quickly acquiesced.

At least a dozen countries, most of them poor nations in Africa and Latin America, declined to sponsor the resolution, citing fears of American retaliation. The US even threatened to cut its \$845 million contributions to the WHO

budget.

The Russians ultimately stepped in to introduce the measure — and the Americans did not threaten them.

The intensity of the administration's opposition to the breast-feeding resolution stunned public health officials and foreign diplomats.

Patti Rundall, policy director of the British advocacy group BabyMilkAction, who has attended meetings of the Assembly, the decision-making body of the World Health Organization since the late 1980s, said, "What happened was tantamount to blackmail, with the US holding the world hostage and trying to overturn nearly 40 years of consensus on the best way to protect infant and young child health".

## Jobs Picture Worsens

A report released in August establishes that the condition of working people continues to decline. According to the report, employment rose by 54,000 jobs in July, but that was the net result of a loss of 28,800 full-time jobs with an increase in part-time work by 82,000 jobs. Working people, continue to face the trend to a snowballing part-time economy.

Workers older than 24, the ones most likely to be maintaining a household, actually lost 24,600 full-time jobs, while picking up 29,200 part-time positions. Workers aged 15 to 24, most likely students taking summer jobs, lost 3,400

full-time jobs while gaining 52,800.

Quebec gained 14,700 full-time jobs, and lost almost 23,100 part-time positions, to be one of the few areas with a positive full-time jobs picture, Manitoba and British Columbia being the others.

Ontario lost 19,600 full-time jobs, and got over 80,000 part time jobs.

Alberta lost 21,700 full-time jobs, and gained only 18,100 part-time positions

BC had strong growth, gaining 9,600 full time jobs and 1600 part-time.

Other provinces had smaller numbers, though significant in their own provincial context.

## NAFTA Negotiations

The trade war, particularly between the USA and China, has been getting the lion's share of the press, so the negotiations of the North American Free Trade Agreement have mostly dropped out of sight. However there has been some coverage.

In spite of all the sound and fury about American tariff walls and Canadian retaliation, the negotiations are actually continuing. Perhaps as part of a negotiating tactic, President Trump claimed in mid-August that he was freezing Canada out of the negotiations because, "Their tariffs are too high, their barriers are too strong, so we're not even talking to them right now."

Negotiations are going on with Mexico, so perhaps the hope is that Canadians will turn on Prime Minister Trudeau, whom President

Trump professes not to like. American officials, on the other hand, say that the one-on-one negotiations with Mexico do not reflect an attitude toward Canada but an effort to resolve issues which are specific to Mexico.

Any agreement with Mexico would become part of the tripartite agreement. Canadian officials say that they support the USA-Mexico negotiations because the differences between those two countries must be resolved if the entire negotiations process is to succeed.

Canadian officials have indicated that Canadian negotiators, including foreign Affairs Minister Chrystia Freeland, Ambassador MacNaughten and the rest of the negotiating team are in regular contact with their counterparts in the other two countries.

## Great Leap to China

Perhaps it is a coincidence, perhaps not, that the mysterious affliction which has plagued American diplomats (and a few Canadians) in Cuba has appeared in China just at the time when China and the United States are locked in an escalating trade war.

In early June, after employees at the US consulate in Guangzhou experienced symptoms like those suffered by US diplomats in Cuba in 2016, the US State Department advised American citizens living or travelling in China to seek medical attention if they experienced similar "auditory or sensory phenomena".

The advisory suggested seeking help immediately, and not looking for the source of the problem.

The US, unable to deter-

mine the cause of the problem, blamed the Cuban government for failing to protect US diplomats. Some Cuban diplomats were expelled, and the process of normalizing relations between Cuba and the USA came to a grinding halt.

A medical team was sent to the consulate, and conducted tests on those requesting them. Victims needing further testing have been sent to the American facility in Pennsylvania which examined the Cuban cases. Efforts to identify the problem in China have been no more successful than they were in Cuba.

Unless an international conspiracy targeting Americans is suspected, or some other link is established, the probability would seem to be that the government of Cuba can no longer be blamed for whatever is happening.

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## Novichok Again

AN EDITORIAL by WILFRED SZCZESNY

In July, the nerve agent Novichok made the news once again as a woman in the United Kingdom and her boyfriend were admitted to hospital on June 30. Tests at Britain's defence research laboratory established that they had fallen victim to the same chemical as Yulia Skripal and her former double agent father some time earlier. The Skripals survived; Dawn Sturgess did not.

Subsequently, the police found a small bottle of the nerve agent at the home of Ms. Sturgess. Though Britain accused Russia of attacking the Skripals, and led a widespread attack against Russia and its diplomats, it has not said much about Ms. Sturgess's involvement — or if it has, the media on this side of the ocean have ignored it. Perhaps the authorities are still investigating the issue to determine whether Ms. Sturgess was a Russian agent (which is possible) or whether some other actor played a role (which is also possible).

Though some reports have claimed that only Russia has, or can manufacture, Novichok, other accounts suggest that any competent chemist could produce it, and certainly most governments could. In addition, some countries (the USA and Britain are often mentioned specifically) kept samples of Novichok for research when the stockpiles were destroyed.

The speed with which Britain's facilities were able to diagnose and treat the Skripals suggests that the country was familiar with, and conscious of, the chemical. In that context, the nagging question arises: of the four victims, why did that particular one die? It could be coincidence, or it could be something deeper.

Perhaps the guilty party planted the bottle to frame Dawn Sturgess. If so, then the next question, of course, is the identity of the guilty party.

Another possibility is that Ms. Sturgess did the deed as someone's agent, got careless and paid with her life. Again the question is, "Who?"

A third possibility is that she did not get careless, but someone was tying up loose ends. That still leaves the same question.

Perhaps in days, perhaps in years, the answer buried in some archive will probably emerge. For the moment nothing can be ruled out, and nothing should be assumed. Too many possible miscreants have shown that they are quite capable.

Unfortunately, in this age of rampant partisanship, little is likely to be trusted.

## Ontario's Trumpish Factor

One really should not draw too close a parallel between America's President Trump and Ontario's Premier Ford. In many ways, the two men are quite different (some differences still wait to be revealed). However, they are similar in many ways.

They both highly value money and the power it brings. They both have no respect for tradition, and limited respect for other people. They are both vindictive. They both act without thinking things through, and make decisions without a plan. The list goes on.

Just as President Trump creates a shambles wherever he ventures, so Premier Ford tends to create a mess for other people to clean up.

Very recently, one such mess in Ontario was the decision, in the midst of the municipal election campaign, to cut the number of councillors in half. This cost-saving, efficiency-producing edict was reserved for Toronto, costing the city a huge price as all the election preparations had to be scrapped and done over.

Though the city has sought legal opinions on the matter, and there is some basis in the City of Toronto Act to think that the province has overstepped its bounds, the situation in the city is chaotic, with some people accepting the province's Bill 5, and others seeking to overthrow it.

An added complication is that Toronto City Council is not united on the issue.

Another mess is in the field of education. Ford's government decided, weeks before the start of the school year, that the health curriculum, because of the units relating to sexuality, would be replaced by material from the last millennium, before sexting, social media, same-sex marriage, and a host of other phenomena.

In the controversy that arose, the Ford government issued contradictory informa-

tion, some of which was unwise advice, and some of which may have been illegal.

Teachers and other people concerned with the health and safety of children say that essence of the change proposed by the government will be to create a dangerous environment for children, and endanger their physical and mental health. Dozens of school boards have declared that they would teach the updated curriculum and elementary school teachers meeting in convention have decided that their professional organization would support any teacher facing problems for teaching the 2015 curriculum.

Ford's education plan includes cancellation of \$100 million for school repairs.

Proceeding with his ideological agenda, Premier Ford has ripped up 758 green energy contracts, and passed a bill killing a 10-year-old project on which \$100 million has been spent.

Ontario's cap and trade plan has been scrapped. The cost of that move, including possible compensation to companies who bought credits totaling \$2.9 billion, has not been calculated.

In the meantime, \$30 million has been allotted to join Saskatchewan in opposing the carbon tax Ottawa will impose to replace cap and trade.

What is known is that the income from the program will be lost to funding public transit, retrofitting of schools and other public buildings as well as homes to increase energy efficiency, and subsidies for electric cars.

On health, \$335 million has been removed from the projected mental health budget, and the plan to pay for some prescriptions for young people has been curtailed.

A basic income test project in its first of three years has been cut (breaking an election promise, though the government denies it), and a projected welfare payments increase has been cut in half. In addition, the claw-back of earnings by recipients of so-

cial assistance has been jacked up.

There is growing fear that the Doug Ford days will resemble the Mike Harris days, a period when the poor were savaged and ravaged, and social services were slashed, pushing the poor into deeper poverty.

A even greater fear is that Premier Ford, enabled by his governing majority will just ram through any measure he wants, without regard to democratic forms or niceties.

Judging by his actions in his first weeks in power, both concerns are based in reality. By the time of the next election, when voters will have an opportunity to correct their mistake, the province may be so broke (as it was after Mike Harris) that recovery will take years, and even decades.

Premier Ford has washed his hands of any responsibility to cooperate with the federal government to support asylum seekers.

Taking a page out of Donald Trump's attitude toward media, Premier Ford is setting up a dedicated, publicly funded media outlet to carry the news he wants the way he wants it. A test model was put into operation by his election campaign, in which his advertising message was presented as news.

On the press as well, Premier Ford and his government are following the Trump lead by treating the press as a public enemy and referring to "fake news" when they disagree with, or dislike, a report.

Just as he had few details in his election campaign, in many cases of scrapped programs, the government does not have a substitute, just a promise that one is coming.

What is coming is big expenditures on jobs for Ford's buddies.

Even on a "buck a beer", we get a program allowing sale of beer for a dollar, but carrying no obligation, and no control of quality or quantity.

Now we have an idea what efficiencies Ford was talking about, and who his people are.

## COMMENTARY

### 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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— Photo: Wilfred Szczesny

# An Exciting Year Ahead

The coming season is shaping up to be an exciting time in the life of the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians, as celebrations of the AUUC centenary continue and other projects come on line.

Readers of the “UCH” are aware that many celebratory events have already been held.

Among the celebrations has been the excellent weekend in Vancouver, with a high-quality concert in the North Vancouver Centennial Theatre on Friday, June 8, and the sold-out banquet at the Ukrainian Cultural Centre on Sunday, June 10.

In addition to celebrating the anniversary of the AUUC, these events also marked the 90th anniversary of the hall.

About a month earlier, on May 6, the AUUC Calgary Branch presented *Celebrating Our 100th* at Leacock Theatre at Mount Royal University, featuring the Calgary Hopak Ensemble and the performing arts groups of the Calgary AUUC.

The Trembita Choir of the AUUC Edmonton Branch travelled to Calgary to participate in this celebration.

This year, the Regina AUUC Annual Concert on



February 10, with an audience of some 500 people at the Regina Performing Arts Centre, was dedicated to the 100th Anniversary of the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians and the 90th Anniversary of the Ukrainian Cultural Centre.

AUUC Winnipeg Branch celebrated at the Ukrainian Labour Temple on May 12 with the “AUUC@100” Gala Banquet. The hall was full to enjoy fine food and see a fine program with several innovative elements.

AUUC Welland Branch led the celebratory parade, with a banquet on October 15, 2017(!), celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Welland Ukrainian Labour Temple.

Of course, most of these Branches included recognition of the AUUC centenary in other events on their calendar. Perhaps most notable among these was Regina,

— Photo: Mark Greschner



AUUC Regina Branch marked the AUUC Centennial at its Annual Concert on February 10.

— Photo: Scott Alpen



AUUC Vancouver Branch celebrated on the weekend of June 8–10.

which reports that Mosaic was devoted to the AUUC centenary.

Many AUUC Branches also initiated or completed other kinds of centennial projects. For example, AUUC Vancouver and Edmonton Branches undertook archival projects for the centennial. AUUC Toronto Branch has been preparing to publish a book reflecting the life and work of Natalka Mochoruk, longtime cultural director. Ms. Mochoruk has a rich treasury of work, including both original arrangements and compositions.

All this work was done in Branches whose halls are adorned with 8’x4’ proclamations of the centenary, by members sporting an attractive pin bearing the centennial logo.

Now a new season has begun. Bridging the time between the 2017-18 and 2018-2019 seasons was the AUUC Poltava Ensemble’s Portugal/Spain tour in July and August, to perform at festivals. It should be noted that this tour, based on an invitation, is a repeat performance, resulting from successful earlier trips.

The 2018-2019 season is shaping up to be at least as eventful as the last one.

In Vancouver, the AUUC Branch will pursue its usual full calendar of events. The performing arts sector will stage concerts, and participate in festivals, where the dancers have traditionally competed with great success.

One of the outstanding events at AUUC Vancouver Branch this year will be a national dance seminar scheduled for November. There has not been such a seminar for several years, so interest across the country is high.

Also foreseen are a choral seminar in Winnipeg and an orchestral seminar in Regina.

AUUC Edmonton Branch is preparing its major centennial event, scheduled for the first weekend in November. Rumours suggest that this event, in its production values, will rival the *Tak Bulo* event which the Branch staged in September, 2016.

AUUC Welland Branch is planning an event to mark the AUUC centennial on October 21 at the Ukrainian Labour Temple. There is some possibility that the Welland Ukrainian Mandolin Orchestra, in a



On August 18, Museum volunteer Victoria Kravchyna assisted Museum Director Lyudmyla Pogoryelova to unpack the crates containing 46 pieces of art received as a donation from Ukrainian artists. Many of the pieces will be on display from October 14, when an exhibition will be launched with a reception.

process of reorganization after the retirement of Rudy Wasylenky as conductor in January, 2018, will be ready to perform a few numbers. Be that as it may, there will be a concert presentation, featuring the Beryozka Choir of the Federation of Russian Canadians (Ontario), and a banquet.

The following week, on October 28, AUUC Toronto Branch will host a closing banquet at the AUUC Cultural Centre, which will also celebrate the AUUC centenary. The Branch is planning an event reflecting the variety of activity at the hall located at 1604 Bloor Street West. This should be a nostalgic tearjerker of an event in some spots, with generous doses of humour, ultimately to lift everyone’s spirit.

A week before the Welland celebration, on October 14, the Taras H. Museum in To-

ronto will host a reception to open, officially, an exhibition of new art received in mid-August as a donation from Ukraine.

The donation consists of 46 items received directly from Kyiv. These are pieces selected from a 200-item collection celebrating the 200th anniversary of the birth of Taras Shevchenko. They were donated to the Toronto-based Museum by the artists following the 2014 commemoration.

An additional three pieces were donated while the artist was in Toronto.

As the Museum cannot display all the new art at once, some (perhaps half) will be shown from October 14. A number of possible alternatives are being considered for the display of the balance. One option is to unveil the remainder with a new exhibition in 2019, while the Museum is

(Continued on Page 6.)

— Photo: Shellet Ng



On May 6, the AUUC Calgary Branch presented *Celebrating Our 100th*.

Photo: Wilf Schubert



AUUC Winnipeg Branch celebrated at the Ukrainian Labour Temple on May 12 with the “AUUC@100” Gala Banquet.

# Closing Concert in Edmonton

On May 26, the Trembita Children's Dance School and Choir were joined by the Trembita Adult Choir and the Hopak Choir from Calgary in the final concert of the year at the Ukrainian Centre in Edmonton.

The program was coordinated by Dance School Director, Tamara Krausher.

Dance School Instructors are Maria Vorotilenko and Jordan Onyshchuk. The Children's Choir Conductor is Marina Lavrinenko. The Trembita Adult Choir Conductor is Olesya Nazarenko. The Hopak Choir Conductor is Violetta Dmitrova. Svitlana Romanova accompanied all the singing on the piano.

Winston Gereluk acted as Master of Ceremonies.

Vice-President Lesley Bibkevich welcomed everybody to the concert on behalf of the Executive Council.

The Tiny Tots performed a Central Ukrainian Dance called "Malitka".

Dasha Lavrinenko and Elizabeth Shemchuk sang a Bukovynian duet.

The Trembita Children's Choir performed three beautiful songs: "Doshchyk" (Rain), "Vesnyana pisnya" (Spring Song), and "Radisna Pora" (Happy Times).

The Junior Dance Group performed the Central Ukrainian dance "Moldiy Kozaky" (Young Cossacks), from Zaporizhia, the region of the Zaporozhian Cossacks, centuries ago.

Paul Greene, Trembita Choir member, sang two famous Ukrainian folk songs: "Dyvlyusya na nebo" (I Gaze at the Heavens) and "Krystaleva chara" (Crystal Goblet).

The Lileya Dance Group



"Moldiy Kozaky" (Young Cossacks), from Zaporizhia in Centrak Ukraine, was performed by the Junior Dance Group.



The Tiny Tots, accompanied by dance school instructor Maria Vorotilenko, performed the Central Ukrainian Dance "Malitka".

performed the Western Ukrainian dance "Na Hutsulshchyniy" (In the Hutsul Region).

Following a short intermission, the girls of the Lileya Dancers performed the Central Ukrainian lyrical "Shawl Dance".

The Trembita Adult Choir and Calgary Singers performed three Ukrainian Folk Songs, "Oy peed vyshneyu" (Under the Cherry Tree), the humorous song from the operetta *Natalka Poltavka*. *Na vulytsiy muzychenka hraye* (Music is Playing on the Street), and finally, "Oy khmeel, zelen khmeel", (Oh, the Green Hops).

Orest Hrechukh, sang the solo "Neech yaka misyachna" (The Night is Moonlit),

with the Choir singing the refrain.

The Kalyna Dance Group performed the Central Ukrainian dance "Vesna rozbudylasya" (Spring Has Awakened).

The Lileya Dancers returned to perform the famous Ukrainian dance "Hopak", which greatly enthused the audience of approximately 150 spectators.

The audience was very please with the very beautiful concert. Many approached the performers to congratulate them

The performers and the audience shared lunch completing a social event which was enjoyed by all present. Everybody left in high spirits.

— Paul Greene



The Lileya Dance Group performed the Western Ukrainian dance "Na Hutsulshchyniy" (In the Hutsul Region).



The young women of the Lileya Dancers performed the Central Ukrainian lyrical "Shawl Dance".



The Lileya Dancers returned to close the concert with the energetic Ukrainian dance "Hopak", to the delight of the audience.

## An Exciting Year Ahead

(Continued from Page 5.) still in its current location at 1614 Bloor Street West; another is to use the additional paintings as the first major exhibition in the new location of the Museum. There are also other possibilities.

The new location of the Taras Shevchenko Museum will be 1604 Bloor Street West, where the AUUC Cultural Centre is found now. The move was approved at the last Annual General Meeting of the Taras H. Shevchenko Museum and Memorial Park Foundation, and subsequently by the National Committee of the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians.

The AUUC Cultural Centre will undergo substantial renovation to meet the needs of the Museum. The start of renovations is scheduled for November 1. Most of the stud-

ies required to ensure that 1604 can be renovated as desired have been done.

AUUC Toronto Branch is preparing to vacate the building by that date, and exploring alternative locations for Branch activities. The editorial offices of the *Ukrainian Canadian Herald*, will also be relocated during the renovations.

In addition to housing the Museum, the site at 1604 Bloor Street West will provide space for the editorial offices of the periodical, and accommodate the activity of AUUC Toronto Branch.

In 2019, the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians will be among the organizations and institutions marking the centennial of the Winnipeg General Strike. The Ukrainian Labour Temple in Winnipeg played an important role in

that strike, and support for that action, as well as for militant initiatives by working people elsewhere was characteristic of the AUUC throughout Canada.

There have been indications that AUUC Winnipeg and Edmonton Branches are well on the way to suitable commemorative action, and other Branches are expected to participate.

Looking a bit beyond the 2018-19 season, in the fall of 2019 the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians will meet in Convention.

## Tackling Saudi Arabia

(Continued from Page 1.) our internal affairs".

It said that it will not accept any form of interference in its internal affairs and considers the Canadian position "an attack" requiring a firm stance to deter "attempts to undermine the sovereignty of the KSA".

Among other measures applied by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was the recall of its nationals studying in Canada.

In addition to a serious loss of income this represented for some Canadian schools, it also created a difficult situation for hospitals that have many Saudi residents on staff.

Concern has been expressed about the actions of former Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird, who openly criticised Canada's action and called on Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to fly immediately to Riyadh to apologize to Saudi leadership. Furthermore, he did it on the state's television network.

Apparently no mention was made during the broadcast that Mr. Baird is a paid adviser to Barrick Gold Corp., a mining giant with an ongoing venture in Saudi Arabia, and does not represent Canada. It has been suggested that the Ethics Commissioner investigate Mr. Baird's action.

HAPPY 100<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY,  
Olga Pawlychyn!  
From  
AUUC Winnipeg Branch

# Poltava Pavilion At Mosaic 2018



Students at the Poltava School of Performing Arts entertained with "Children of Ukraine".

— Story photos: Mark Greschner



The program included "Tersky tanets", performed by the Poltava Dancers and Orchestra.

The music! The dance! The food! These were the sounds, sights and scents which attracted large numbers of people to the Poltava Pavilion at Mosaic 2018.

AUUC Regina Branch presented the 51st Mosaic Festival of Cultures in Regina on March 30 and 31, and June 1. This year's Mosaic featured and paid tribute to the 100th anniversary of the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians. A featured display was dedicated to the first fifty years of the Association in Regina.

The Poltava Pavilion was located, as always, at the Regina Performing Arts Centre, Regina Branch's home away from home for the 29th year. Open for three evenings and Saturday afternoon, the pavilion was visited by over 8000 patrons. This venue allows for excellent seating for both concert-goers and those enjoying the Ukrainian dining experience.

The professional, expansive stage, and the 24-member orchestra in the foreground, provided for excellent viewing by everyone in the auditorium.

The concert program format has not changed for many years, with 21 half-hour performances. Five of these were by the 84 students of the AUUC School of Ukrainian Performing Arts — one each day on Thursday and Friday at 5:30 and then three on Saturday afternoon. The children were followed by the AUUC Poltava Ensemble Orchestra, Dancers and Vocalists, five times each evening and six on Saturday.

The calibre of the performances by the children, orchestra and dancers was highly acclaimed and complimented



The Poltava Ensemble dance the popular dance "Dziumbalyky".



Vlad Osatiuk conducted the AUUC Regina Poltava Ensemble Orchestra.

by patrons' comments and media coverage.

Leading the cultural component were Poltava Ensemble Dance Director Lisa Waner and Poltava Ensemble Orchestra Director Vlad Osatiuk, and Poltava Dance School Instructors Jordan Bidyk, Nicholas Dmyterko, Daniel Hebert, Luke Melenchuk, Emery Millette, Julia Pringle, Kayla Swicheniuk, and Bailey Swicheniuk.

Recognition must be given to Sasha Lapchuk (AUUC Regina Branch President) for the seeming year-long coordination of Mosaic preparations, Poltava Pavilion Manager David Yaff, Kitchen Manager Jennifer Swicheniuk and her totally committed kitchen staff, and Joanne Laslo and Gerry Shmyr for the countless hours of food preparation, particularly the thousands of perogies (varenyky) needed for the Pavilion.

Gratitude is also expressed to the bartenders at the two liquor stations, Masters of Ceremonies Dave Wilson (Poltava Ensemble President) and Ken Lozinsky, Pavilion

Ambassadors Dion Tchorezewski and Noah Evanchuk, Youth Ambassadors Bob Millette and Paige Lekatch, and lobby display and decoration designers Rob Boyd, Mark Greschner and Gerry Shmyr, and Lynne Lapchuk, and Joanne Laslo (who was responsible for pavilion finances).

A huge thanks also to Michaelina Yaffe for coordinating and leading the Poltava School's change rooms throughout the three days.

Once again, special thanks must be given to the parents of the children in the dance school, and friends of the AUUC Regina Branch, who made up the over 100 volunteers. The Regina Executive thanks all of them for their assistance in making the Poltava Pavilion a resounding success. Thank You!

—Gerry Shmyr



Always popular is "The Gypsies", performed by the AUUC Poltava Dancers.



The Poltava Dancers performed "Hopak".



Female dancers of the AUUC Poltava Ensemble were featured in "Obvyvaty".



Male dancers of the AUUC Poltava Ensemble were featured in "Zaporozhian Cossacks".



"Tersky tanets", performed by the Poltava Ensemble, is a spirited dance of a people in the Russian Federation.

## Perogies and Politics

*Perogies and politics: Canada's Ukrainian left, 1891—1991*, Rhonda L. Hinther. University of Toronto Press, 2018, Toronto Buffalo London. (Studies in Gender and History). Includes bibliographical references and index. Hard cover. ISBN 978-1-4875-0049-8

Since there is an informative cover blurb, allow me to quote it.

“In *Perogies and Politics*, Rhonda Hinther explores the twentieth-century history of the Ukrainian left in Canada from the standpoint of the women, men, and children who formed and fostered it.

“For leftist Ukrainians, culture and politics were inextricably linked. The interaction of Ukrainian socio-cultural identity with Marxist-Leninism resulted in one of the most dynamic national working-class movements Canada has ever known. The Ukrainian left's success lay in its ability to meet the needs of its supporters and to speak in meaningful, respectful, and empowering ways to their experiences and interests as individuals and as members of a distinct immigrant working-class community. This offered Ukrainians a radical social, cultural, and political alterna-

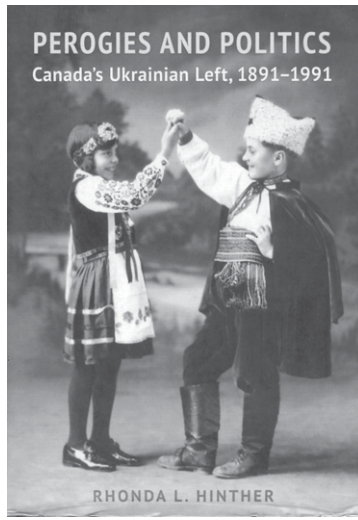
tive to the fledgling Ukrainian churches and right-wing nationalist movements. Hinther's colourful and in-depth work reveals how Left-wing Ukrainians were affected by changing social, economic, and political forces and how they in turn responded to and challenged these forces.”

This blurb tells a lot about the book, but it also leaves a lot unsaid.

This book began life as Rhonda Hinther's doctoral thesis at McMaster University. This fact explains much about the book, which is far from the typical publication prepared for general distribution.

The other parent, so to speak, of *Perogies and Politics* is an activity from years earlier. This was an oral history project motivated by a desire to capture the stories while the narrators were still available to tell them.

If you're like me (long



memory, not a historian) you have a certain concept of a history book: it starts at some point and takes a (mainly) chronological path to another point, where it ends. Along the path are people and events that are connected. The narrative describes the people and events and discusses those connections. Think Grade 9 history in 1957 or so.

Rhonda Hinther's *Perogies and Politics* is not that kind of history book. It is more like my conception of a sociology book, in that it deals with relationships and their dynamics viewed from several aspects.

The main aspects considered in this volume are eth-

nicity, class, gender and generation. Intersectionality is the key concept, as the author examines these four aspects at their points of intersection.

As the subjects of the study are for the most part working-class Ukrainians, these aspects are examined primarily in relation to intersection with groups outside the community. Within the group, Dr. Hinther discusses the interactions based on gender, generation.

The book devotes what seems like a long time to discussing its methodology. Though it sometimes seems tedious, it really is necessary — for the professional, to ensure that everyone is talking about the same thing; for the layman, to establish what is being discussed.

The study establishes four basic categories: hegemonic masculinity, complicit masculinity, hegemonic femininity, and oppositional femininity.

The book discusses the characteristics of the hegemonic males and source of their dominance, and it discusses the difference between them and the complicit males.

The book touches on many of the main events in the life of the AUUC. However anyone wanting to research the date of the 13th National Convention, or the place of the second National Festival must seek a different book. Even the events which are discussed are not necessarily located in time or place.

Dr. Hinther's treatment of the relationship between the organization and the Communist Party of Canada in its various guises is very interesting.

Most writing on the subject tends to have a distorted view of the relationship, making the AUUC, except on rare occasions, a passive and obedient recipient of CPC directives. *Perogies and Politics* has a more balanced view. The book recognizes that the relationship between the two parties was more equal.

In the first place, the Communist Party, though it did on occasion try to coerce the Ukrainian Labour-Farmer Temple Association (and to a lesser extent the AUUC) to adopt a certain policy, it was always conscious that the ULFTA was a rather important component of its supporting community. The ULFTA, for its part, realized its own importance, and recognized that the Party was not infallible. Furthermore, ULFTA leaders were aware that the majority of ULFTA members were not Party members.

What the book may not make adequately clear is that the leaders of the ULFTA were sincerely devoted to their revolutionary cause. The Ukrainian Social Democratic Party, the leading force behind the creation of the Ukrainian

Labour Temple Association firmly supported the Great October Socialist Revolution. They supported the Bolshevik position against supporting the national bourgeoisie in World War I.

*Perogies and Politics* is very informative on the WWII period when many ULFTA leaders were interned. The AUUC has several accounts of that time, but most of them are from the point of view of the internees.

There are some exceptions, but *Perogies and Politics* is a useful addition to the literature of the women's situation.

For the most part, the book gets it right. The Men's Branches, pretty much ruled the roost. Their determination to remain dominant, often meaning micromanagement, particularly following the 1950s, was a source of friction which contributed in no small measure to splits between the organization and, particularly, performing arts groups.

At the same time, this volume joins a long list of tomes which does not satisfactorily answer the question whether it was actually possible to transform the AUUC into an institution attractive to later generations of Canadian born. Is it not too harsh, as the book seems to conclude on this topic, that the decline of the AUUC from its heyday was mostly due to the inflexibility of the Men's Branch hegemonic males?

Dr. Hinther does address the range of external factors which pressed on the AUUC, but my impression as I read the book, was that the decisive factor, in the opinion of the author, was the rigidity of the hegemonic males. As someone who has lived in the AUUC through the last sixty years or so, I am not certain that judgment is fair.

Of course, the question that comes to my mind repeatedly, stirred even more by this volume, is whether there is a way to bring back to the AUUC the energy of the '20s and '30s, and whether a rejuvenated AUUC could be of a kind to meet my needs.

There is one strange lapse in the book which was disconcerting: for some reason variations of the word “proscribe” appear repeatedly when “prescribe” seems right. How that slip made it through the many readings of the manuscript is a wonder.

(Even as I write this, the disquieting thought disturbs me that I am totally wrong.)

As Rhonda Hinther was granted her degree, I assume that *Perogies and Politics* meets the academic standard. She also meets the lay standard — it is an informative and readable account of AUUC history.

— Wilfred Szczyzny



1981 Proclamation of Ukrainian Pioneer Day, September 7.



## Ukrainian Miscellany

### Health Laws in Practice

At the end of July, Ukraine's Prime Minister Volodymyr Groysman reported that more than 12 million people had already concluded contracts for primary care with their physicians. Standards have been drawn up, as well as a schedule of examinations for those doctors. This is a new system, a new quality of services, monitored by the established National Health Service. For each

patient, the state will pay the doctors.

According to the head of government, the list of services in the primary chain had also been approved, and all procedures standardized.

Meanwhile, the system for providing medicines was operative. First of all, it is about the government program Available Medicines, which was launched in April, 2017. By the end of July, 2018, more than 21 million prescriptions had been reimbursed under the program.

### Ukraine: Economic

For Ukraine, at least, the unpleasantness between Saudi Arabia and Canada has a potential silver lining. Not having sold wheat to Saudi Arabia since 2016, Ukraine hopes to pick up the orders lost by Canada.

Investing.com had an interesting Reuters article on August 9 pointing out that "a low harvest in Europe and Riyadh's decision to cancel grain imports from Canada might give Ukraine a chance to export wheat to Saudi Arabia again this season."

Germany and Poland have been the leading wheat exporters to Saudi Arabia, but poor weather could affect their exports, improving Ukraine's chances.

Ukraine is a major supplier of barley to Saudi Arabia. Smaller barley harvests in Germany, France and Australia could lead to Ukraine's share of Saudi Arabia's barley market rising from 22% last season.

Despite a smaller harvest, Ukraine could, potentially, double its barley exports to Saudi Arabia to some 4 million tonnes.

At the same time, Ukraine is hoping that trade tensions between Washington and Beijing, as well as increasing consumption in China, will create new opportunities to boost grains and oilseed exports to China.

Nikolay Gorbachov, President of the Ukrainian Grain Association, expects Ukraine's exports of all grains to rise to 55-65 million tonnes in the next three to five years, up from around 45 million tonnes in recent years.

Grain is not the whole story in Ukrainian international trade. The Canada-Ukraine Free Trade Agreement came into force on August 1, 2017. Ukraine's Ministry of Economic Development and Trade reported that in 2017 Ukrainian exports to Canada grew by 74.4%. In the first five months of 2018, Ukraine's exports to Canada grew 37.1%.

Encouraged by such success, Ukraine is eagerly awaiting the completion of a free trade agreement with Israel.

In February, 2018, the US multinational conglomerate General Electric and PJSC Ukrzaliznytsia signed a 15-year agreement worth about \$1 billion, expected to lead to a qualitatively new stage in the development of Ukraine's transport system. Expected benefits to Ukraine include the attraction of new technologies, the creation of new jobs and the development of the country's export potential.

The first of the rolling stock built under the agreement is scheduled to come into use this autumn.

Another large project with an international partner is deal with Boeing and Ukraine's Antonov, known for producing the world's biggest aircraft.

Relations between Ukraine and Russia collapsed following the annexation of Crimea in 2014 and Antonov, which imported more than 60% of its plane parts from Russia, halted serial production two years later.

As a result of the deal with Boeing, which will end Antonov's dependence on Russia, Antonov intends to restart serial production. Thanks to a deal with Aviall, Boeing's parts, equipment and services unit, the first two or three planes should be ready by the end of 2019, with a goal of eight planes a year.

The companies will jointly set up storage facilities in Ukraine by November, funded by Aviall. Aviall will support Antonov's program to build the AN-1X8 planes, and will have exclusive rights to help service the planes. Aviall will source parts from the United States, Canada, Israel and Europe. Antonov also wants to produce more parts domestically.

Airbus also entered the Ukrainian market recently, with an agreement to sell 55 helicopters to the interior ministry.

### IMF Sets Policy in Ukraine

Oh, so long ago, Ukraine was promised \$17.5 billion in aid as its reward for deposing the government headed by President Yanukovich. Now in the clutches of the International Monetary Fund, Ukraine demonstrates once again that IMF aid carries a price. With the aid program due to end in 2019, Ukraine has received only half of the money, because the IMF is not satisfied with the "reforms" it is demanding from Ukraine.

In the meantime, with no additional IMF aid money since April, 2017, Ukraine is faced with the need to repay around \$15 billion of foreign currency debt over the next two years.

Consistent with the history of the IMF over the decades, the international institution has pressed Ukraine to privatize public assets and institute austerity measures — definitely not what the Ukrainian people signed up for in 2014 as the baubles of Western Europe and North America were dangled enticingly before them.

Writing for the Atlantic Council, the civilian arm of NATO, Tim Ash listed some of the IMF successes in Ukraine.

First on his list was IMF support, stated on July 25, for Ukraine's law to create an Anticorruption Court. The Supreme Council passed the bill in June but amended it on July 12 to suit IMF demands. IMF approval was "critical to securing domestic and foreign investment and to pushing growth beyond the current 3 percent trajectory".

Second on Mr. Ash's list was the privatization law passed in January, which considerably simplified the process of selling off public assets. Privatization is a key demand; opposition is equated with corruption. Privatization of land ownership has been a key IMF demand.

Additionally, the list mentions a number of other business-friendly reforms, such as simplified customs procedures and new currency regulations.

The IMF sees the new law on foreign currency regulation as major step forward, as has been the reformation of the National Bank of Ukraine to conducted monetary policy "in a credible and orthodox way". "The NBU is now a highly competent and credible institution..." Mr. Ash writes.

State assets have been categorized into those to be sold (privatized), those being kept retained and restructured as strategic assets, and those to be wound down.

Almost half the banking system, for example, is private. The state railways, the Ukrainian postal service, state owned banks, and Ukrenergo are in the second group, which sounds similar to Canada Post or Ontario's electrical industry.

As happened at Ontario Hydro, Naftogaz is planning to unbundle distribution from production functions of the utility, to come into effect in 2020. This will open up all sorts of options. The US State Department recognized that, "This reform is consistent with

market oriented policies encouraged by the EU, the United States, and the international community."

In July, it was announced that 44 gas fields, including some 150 billion cubic metres of gas supplies, would be sold to private interests, providing opportunities for Ukrainian and world business, on the basis of transparent auctions to purchase and market the Ukrainian gas. The intent, apparently, is to become self-sufficient in natural gas. The government promises that the resulting independence from global gas prices would decisively reduce gas prices. However, a more likely result, with private operators seeking a profit and IMF pressure, is that the price rises which Ukraine "agreed to with the IMF in March, 2017" will finally come to be.

While the IMF, supported by the G7 countries (Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, UK, US), expressed its satisfaction that it finally got its way on the matter of the anti-corruption court, the foreign voices were all agreed that Ukraine needs to fall in line with the other demands made by the IMF.

The issue of gas prices, which the IMF wants raised, are just one outstanding issue; another is the government's budget. The IMF wants expenditures (services) cut or taxes raised. This is in addition to any income derived in the privatizations "to plug some shortfalls in revenues earlier in the year".

### Attacks on Roma in Ukraine

(Continued from Page 1)  
rounded up after another attack, with guns, in Ternopil, but they were released.

A leader of the Roma organization Chirichi noted that not a single person has been sentenced in connection with the attacks on Roma, reflecting the attitude of the authorities.

The report in the "Leader Post" cited Vadim Karasev, Director of the independent Kyiv-based think-tank Institute of Global Strategies, as saying, "State institutions are weak, the police are ineffective and the government is forced to resort more and more to the services of right-wing groups, giving them a carte blanche in return."

Though officials deny any collaboration between the fascists and the police, there is evidence of cooperation. It seems that the camp near Lviv was visited by local officials and C14 together before

the raid. After the camp was destroyed, police drove away Roma returning for whatever belongings were salvageable.

Animosity against Roma is high in Ukraine. According to Roma activist Myroslav Horvat of the World Roma Organization in Uzhgorod, "Roma remain the most impoverished and unprotected part of Ukrainian society. The state declares in words the programs of integration and training of the Roma, but there is no money for it, and everything remains only on paper."

Anti-Roma leaflets, bearing the symbols of groups like Natskorpuz and Natsdruzhyny, have appeared in Ukraine's major cities.

International organizations and foreign government have urged the Ukrainian authorities to act against anti-Roma violence.

"Most of the crimes committed by radical groups have not been properly investigated

by law enforcement agencies that do not want or cannot conduct effective investigations, even if certain groups publicly take responsibility for crimes," according to Mariya Guryeva, an Amnesty International spokeswoman in Ukraine.

Instead of dealing with their fascists, Ukrainian authorities are trying to shift the blame to Russia. The report quotes Vasily Hrytsak, head of the Security Service of Ukraine as saying, "We understand that the Russians always try to play with so-called inter-ethnic problems."

After the Lviv attack, Interior Minister Arsen Avakov said, "The murders of the Roma were inspired by Russia."

No evidence of the charges against Russia has been produced, but Russia is a convenient whipping boy far beyond Ukraine.

# WSIB Shortcomings

(Continued from Page 1.)  
tific evidence of harm.

“Disregard of cancer clusters as evidence of work-relatedness.

“Ignoring workers’ doctors’ assessments — relying instead on the board’s consulting doctors.

“The refusal to consider long-term exposure to a complex mix of chemicals in the absence of exposure controls, which have been documented at GE”.

The researchers cite the example of the denial of oesophageal cancers despite strong and consistent scientific evidence showing that workers exposed to metal working fluids have an 11-fold

increased risk of oesophageal cancer. Such fluids are heavily used at the GE plant without effective controls, with 30 to 40 years of exposure, but the board sought to blame the cancer on acid reflux, which has only a slight association with oesophageal cancer.

The researchers point to “other spurious impediments to just compensation. For example, in 2010, the board instituted an austerity program that involved proactively denying workers’ claims without evidence.”

The Industrial Accidents Victims Group of Ontario (IAVGO) reviewed Appeals Tribunal decisions indicating that there was “no evidence”

to support the denials. IAVGO found that the policy led to:

“A doubling of denied claims between 2010 and 2015.

“A decline in workers’ benefits by 33%.

“The pressuring of doctors to change their medical reports.

“Increased rebates to employers by over 100%”.

More recently, the WSIB “implemented a blanket ‘negative entitlement’ policy for miners who claimed neurological damage from exposure to McIntire Powder without evidence, thus refusing to address such claims on their own merits”.

The researchers write that, “... an organizational ‘culture of denial’ at the WSIB informs the way physicians, hygienists, adjudicators and other policy-makers operate at the board.” They add that board doctors tend to discount weak studies supporting a causal association, but exalt weak studies that do not support an association.

The culture of the entire organization results in only a small fraction of diseases being recognized as work-re-

lated. That distorts assessment for regulatory and prevention purposes while shifting the burden of work-related disease onto the public health-care system, a major reason for a public inquiry.

The system needs a complete overhaul to create a just and fair compensation system that serves the needs of injured workers and their families.

“Instead, we have a corrupted version,” they conclude, “that has evolved into a private insurance company hell bent on fleecing benefits from injured workers.”

Another article in the same “Star” edition discusses the case of former workers at General Electric in Peterborough, who are disappointed in the results of a workers compensation board review of denied cancer claims.

The WSIB had reviewed 233 previously denied claims for a range of chronic, and sometimes terminal, illnesses. It overturned 71 of its decisions.

In 105 cases the board upheld its original decision. Four cases were abandoned by workers or their families. In

an additional 53 previously abandoned claims, the board tried to find next of kin who may wish to revive the claim. They were able to contact eight families.

The WSIB’s vice-president, of complex claims, said that the review reflected, “the most updated scientific research and all the available evidence.”

GE Peterborough worker were exposed to more than 3,000 toxic chemicals, including at least 40 known, or suspected, to cause cancer, at levels hundreds of times higher than what is now considered safe, according to a 173-page report compiled by a coalition of former employees.

GE has always maintained that it “adhered to the health and safety practices that were appropriate for the time”.

Bob DeMateo said, “... these claims ...have been subjected to all the ...systemic obstacles to disease recognition that the board has followed throughout the years.”

## 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!

# Share Your Centennial Message!

This is a special year in the life of the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians — this year the AUUC celebrates its 100th birthday! To mark this rare year, the *Ukrainian Canadian Herald* is providing a special opportunity to our readers to help you celebrate!

In the month of October, 2018, the “UCH” will print centennial birthday messages from our readers to the AUUC, to its members or to anyone else who is special to you!



The AUUC has a special place in the life of many of our readers, and in the lives of their families and friends. Many of our readers share their AUUC experiences when they get together.

If the AUUC has a special place in your life, share that knowledge with your friends with a centennial greeting in the October 2018, issue.

It's really easy to send a special message on this occasion. Just decide what size ad you want (see the various sizes on the facing page), and follow the instructions at right on this page.

There are many options: surface mail, fax, e-mail. Just let us know the size and clearly write the message you want to send.

Payment? Enclose a cheque or money order with your request — or let us send you an invoice. What could be easier?

Don't be left out — act now to make sure your message will be included in our October issue!

This is a rare opportunity. Unless you expect to live another hundred years, this is your one and only chance to mark an AUUC centenary. You'll kick yourself if you miss it!

## Ukrainian Canadian Herald AUUC Centennial Greetings

Remember your family and friends with a message! We invite you to express AUUC Centennial greetings through an ad in the *Ukrainian Canadian Herald*, in the October, 2018, issue. One line (name and city) on two columns is only \$10.00. A five-line ad as shown is only \$35.00. See the diagram on page 10 for sizes. will be charged as multiples of.

**Deadlines:** September 10, 2018, for October, 2018.

**Send your request to:**

AUUC Centennial GREETINGS MESSAGE  
595 Pritchard Avenue,  
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Phone 1-800-856-8242, Fax: (210) 589-3404  
e-mail: auuckobzar@mts.net

or: AUUC Centennial GREETINGS MESSAGE  
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## JOIN US!

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

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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: Calgary.hopak@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  
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E-mail: auuctorontobranch@gmail.com

### WELLAND BRANCH

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

# Canada/Shevchenko Day in Toronto



Emcee Connie Prince kept things moving, starting with the singing of “O’ Canada” and bidding everyone welcome, introducing the various activities and people, thanking those who helped, and ending with the group singing to end the afternoon.

On July 1, AUUC Toronto Branch once again gathered members, friends, and supporters at the AUUC Cultural Centre to continue the tradition, almost seven decades old, of celebrating Canada/Shevchenko Day.

Connie Prince has been Emcee for several years. This year, once more, she opened the afternoon by leading the gathered celebrants in the singing of “O Canada”.

For the first time at this event, there was a recognition that we were meeting on land unceded by the Indigenous people, in a statement read by Bernardine Dobrowolsky. The statement was followed by a Reiki smudging! ceremony conducted by Connie Davies.

It was explained that Reiki (a practice arising from Japan) and Canadian Indigenous smudging intersect, as both practices encompass the recognition of spirit, universe and earth.

Though the statue of Taras Shevchenko was stolen and vandalized for the value of its bronze, and Taras H. Shevchenko Memorial Park has been sold, each year a symbolic “shrine” is constructed and a tribute is conducted. This year, potted plants were set by AUUC Toronto Branch Treasurer Nancy Stewart and Wilfred Szczesny, President of the Taras H. Shevchenko Museum and Memorial Park Foundation.

This was followed by a reading of Taras Shevchenko’s poem “Zapovit” (My Testament) by Natalka Mochoruk, in Ukrainian, and Wilfred Szczesny, in English.

Every year, Bernardine Dobrowolsky prepares a Canadian trivia questionnaire to challenge participants knowledge of our country. Though formally a contest, the activity is mainly a device for distributing small gifts to everyone in attendance. The rules are very generous (get the answers any way you can), and this year everyone marked their own paper. Just as well — this year, as it turned out, the questions were quite challenging.

For years, Jerry Dobrowol-



The Canada/Shevchenko Day event opened with the singing of “O’ Canada”, led by Connie Prince.



Natalka Mochoruk presented Tras Shevchenko’s poem “Zapovit”; Wilfred Szczesny followed with “My Testament”, an English translation of that work.



Potted plants were set at the “shrine” to Taras Shevchenko by Nancy Stewart for AUUC Toronto Branch and Wilfred Szczesny for the Taras H. Shevchenko Museum.



The bar, suitably decked out, was staffed by Diane Garrett.



Bernardine Dobrowolsky returned to Toronto the day before July 1. Nevertheless, she was able to assemble a gift basket, amass a bunch of souvenirs as game prizes, and prepare a Canadian trivia contest.

sky has barbecued the food for this celebration, with salads and other sides donated by volunteers. In a departure from tradition, this year Baby Point Lounge catered the bulk of the luncheon, supplemented by some store-bought desserts, including a cake, and de-

licious butter tarts provided by Elizabeth Elsen

George Borusiewich was the winner of the 50/50 game, while Lorna Clark, for the second consecutive year, took home the gift basket donated by Bernardine Dobrowolsky.

The final planned activity of

the afternoon was singing of old favourites in English and Ukrainian, led by Emcee Connie Prince, with some recorded accompaniments provided by Jerry Dobrowolsky.

Ms. Prince thanked a list of those who helped, and was herself thanked.



The weather was not particularly kind to Toronto in June and July, but the people who braved the elements to make their way to the AUUC Cultural Centre on July 1 enjoyed a pleasant afternoon of activity and fellowship.

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