

# HERALD BICHIK

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## Taras H. Shevchenko Museum Annual General Meeting

The Taras H. Shevchenko Museum and Memorial Park Foundation held its 23rd Annual General Meeting on March 9. As the 22nd AGM had been face-to-face, this one was a virtual meeting, with participants joining by phone and on their computers.

The Resident Executive Committee and Toronto-area participants gathered at the home of Nancy and Mark Stewart, where they enjoyed brunch before Shevchenko Museum President Wilfred Szczesny called the meeting to order at about 12:15 p.m.

The President noted the absence of several members of the Board of Directors, and (in

particular) extended best wishes to Shirley Uhryn of Edmonton, who has been ill for some time, and Clara Babiy of Welland, who is coping with the serious illness of her husband.

After the meeting agenda was adopted, the right to speak was extended to all attending AUUC members and invited guests. Among those affected were Christopher McCormack of McCormack Architects, William Bezanson of Prodigy Construction Inc., and Museum volunteers Victoria Kravchyna and Larissa Stavroff.

Officers of the AGM were



Lyudmyla Pogoryelova was re-elected as Museum Director.

File photo: Jerry Dobrowsky

(Continued on Page 6.)

## The Next Issue

The next issue of the "UCH" will be dated May, 2019. Announcements of events in May or early June, 2019, as well as articles for the May, 2019, issue, should be in our office by April 10. Thank you for your consideration.

## Race to the Moon

It used to be a two-horse race, with the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America competing for pride of place. In the decade from 1966 and 1976, those superpowers softly landed almost 20 spacecraft on the moon's surface. That included six from NASA with human crews.

Then things quieted down, and only one soft moon landing was achieved — by China in 2013.

That was a sign of things to come. The race is heating up again, with additional participants. Now the motivation is supplied by the possibility of mining lunar resources. The moon has gold, as well as silver, titanium, and the helium-3 useful for nuclear fusion. So do nearby asteroids.

In 2015, the U.S. Congress passed the Space Act, allowing U.S. firms the right to the resources they mine in space. While the new lunar activity is still fuelled by national pride and a quest for scientific discovery, this space age is also being driven by a new factor: greed. A growing number of corporations are benefiting from new technologies and wealthy backers. Several lunar-prospecting companies have sprung up, and they plan to fly to the moon in the coming years.

Several of these companies have already failed, and others are expected to fold.

Space exploration, especially in deep space, is still an activity mainly for governments. China has already joined the original two. In addition to the 2013 landing, on January 3 of this year it landed a spacecraft on the dark side of the moon — a historic first.

There is expected to be another soft moon landing by China this year. NASA may also launch a moon landing this year, partnering with the private sector.

Other countries are planning to get involved. Israel was planning to launch a moon shot from Cape Canaveral in February of this

year. India is also intending to launch its own spacecraft this year.

NASA is planning to land human beings on the moon's surface by 2028, as a step toward a permanent presence on and near the moon. The Trump administration has made a return to the moon top priority, with a definite intent to stay.

If all those landings planned for this year are successful, it would set a record: the most soft lunar landings in a single year, surpassing 1966 and 1972.

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## Arms Control Regimen Collapsing

The Trump administration has announced that it will halt U.S. compliance with the INF, a nuclear arms control treaty with Russia. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo cited Moscow's "brazen" violations of a pact that has been a cornerstone of nonproliferation since the Cold War.

The U.S. suspended compliance with the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty, known as INF, on February 2 and began a six-month formal withdrawal process. That gives Moscow time to reverse course — even as the Trump administration begins to look at developing and deploying new intermediate-

range missiles.

The administration's decision will free the United States to confront other emerging security threats, principally China's buildup of intermediate-range missiles, which may be the key reason for the American decision.

Critics of the U.S. move said that abandoning the 32-year-old treaty could spark a new arms race, undermine American credibility and put Europe at risk of Russian aggression.

Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the House of Representatives said, "The administration should exhaust every diplomatic effort and work closely with NATO allies over the next six months to avoid thrusting the United States into a dangerous arms competition."

Rachel Ellehuus, Deputy Director and Senior Fellow with the Europe Program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, a Washington think tank, said, "This really changes the dynamic where Russia could deploy systems that are much more offensive, and that upsets the security balance in Europe, because it can hold at risk a lot of the countries who are NATO allies and partners."

Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov said that Russia greeted the decision with "much regret", and blamed the U.S. for the INF's collapse. He said that Washington has been "unwilling to hold any

substantial talks" to save it.

NATO strongly backed the Trump administration's move and said Russia was to blame for the U.S. decision.

The Pentagon has started research and development of intermediate range missiles, but is not close to making any decisions about whether and how such weapons would be deployed.

The INF Treaty, signed in 1987 by President Ronald Reagan and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, bars the U.S. and Russia from deploying ground-launched ballistic and cruise missiles with ranges of 310 to 3,400 miles. The agreement led to the elimination of nearly 3,000 missiles with nuclear and conventional warheads and contributed to the end of the Cold War.

It's possible that NATO would allow the U.S. to deploy ground-launched missiles in Europe, but that probably would provoke Russia even more and would risk a public backlash across the continent.

Some experts say the administration's withdrawal from the pact also jeopardizes a second nuclear arms control agreement with Russia known as New START that expires in 2021. The Russians have asked the U.S. to begin negotiations on an extension of that agreement, but so far the Trump administration has not agreed to do that.

Experts say that Russia is in compliance with New START.

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## Time to Act on TB in Nunavut

On March 8, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau extended official apologies to the Inuit in Iqaluit, Nunavut, for policy on treatment of tuberculosis during the 1940s, '50s and '60s which was colonial and misguided. He also announced the establishment of a database, coming soon, which would provide information on the location of graves of people who had died after being taken south to treat their TB.

During those decades, thousands of Inuit were taken from their families and shipped to sanatoriums in the south.

Many were not even allowed to say goodbye, and their families never heard of them, or from them, until they returned — if they did come back. Inuit officials believe that 900 died in the south, and were buried in places unknown to their families or com-

munities.

The apology was all well and good, but it has a serious flaw: it leaves the incorrect impression that the problem is of the past. It is not.

As noted in a *Toronto Star* report on March 9 and an editorial on March 12, the Public Health Agency of Canada has found that Inuit people are victims of an active tuberculosis rate that is more than 290 times higher than that of Canadian-born non-Indigenous people. Imagine, 290 times higher!

Once again, the Prime Minister has shown himself and the government he leads to be much style and little substance.

There is no excuse for the continuing rates of tuberculosis because, as Jane Philpott, former Indigenous services minister, said, eliminating tu-

berculosis “is not rocket science”.

It is well known what factors are contributing to the extremely high rate of infection, and how to eliminate the disease.

Tuberculosis, which can be fatal, is a bacterial lung infection which thrives under poor living conditions. It can take years to appear after infection, and, even with modern treatment, full recovery may take months.

The first problem is that, understandably, many Inuit do not trust the health-care system, so they may not seek help when they are ill. The solution to that problem is to make culturally appropriate medical care and services available in Inuit communities.

Lack of housing makes it easier for the airborne bacteria to spread. In Nunavut, it is common for 20 people to share a three-bedroom home. With current funding, it will take 60 years to build the 3,000 public housing units which are

needed.

The high cost of food, leading to food insecurity, results in lower resistance to infections. According to a Conference Board of Canada study in 2018, two thirds of those under the age of 18 were living in households that could not afford to buy healthful foods.

The population of Nunavut is currently under 40,000, so the cost of providing more healthful food at lower cost is not prohibitive.

Another factor is high smoking rates.

In 2018, in advance of World Tuberculosis Day on March 24, the government undertook to eliminate TB in Inuit communities by 2030 at a cost of \$109 million over 10 years to battle the disease with rapid diagnostic technology and antibiotics. This is pocket change in Canada's budget: the plan must be fast-tracked.

But then, even the apology took two years to accomplish.

## A Lesson from SNC-Lavalin

Many lessons are being drawn from the SNC-Lavalin affair. Here are some words from Riley Yesno of the Eabametoong First Nation.

“... an Indigenous woman (Jody Wilson-Raybould - Ed.) can be in one of the most powerful and prestigious positions in the country, and yet is still not shielded from the violence of Canada and the government; that you can try to work within the system, but you will always face incredible resistance if your work threatens the interests of those more powerful, who the system is really built to serve.”

Also, “... you can always speak freely and boldly, because your communities and nations will rally behind you....” “... Jody Wilson-Raybould ... has empowered thousands of people, including Indigenous youth, with her integrity and commitment to truth.”

## Indigenous Guardians

Most people in Canada may be familiar with the concept of Indigenous people as guardians of the land. Not many people, perhaps, know any specifics.

How many are aware of the National Indigenous Guardians Network, which held its second conference in Vancouver in mid-March with 300 delegates from across the country?

This relatively new and growing movement sends teams over Indigenous terri-

tories and waters to monitor and respond to emergencies, ensure laws are followed, and collect data on the local effects of climate change.

Haida Nation pioneered the idea decades ago, with the B.C. First Nations' land-patrol program. The model has now spread to every corner of the country.

The guardians combine traditional knowledge and modern science. With climate change the defining issue of our time, Indigenous guardians see themselves the first line of defence against the destruction from climate change. They are often first on the scene at disasters.

## Grassy Narrows Problems Unresolved

The Grassy Narrows and Whitedog First Nations continue to meet rebuffs and delays as they approach governments about the decades-old problem of mercury pollution in their drinking water supply and fishing waters.

Over the last several years, and particularly after the last National Convention of the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians, which was held in October, 2016, the *Ukrainian Canadian Herald* has reported numerous times on the illness caused by the pollution, and the failure of governments to remedy the situation.

The problems continue, and so does governmental inaction.

In its current version, the government of Ontario is dragging its feet about checking whether barrels of mercury and poisonous salt were

buried near the river which flows to Grassy Narrows First Nation.

The province agreed to dig in search of the barrels a year ago. Grassy Narrows Chief Rudy Turtle says that Ontario Environment Minister Rod Phillips promised last October to produce plans for digging within two weeks. According to an editorial in the *Toronto Star* on March 6, five months later, no plans have been produced and no explanation has been given.

The people of Grassy Narrows are becoming impatient, because they want to know whether buried barrels of poison are adding to the pollution. To them it is a matter of life, health, and death, as it has been since 10 tonnes of mercury were dumped into the river system between 1962 and 1970 by the old Dryden paper mill.

Tanya Talaga writes very interesting articles about issues affecting Indigenous people to the *Toronto Star*. On March 13, her topic was child welfare legislation.

The article started with a startling statistic: from Monday afternoon to Tuesday morning, four babies were apprehended from their Indigenous mothers by child welfare authorities in Manitoba and placed into state care. A fifth apprehension was stopped.

In the same issue of the paper, there was an article by Steve Lambert and Kelly Geraldine Malone of The Canadian Press, discussing the release of her report by Daphne Penrose, Manitoba's Child and Youth Advocate, on the life and death of Tina Fontaine.

15-year-old Tina of the Sagkeeng First Nation who died in 2014, had repeatedly reached out for help, but none came. Her body was found in the Red River.

Both articles presented strongly the need to change child welfare legislation to save children's lives.

Tina was failed by child welfare authorities, police, educators, the health system and others.

In response to Tina's death Manitoba chiefs all pooled their resources to create the First Nations Family Advocate position in June, 2015. There was no government help.

Ms. Talaga points out that the need for help to Indigenous children continues, but Bill C-92, the long-awaited child welfare legislation, “squanders a crucial opportunity to address the need”.

The problem with the bill is that it fails to recognize that First Nations, Métis and Inuit must have full decision-making power and control over children's lives, free of interference. The bill leaves overriding powers in the hands of Canada and the provinces.

The Nishnawbe Aski Nation of northern Ontario point out that the bill does not clarify which will take precedence if the government and the First Nations disagree on what is in the best interest of First Nations children.

Ms. Talaga writes, “We know from painful history that Ottawa is in no position to determine the best interests of Indigenous children.”

She adds, “Almost every Indigenous family has been touched by the long arm of Indian agents, whether in the day of residential schools, or, later, by provincial child welfare authorities who came on the scene in the 1950s and in whose hands the number of Indigenous children in state care skyrocketed.

“One system replaced the other, but both served to divide families, destroy sacred bonds to communities and culture. Many of us meet our sisters and brothers, our uncles and aunties or our cousins for the first time in coffee shops or at family reunions. We meet as intimate strangers and we often spend a lifetime trying to rebuild all that we missed.

“Some never get the chance.”

First Nations often have no idea where their children are, in which foster homes or what cities. They are just taken.

## Indigenous Children at Risk

This legislation does nothing to address that.

More statistics: “In Manitoba, between 2008 to 2016, 546 children who were in the child welfare system died, whether by suicide, homicide, illness or accident.”

First Nations communities with proper resources and supports could save lives.

But “The new legislation does not guarantee adequate, sustainable, reliable and predictable funding.

“It doesn't empower Indigenous communities to provide the care needed.”

Ms. Talaga quotes Cora Morgan, First Nations Family Advocate at the Assembly of Manitoba's Chiefs: “How powerful would it be if we changed the mandate from protection of children to the healing of families?”

This question has been asked often, but has yet to get a satisfactory answer.

The federal Indigenous welfare bill, originally expected to be presented by the end of January, has been delayed, reportedly because of the third Cabinet shuffle in as many months. The government claims that, as a result of “engagement with First Nations, Inuit and Métis” it recognizes that significant changes have to be made to the legislation.

In Ontario, Indigenous people are among the groups expressing concern about not being consulted about a major reorganization of the province's health services, including outsourcing of the ORNGE air ambulance service which is heavily used in northern Ontario.

## The Concentration of Media in Canada

It is ingrained in the notion of Canada as a democratic country that the mainstream media is an impartial commentator of events and digs for the truth. That, however, is far from the reality. The mainstream media is owned by various large corporate interests and over the decades the ownership of the mainstream media has been concentrated in smaller and smaller circles of corporate influence and power. This concentration affects radio, television and print media, the prime means by which Canadians get news and opinions about events in Canada and the world. In 1990, 17.3% of daily newspapers were independently owned; by 2017 that number dropped to only 6%.

In a report from 2013 by Paul Fontaine, published by the Canadian Journalism Project, the following was noted:

“In terms of who has control over Canada’s English-language mediascape, the two biggest companies, Bell and Rogers, account for 43 per

cent of all revenues. Add in Shaw and Telus, and these big four account for 70 per cent of the media landscape.

“The high level of concentration is most striking in Canada’s television ownership. Bell and Shaw hold what could be considered a duopoly in the country’s television market, followed by Rogers and CBC and then a number of small-scale broadcasters including APTN, Blue Ant, CHEK TV, Pelmorex and Fairchild. Canadian media regulators, including the Competition Bureau and the Canadian Radio-Television Telecommunications Commission (CRTC), have not done much to stem the tide of consolidation...”

Noting the concentration of media and its effects on the quality of journalism, Marc Edge in his book: *The News We Deserve: The Transformation of Canada’s Media Landscape* writes of a journalism dominated by the agendas of an ever shrinking class of owners: “A generation of laissez-faire government at-

titudes towards media ownership smoothed the way for the stealthy transformation of Canada’s mainstream press from its old ideal as fearless expositor of truth, as epitomized by Woodward and Bernstein, to a partisan, activist press that openly advocates certain outcomes.”

The concentration of media is one thing. The fact that it dominates the reporting of news and opinions is another.

While the internet has somewhat democratized the ability to get news and opinions from other sources without having to turn on the television or radio, the domination by the big media is still pervasive and with it the ability to form opinion.

On this domination of making opinion, Linda McQuaig writes: “We must always remember that virtually all media outlets are owned by rich, powerful members of the elite. To assume this fact has no influence on the ideas they present would be equivalent to assuming that, should the entire media be owned by, say, labour unions, women’s groups or social workers, this would have no impact on the editorial content.”

— Glenn Michalchuk

## Current Eclectic

### Trudeau Doctrine

Many Canadians are familiar with the Monroe Doctrine. First issued in 1823, it warned European powers against renewed colonization of the Western Hemisphere. Presented as anti-imperialist, the Monroe Doctrine was later used to justify U.S. interference in regional affairs.

We may be seeing the development of a Canadian equivalent. The “Trudeau Doctrine” claims to support a “rules-based order”, the “constitution” and regional diplomacy independent of the hegemon. But history is likely to judge “Trudeau Doctrine” rhetoric as little more than a mask for aggressive interference in the affairs of a sovereign nation.

For two years Canada’s Prime Minister has been conspiring with Juan Guaidó’s hardline Voluntad Popular party to oust Nicolas Maduro’s government. In May, 2017, Trudeau met Lilian Tintori, wife of Voluntad Popular leader Leopoldo Lopez. *The Guardian* recently reported on Tintori’s role in building international support for the slow-motion coup attempt currently under way in Venezuela.

Ms. Tintori acted as an emissary for Leopoldo Lopez, who couldn’t travel to Ottawa because he was convicted of inciting violence during the *guarimbas* protests in 2014. According to a series of reports, Mr. Lopez is the key Venezuelan organizer of the plan to anoint Juan Guaidó interim president.

Canadian diplomats spent “months,” reports Canadian Press, coordinating the plan with the hard-line opposition. In a story titled “Anti-Maduro coalition grew from secret talks”, the Associated Press reported on Canada’s “key role” in building international diplomatic support for claiming the head of the national assembly was president.

This included Foreign Minister Chrystia Freeland speaking to Guaidó “the night before President Maduro’s swearing-in ceremony to offer her government’s support should he confront the socialist leader.”

Just before the recent Lima Group meeting in Ottawa, Justin Trudeau spoke with Mr. Guaidó and at the meeting of countries opposed to Venezuela’s president he announced that Canada officially recognized Mr. Guaidó’s representative to Canada, Orlando Viera Blanco, as ambassador.

The Prime Minister has

called the leaders of France, Spain, Paraguay, Ireland, Colombia and Italy as well as the International Monetary Fund and European Union to convince them to join Canada’s campaign against Venezuela.

“The international community must immediately unite behind the interim president,” Trudeau declared at the opening of the Lima Group meeting in Ottawa.

At the UN General Assembly in September, Canada announced it (with five South American nations) would ask the International Criminal Court to investigate the Venezuelan government, which is the first time a government has been formally brought before the tribunal by another member.

Trudeau portrayed this move as a challenge to the Trump administration’s hostility to the court and described the ICC as a “useful and important way of promoting an international rules-based order.” In other words, Justin Trudeau would challenge Washington by showing President Trump how the “international rules-based” ICC could undermine a government the U.S. was seeking to overthrow through unilateral sanctions, support for the opposition and threatening an invasion, which all contravene the UN Charter.

While Mr. Trudeau claims to support an “international rules-based order”, his government has adopted three rounds of illegal sanctions against Venezuela. They’ve also openly interfered in the country’s affairs, which violates the UN and OAS charters.

#### Fundamentals of the Trudeau Doctrine

The “Trudeau Doctrine” emphasizes its interpretation of Venezuela’s constitution. On a whole series of platforms the Prime Minister has cited “the need to respect the Venezuelan Constitution”, even responding to someone who yelled “hands off Venezuela” at a town hall by lecturing the audience on article 233 of the Venezuelan constitution, which he claims makes the head of the national assembly president. It doesn’t.

More fundamental to the “Trudeau Doctrine” is the mirage of a regional coalition independent of the regional hegemon. Ottawa founded the anti-Maduro Lima Group coalition with Peru. Amidst discussions between the two countries foreign ministers in spring, 2017, Mr. Trudeau called his Peruvian counter-

(Continued on Page 8,)

## Manufacturing Consent: Venezuela and the search for truth

The experience and lessons of history can be short lived. After the “weapons of mass destruction” farce conjured up in 2003 to justify the U.S. invasion of Iraq, we again see an organized attempt to manipulate public opinion. This time it concerns Venezuela.

Unlike 2003, when the United States found itself isolated from many traditional allies of the Western alliance, forcing it to form a “coalition of the willing”, in 2019 it has found strong support from Canada and the European Union for its objective of regime change in Venezuela. While, in 2003 the Canadian media, and particularly the CBC, played a role in reporting critically on U.S. objectives in Iraq, in 2019 the media, and particularly the public broadcaster, has displayed an almost slavish role in relaying the narrative of the U.S. and the Lima Group — an initiative of the Canadian government to forge a 2019 “coalition of the willing” as a weapon against the Bolivarian revolution in Venezuela.

The mainstream media have played a significant role in shaping opinion about Venezuela. One may ask why Venezuela has become such a target. The answer is complex and varied but one of the key motivations behind targeting Venezuela for regime change

is the Bolivarian revolution. It represents a threat to the neo-liberal world order. Only Venezuela, Bolivia and Cuba stand in the way of totally reversing the move of Latin American to the right.

The Bolivarian revolution has put people first at the expense of the interests of the World Bank, the IMF and the profits of the multinationals. At stake in Venezuela is the domination and control of that country’s vast oil and mineral resources by the Western oligarchy.

Equally to be considered is the political objective of the United States, and it would seem Canada, to ensure that no alternative exists to neo-liberalism.

Not surprisingly, then, the Venezuelan target is being expanded by the U.S. also to include Cuba. The West would like to replace the slogan “Another World is Possible” with “Only Capitalism is Possible”.

**The method of the media**  
Using the same methods employed in 2003, “experts” and their “facts” are trotted out to build the case for intervention and regime change in Venezuela. We see a complex situation deliberately reduced to simple news stories that are a distortion of the facts. The stories are periodically recast with different “ex-

perts” and played through the 24-hour news cycle. Repeat a lie often enough and it becomes the “truth”.

The arguments are three fold: 1) a “democratic opposition” led by Juan Guaidó represents the wishes and aspirations of the Venezuelan people against the “tyranny” of Nicholas Maduro maintained in power by military force; 2) Venezuela is a country in economic ruin because of the “mismanagement” and “corruption” of the Maduro government; 3) Venezuela’s economic crisis has led to a “humanitarian” crisis which can only be ended by the “democratic” West imposing economic sanctions to intensify the crisis to the point where Maduro is forced from power.

This is the “truth” that the mainstream media has been promoting. It has been the narrative for many years. In March, 2014, *Venezuela Analysis*, a well known online publication that has devoted its reporting to exposing the disinformation and misinformation campaigns about Venezuela, reported this about the lies of the Canadian media:

“The international press has even used outright lies and manipulation to create a distorted account of the violence in Venezuela. In one of the most egregious examples, (Continued on Page 11.)

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## Oh, Canada!

An Editorial by Wilfred Szczesny

Once upon a time Canada was respected as an honest broker in foreign affairs. In recognition of this country's adherence to international norms and generally accepted practices, Canada was invited to participate in international councils, and could fairly regularly find a place in United Nations committees and other fora. Our services were sought for UN peacekeeping missions and other duties where neutrality and objectivity were valued.

Those were the days when our leaders staunchly defended our sovereignty against efforts by foreign powers, especially the United States, to impose their laws on us, when extraterritoriality was rejected, such as pressure to cease trading with Cuba or not to engage with China.

Of course, even at the best of times, Canada bent somewhat to the demands of its allies, such as pressure to join NATO, but at other times Prime Ministers chose political defeat through the regime change of the day, rather than bending to unacceptable demands.

In those days, Canada was repeatedly said to be "punching above its weight" because it wielded some influence as a so-called middle power.

Those days, such as they were, are gone.

Though the erosion has happened over some years, the government of Canada, under the leadership of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Minister of Foreign Affairs Chrystia Freeland, has lost any trace of its aura of honest broker.

Today, this country lines up with the most reactionary regimes for the most disreputable purposes. Furthermore, it does so merely to benefit the country's rapacious corporations.

In North Africa, Canada has happily cooperated in regime change

In Latin America, Canada was an enthusiastic founder of the Lima Group, whose immediate aim is to overthrow the government of Venezuela for that country's oil reserves and other natural resources. The longer-term end is to secure the continent for the private corporations.

In Europe, Canada appears to be embarking on a similar path, joining ten other anti-Russian countries, seven of them former republics of the Soviet Union, in a crusade against the Russian Federation. This is a project which appears to be taking Canada down the path to war with Russia, already treated as an enemy state.

## COMMENTARY

### Obfuscation on SNC-Lavelin

"Can't see the forest for the trees" certainly applies to most of the discussion about the SNC-Lavelin situation. In his press conference in Ottawa on March 7, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau deliberately added to the confusion for the political purpose of deflecting attention from the key issues.

Among the key elements that should be remembered are that Jody Wilson-Raybould, as Attorney General, together with her staff, decided to pursue criminal prosecution of the corporation. When the law allowing remediation agreements came into effect (a law credited to Jody Wilson-Raybould as Minister of Justice), the office of the Attorney-General decided to continue with the criminal prosecution.

The Prime Minister's Office, as well as other officials and SNC-Lavelin itself, lobbied week after week, stretching into months, against this decision. By the Prime Minister's own comments on March 7, that lobbying was based not on legal issues but on the government's proper (so he said) concern about jobs and representing his constituents — political issues.

The Attorney-General tolerated the lobbying: she felt that it was inappropriate, but not illegal. She even recognized the Prime Minister's right to shuffle his Cabinet, and accepted being moved to Veterans' Affairs. Only when *The Globe and Mail* raised the issue of possible impropriety, and Mr. Trudeau cited her continued service in Cabinet as proof that there was no impropriety, did she resign from Cabinet.

After all that has been said and done, including by Mr. Trudeau on March 7, can anyone honestly doubt that the Prime Minister, through his

emissaries, was attempting to influence the legal process for political reasons? Can anyone honestly doubt that Ms. Wilson-Raybould was moved out of her position as Minister of Justice and Attorney-General because she refused to bend to the political arguments? Can anyone doubt that the current government of Canada sees the rule of law as subservient to political expediency?

Can anyone fail to see similarity between the behaviour of the government in this case and its stances in other instances, both foreign and domestic? The compelling conclusion is that, for this government, political considerations tend to trump rule of law.

Let us examine a few of the obfuscating trees raised by Prime Minister Trudeau on March 7.

Among Mr. Trudeau's very first comments was the assertion that Canadians expect their government to fight for their jobs. That may be at least partly true, as it may also be partly true that some Canadians would abandon all laws to create jobs.

So, how many jobs are at risk? The CBC has studied that question and concluded that the 9,000 figure being tossed around is the worst case scenario. For many reasons, the actual number of jobs at risk is far smaller. The Prime Minister told us, essentially, that the government just took the company's word.

If the government is so concerned about jobs, what is it doing about the auto plant closure in Oshawa? This government supports corporations to keep jobs, and just as readily supports corporations when they shut down jobs.

On March 7, Prime Minister Trudeau told us that the problem was a failure of communications, that Ms. Wilson-Raybould should have gone to him, and that he should have

gone to her instead of sending messengers. However, the only difference that might have made is to have resulted in the earlier replacement of Attorney-General Jody Wilson-Raybould.

The open-door, supportive-atmosphere assertion was challenged by another Liberal Member of Parliament, Celina Caesar-Chavannes, who told the *Globe and Mail* in an interview that Prime Minister Trudeau was angry, and raised his voice, when she told him on February 12 that she did not intend to run for re-election in the October federal election. She also referred to at least one other unpleasant interaction with the Prime Minister.

The Prime Minister's Office played down the alleged anger and hostility.

Another diversionary sally by the Prime Minister on March 7 was his belief that the Attorney-General was open to repeated representations because the application of a deferred prosecution agreement is available in a criminal case until a sentence is imposed.

Canadians should remember that the delayed prosecution agreement, also known as a remediation agreement, was not available in Canada until very recently. In fact, SNC-Lavelin strongly lobbied for this new legislation while it was under investigation and expecting to face criminal charges.

While the law may allow application of a remediation agreement until sentencing, at some point constant repetition of the same argument, and a political one at that, changes from legitimate second opinion into improper harassment.

In a rare occurrence, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) chimed in with its concerns. An international economic organization that oversees global anti-bribery efforts, the OECD says it is concerned by allegations that Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and senior officials tried to interfere in the criminal case against SNC-Lavalin, pointedly warning Canada about its  
(Continued on Page 8.)

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

# WGS Commemorative Events

Sunday, April 14. *City on Strike - A Novel. Book Launch.* Harriet Zaidman. **McNally Robinson Booksellers** 1120 Grant Avenue. **2:00 p.m. Free event.**

*City on Strike* is set during the Winnipeg General Strike of 1919, when workers and soldiers returning from World War I demanded jobs, decent wages and the right to organize. Many politicians and business leaders condemned strike organizers and, backed up by police, unleashed deadly violence on a day that has

come to be known as Bloody Saturday.

*City on Strike* focuses on a 13 year old boy and his younger sister who are part of a poor, but hard-working, immigrant family.

Thursday, April 25, **Rededication of the Ukrainian Labour Temple**, 591 Pritchard Avenue in **Winnipeg. 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Free event.**

On February 14, 1919, just months before the tumultuous events of the Winnipeg Gen-

eral Strike, the Ukrainian Labour Temple opened its doors to the community for the first time. Built by newly arrived Ukrainian immigrants, it was the centre of their political, social, educational and cultural life. To this day it remains the hub of a vibrant Canadian-Ukrainian community which includes many descendants of those who built the Labour Temple.

We invite you to join us April 25 to celebrate the centenary of the Labour Temple with a rededication ceremony.

Seating limited, to attend **RSVP to 204-467-5043 or to [auucwinnipeg@gmail.com](mailto:auucwinnipeg@gmail.com)**

Friday, April 26. **National Day of Mourning** — Mourn the Dead, Fight for the Living, **Union Centre**, Second Floor Auditorium, 275 Broadway Avenue. **11:00 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. Light refreshments 10:30 a.m. Free event.**

Please join the **Manitoba Federation of Labour** in marking the National Day of Mourning with a special **Candle Light Memorial Service** to remember and honour workers killed or injured on the job. To be followed by the **Safe Workers of Tomorrow Leaders Walk**, starting at the Union Centre at 11:45 a.m.

Friday, April 26, **Sorry Not Sorry: Unapologetically Working for Social Justice, Seven Oaks Performing Arts Centre**, 711 Jefferson Avenue, 6:00 p.m. Doors open **7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.** Event Tickets: **\$35 or \$60 with partial tax receipt** for the added donation.

\*A limited supply of low-income tickets at **\$15** are available.

For tickets: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/sorry-not-sorry-unapologetically-working-for-social-justice-tickets-55786730613> or **SPCW at 204-943-2561 ext: 1229** or [info@spcw.mb.ca](mailto:info@spcw.mb.ca)

**The Social Planning Council of Winnipeg** is pleased to celebrate **100 years** by **partnering with the Canadian Muslim Women's Institute** in a **discussion about working together to create a truly just society.** Please join an amazing panel of activists, **Linda Sarsour, Nora Loreto, and Tasha Spillett**, to hear about their successes and perspectives on making the changes that challenge the status quo and addresses bias.

For more information: **SPCW at 204-943-2561**

Wednesday, May 1, **Celebrate International Working Class Day. City Hall**, 510 Main Street. **5:30 p.m.**

## 1919-2019 Centenary WGS Winnipeg General Strike

**Assemble, 5:40 p.m. Greetings to the March, 6:00 p.m. March begins.**

Join in the annual May Day March organized by **Winnipeg Labour Council**. The march route will be south on Main to Broadway to Smith to Portage Notre Dame to Albert to Old Market Square. Recognition will be given to the two strikers who fell during the Winnipeg General Strike at Bannatyne and Main on Bloody Saturday, June 1919.

Thursday, May 2, **20x20 on 1919: 10 Tributes to the Strike that Changed History. Millennium Centre**, 389 Main Street. 6:30 p.m. Doors open. **7:00 p.m. Show**

Admission is **pay-what-you-can**; suggested donation is \$10.

The 1919 General Strike united citizens, shut down a city and revolutionized workers' rights across a nation. Hear artists, writers and filmmakers present tributes to the event that changed Canadian history forever — Pecha Kucha style!

Pecha Kucha is a presentation format where 20 images are shown, each for 20 seconds, while presenters talk along to the images.

Presented by **The Winnipeg Foundation, Manitoba Federation of Labour** and **Pecha Kucha Night Winnipeg.**

Saturday, May 4, **Mandolin Orchestra in Concert, Ukrainian Labour Temple**, 591 Pritchard Avenue. 7:30 p.m. Doors open. **8:00 p.m. Concert. Tickets: \$20** available at the door

The WINNIPEG MANDOLIN ORCHESTRA in concert, playing traditional and contemporary music with guest artist **The Bart House Band.** for info: [barthouse.ca](http://barthouse.ca)

Sunday, May 5, **Papergirl - Book Launch.** Melinda McCracken with Penelope Jackson. **McNally Robinson Booksellers**, 1120 Grant Avenue. **3:00 p.m. Free event.**

When workers across 1919 Winnipeg go on strike together, 10-year-old Cassie is desperate to be part of the action, so she volunteers to sell the strike bulletin. From her corner at Portage and Main, she watches the strike take shape—watches the strikers get hungrier and the clashes get uglier. Soon a peaceful demonstration turns into a violent assault, and the idealistic papergirl is suddenly

in very real danger. Will she survive Bloody Saturday?

Thursday, May 9 — Friday, May 17. **Bolshie Bash. Rachel Brown Theatre**, 211 Bannatyne Avenue. **7:30 p.m.** all performances **except May 12. 2:00 p.m. May 12 (Mothers Day).** Tickets: **\$15** (except for: **pay-what-you-can on May 14**).

Tickets at the door or reservations by email: [bharrar@yahoo.com](mailto:bharrar@yahoo.com) or by phone **204-963-6990**

The **Collective Agreement**, an independent theatre group, is restaging, with updates, Bill Harrar's 1985 *Bolshie Bash*. This comedy was reviewed by the Winnipeg Free press as "a distinguished and exciting piece of theatre" and "the least clichéd and most effective play yet written about the 1919 strike."

In *Bolshie Bash* a now deservedly forgotten factory owner (the wholly fictitious Cecil McDowner) single-handedly exacerbates then foils the Great Sympathetic Strike of 1919.

The 80-minute play was written to both inform and delight audiences while affirming the enduring influence of 1919 on labour solidarity.

In the comfortable Rachel Browne Theatre the role of Cecil McDowner is performed by a single actor interacting with a backdrop of contemporaneous photographs—more than 100 flash by—obtained mostly from the Manitoba Provincial Archives.

**For further information contact 204-963-6990.**

Wednesday, May 8 — Saturday, May 11. **1919 WINNIPEG GENERAL STRIKE CENTENARY CONFERENCE | BUILDING A BETTER WORLD: 1919-2019. University of Winnipeg** (and other off-site evening locations, including the Ukrainian Labour Temple and West End Cultural Centre)

Marking the 100th anniversary of the Winnipeg General Strike, the 1919 Winnipeg General Strike Centenary Conference (WGSCC) seeks to commemorate and explore 1919's events in both historical and contemporary contexts — this, by way of a 4-day gathering in Winnipeg comprised of over 200 activists, organizers, scholars, trade unionists and social justice and labour rights advocates from across Canada and

(Continued on Page 10.)

## The Winnipeg General Strike — Not Forgotten

This month the *Ukrainian Canadian Herald* will shift its special coverage of the Winnipeg General Strike from the past to the present.

There has been a long-held opinion among progressive-minded people in Winnipeg that one outcome of the strike was the determination of the authorities to wipe all memory of the strike from the collective consciousness. Victoria Park, meeting place of the strikers, was bulldozed in the years following, and every effort since then to reclaim some of its remnants has been defeated. The old city hall, trades hall and market square fell to urban renewal and gentrification. The two strikers killed on Bloody Saturday lay forgotten in unmarked graves.

It largely fell to historians and academics to keep the story alive, and they did a remarkable job. Their work inspired others to take up the cause of remembering the strike. Strike tours began, a musical was written, a documentary produced — the genie was out of the bottle and would not go back in. The graves of the slain strikers were rediscovered and properly marked, thanks to Danny Schur, who found the grave of Mike Sokolowski, and Derek and Bev Black and Mitch Podolak who found the grave of Steve Schezerbanovich.

On its 100th Anniversary, the strike is anything but dead in people's minds. It is being marked with events, plays, books, and the musical *Strike!* and its offshoot as a movie, to name just a few of the things happening.

The strike began on May 15 and ended on June 26. In terms of events linked to commemorating the WGS, April, May and June are busy months in Winnipeg.

As a service to our readers, we are publishing a calendar of events compiled by MayWorks Festival of Labour and the Arts and the Manitoba Federation of Labour. The events are organized by unions, educational institutions, organizations, artists, writers and others.

It is noteworthy that the Ukrainian Labour Temple serves as the location for some of the events, based on its historical connection to the strike and its continuing role as a focal point for progressive politics in Winnipeg.

One of the highlights promises to be the Winnipeg General Strike Centenary Conference at the University of Winnipeg from May 8 to 11.

Two events on the calendar are not directly connected to the celebration of the centenary of the Strike, but they have close relationship. One is the April 25 re-dedication of the Ukrainian Labour Temple, which opened on February 14, 1919, just months before the Strike. The Labour Temple played an important role in organizing Ukrainian Canadian workers, artists and political activists around the strike. The other is the April 26 event to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the Social Planning Council of Winnipeg, which traces its activism back to the social conditions which precipitated the strike.

Also of note is that there are five book launches listed. Two are works of fiction directed at young people: *Papergirl* by Melinda McCracken with Penelope Jackson, and *City on Strike - A Novel* by Harriet Zaidman, a UJPO member. Others are: *Magnificent Fight: The Winnipeg General Strike*, a new historical work by AUUC member Dennis Lewycky; *If 30,000 Strikers Marched Today!* a book of poetry by Ron Romanowski; and *1919: A Graphic History of the Winnipeg General Strike*, a graphic novel.

## Book Launch at AUUC Vancouver Branch

On Sunday, March 10, AUUC Vancouver Branch hosted a book launch for *Perogies and Politics: Canada's Ukrainian Left*,

— Story photos: Dan Fung



**Author Rhonda Hinther, Associate Professor of History, introduced her book.**

*1891–1991*, written by Rhonda Hinther, Associate Professor of history at Brandon University.

She is also a co-editor, with Jim Mochoruk, of *Re-imagining Ukrainian-Canadians: History, Politics, and Identity*. Dr. Hinther is presently co-editing, also with Dr. Mochoruk, a collection on the history of internment in Canada.

In her book *Perogies and Politics* Dr. 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 twentieth century leftist Ukrainian Canadians, culture and politics were inextricably linked. In Dr. Hinther's



**Some of the people attending the *Perogies and Politics* book launch. Many left the event with their own newly purchased copy.**

view, the interaction of Canadian Ukrainian sociocultural identity with Marxism-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, and speak in meaningful, respectful and empowering ways to, its supporters' experiences

and interests, as individuals and as members of a distinct immigrant working class community.

Dr. Hinther started the afternoon with an address about her book and how she came to write it. The audience was very involved during the question and answer period. Not only were specific questions fielded that Dr. Hinther an-

swered, but some participants offered comments on their own personal experiences during that time in history.

The remainder of the afternoon was spent enjoying the refreshments and socializing.

Many of the audience went home with a book under their arm, some having asked how to get a copy of her first book.

— **Dianne Kleparchuk**

## Taras H. Shevchenko Museum

(Continued from Page 1.) elected: President – Wilfred Szczesny; Vice-President – Andrew Gregorovich; Recording Secretary – Bernardine Dobrowolsky; Vice-Recording Secretary – Debra Skrabek.

With the formalities completed, the meeting got down to business with the reading of the Minutes of the 22nd AGM by Ms. Dobrowolsky, who had recorded them.

The first REC report was delivered by Museum President Wilfred Szczesny. The bulk of this report was devoted to a review of the process leading to the decision to relocate the Museum and to the tasks which will follow the completion of the renovation of the AUUC Cultural Centre in Toronto.

The report briefly discussed the three resolutions being advanced by the REC to address specific challenges facing the Foundation, thanked the members of the REC and the Board of Directors, as well as individuals accepting nomina-

tion to these bodies, and projected a date – March 7, 2020 – for the 24th AGM.

The report of the Museum Director gave a detailed account of an event dear to Lyudmyla Pogoryelova's heart – the major exhibition of donated art from Ukraine. This event was foreshadowed by decisions made at the 22nd AGM, but its roots of the reach back to 2013. The drama of the project, from first thoughts to the remaining echoes, was vividly reflected in Ms. Pogoryelova's enthusiastic account.

As usual, the Museum Director's report was full of information about the year since the previous AGM. It included information about three other exhibitions staged by the Museum, about major donations of artifacts and art, and about other Museum activities. Then the report presented an impressive list of future activities, among them the creation of an archive, staging a new exhibition, sharing *Picture-sque Ukraine*, and (of course) moving into the new location at 1604 Bloor Street West in Toronto.

The report ended with thanks to a long list of individuals, the REC and volunteers in the first place, and the "members, contributors, supporters, and friends, and to everyone who helped expand our collections and assisted us financially".

Chris McCormack, supported by Bill Bezanson, did a PowerPoint presentation which graphically depicted the gutting of the AUUC Cultural Centre, leaving the walls and the beams. The beginning of the process of renovation, a



**Andrew Gregorovich was re-elected as Vice-President.**

process expected to be completed by June 4, was also shown.

A lively question and answer session followed, leaving participants reassured that the resulting building will be suitable to house a high-quality museum, with flexible climate control to adjust to varying conditions and circumstances and security appropriate to the treasures it will contain.

This presentation was followed by a health break, during which Mssrs. McCormack and Bezanson were the centre of much attention by participants posing additional questions and making various observations.

Immediately following the break, the AGM received a brief report from the Lands Development Committee, Treasurer Nancy Stewart, and the Audit Committee, presented by Jerry Dobrowolsky.

Each of the reports was received as it was presented.

The AGM then considered resolutions proposed by the Resident Executive Committee.

The first was a Resolution on Governance, which directed that a new governance structure be created. The current governance structure, created in 2001, is becoming problematic because of

changing circumstance. The resolution was adopted unanimously.

The second was a Resolution on Friends of the Museum, which directed the REC to explore the possibility of establishing an organization with the power to issue receipts for tax credit. The resolution was adopted unanimously following an amendment to clarify that what is being sought is a charitable organization.

The final motion was a Resolution on Professional Development for Volunteers and REC Members. Also passed unanimously, this resolution essentially directed the REC to explore ways to expand professional development, an activity which, as the Museum Director's Report indicated, is already part of the Museum's program.

One of the final acts of each Annual General Meeting is the election of the Board of Directors, the Resident Executive Committee and the Audit Committee.

Before the start of elections, a motion was passed to allot a seat on the Board to AUUC Toronto Branch, other than members of the REC. The effect of this decision was

to create an extra place on the REC.

Nominated and elected to the Board of Directors of the Taras H. Shevchenko Museum and Memorial Park Foundation were: Larry Kleparchuk – Vancouver; Janice Beck – Richmond; Debra Skrabek – Calgary; Bob Ivanochko – Regina; Lily Stearns – Winnipeg; and Clara Babi – Welland.

As no nominations were received from Edmonton, Ottawa and Toronto, the REC was directed to seek nominees.

(Since the AGM, Connie Prince has accepted nomination to the Board of Directors.)

Elected to the REC were: Museum Director – Lyudmyla Pogoryelova; President – Wilfred Szczesny; Vice-President – Andrew Gregorovich; Treasurer – Nancy Stewart; Recording Secretary – Bernardine Dobrowolsky; Vice-Recording Secretary – Victoria Kravchyna; member – George Borusiewich.

The REC is to seek an eighth member.

Elected to the Audit Committee were: Jerry Dobrowolsky, Mark Stewart and Vera Borusiewich.

The results of the elections are subject to ratification by the National Committee of the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians at its next meeting.

The last business conducted by the AGM was to consider the next Annual General Meeting.

The decision was "That the 24th Annual General Meeting of the Taras H. Shevchenko Museum and Memorial Park Foundation be a virtual meeting on March 7, 2020."

Adjournment was followed by refreshments.

— **Carl Honor**



**Bernardine Dobrowolsky was re-elected as Recording Secretary.**



**Nancy Stewart was re-elected as Treasurer.**

# Another Family Night Success in Calgary

Forty-three cakes — I counted twice!

The little ones were getting closer and closer to the fabulous display of cakes appearing on the stage. Did I notice any cakes that were missing a bit of icing or sprinkles? HMMM! It was March 2, and soon going to be another wild Family Night at the Ukrainian Cultural Centre, the Calgary AUUC hall.

Trista Bailey, our fabulous Dance School Instructor had organized another extravaganza. For the price of admission, kids, parents, and guests were first treated to a mini-concert of new and well rehearsed dances.

It is amazing how much the kids had changed, even from Christmas. In their bright costumes and smiling faces, their

enthusiasm was easily observed.

The Calgary Hopak Orchestra, under the direction of Violetta Dimitrova, provided the music for each dance group and even added a few numbers of their own.

While the children changed into their party clothes, Mal Smandych and her very capable kitchen crew offered up a lovely ham and perogy supper. Delicious!

Family Night really starts after supper, when the Cake Walk pathway is created around the hall. Thank you to our Dance School instructors: Liza Makarova, Natashia Jeanson, Jenna Dudar, Isabelle Barrett, and your parent volunteers for taping down the pathway so quickly.

DJ Kenny Yong started and

stopped the music and Duff boldly called out the winning numbers.

It is always a surprise to see which cake is selected first. Will it be Barbie or Fantastic Mr. Fox? Perhaps the Rainbow or the Unicorn cake will go first. The best thing is that every child will get a cake tonight!

Thank you Duff Bailey for the fun you have being the MC for the night.

Once all the cakes were won, the dancing fun began. In duets, trios, or solos, everyone had fun boogy-ing to the music.

Of course, the Kolomeyka brought everyone to the dance floor. We saw some incredible dance moves, from both young and old!

Thank you to all our parents who help make this annual event so much fun. We are so grateful for your appreciation of Ukrainian culture, and your desire to see it continue. Thank you for bringing your little ones to weekly lessons, and supporting the activities at the Hall.

Until next year....

— Darlene Hrynychshyn



Done dancing? Time to start singing!



An option was the unicorn.



Some of the cakes were very elaborate.



The Chervony Venochek dance group performed a Bukovynian dance.



The Harney Sharavary group presented "Vesaliy Musiky".



Tynok Dance Group did the moving "Polisianochka".



It's important to preview the available cakes, to know which one to pick.

On Saturday, April 13, the AUUC in Winnipeg will be holding pysanky workshops at the Ukrainian Labour Temple. I am excited to be hosting these workshops! My first "crack" at making pysanky was in Junior High. I was in grade 7 and my Ukrainian teacher wanted us to learn not only the language but also other aspects of our heritage (Thanks, Mrs. K!!!). I do not remember what my first pysanka looked like but I am sure it was not a masterpiece.

When I was older, I taught my mother how to make pysanky and she really enjoyed it. Before Easter our basement became a busy little workshop as we taught our friends and neighbours. We put together a display and gave live demonstrations during Folklorama at the Lviv Pavillion held in the Ukrainian Labour Temple. Around Easter, the children of the AUUC School of Dance would have a workshop so that they could continue this lovely tradition. I have passed on the tradition to my two children and I hope this workshop will encourage people to continue enjoying this lovely art form.

— By Kim Boss

## Pysanka Workshop

UKRAINIAN LABOUR TEMPLE

# PYSANKA WORKSHOP!



SATURDAY APRIL 13TH, 2019

10:00 - 12:00 Children's Workshop \$10.00  
(parents must stay with children)

1:00 - 4:00 Adult Workshop \$10.00

Supplies included for both workshops

591 Pritchard Avenue | Ukrainian Labour Temple

RSVP to Kim @ 204 293 7105 (after 5:00)

maximum 20 participants per workshop

## An Urgent Appeal for Unity against the Growing Danger of War

To all those who share our sense of urgency about the worsening international situation, and the grave danger that war poses for the world today, we issue this Appeal for a united and powerful response.

At this critical moment, ending militarism, aggression and war, averting climate catastrophe, and tackling poverty, social disparity and related global problems should be humanity's top priorities. Instead, political elites, especially in the countries of the NATO alliance, including Canada, are pushing the world in the opposite direction.

We are witnessing the emergence of a 'new cold war' and the deliberate cultivation of Russophobia and Sino-phobia, along with other forms of fear-mongering and demonization. In North America, rearmament, bullying tactics and glorification of militarism seem the order of the day. While US President Donald Trump has been particularly shrill in his attacks against peace, his Democratic Party rivals frequently attempt to outflank him with their hawkish rhetoric. The principles of international law – respect for the full equality and sovereignty of all countries, non-interference, and the resolution of disputes through peaceful negotiation, not threats and aggression – are being increasingly violated. Important agreements such as the Iran nuclear deal

(JCPOA) and the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces/INF treaty are being unilaterally cancelled.

The arms race is accelerating, and weapons systems relentlessly "modernized". Globally, military spending is now over a trillion dollars a year, with the expanding US military budget leading the way. Foreign military bases are spreading like a metastasizing cancer, and the world's armed forces are now the largest single global source of carbon emissions from fossil fuel consumption.

As regional and international flashpoints sharpen, the danger of global war – involving the main nuclear powers – looms ever larger. The NATO encirclement of the Russian Federation is tightening, and economic and military pressures, as well as propaganda attacks against the People's Republic of China, are growing. Backed by Washington, Israel's rulers are escalating their repressive, apartheid policies against the Palestinian people in besieged Gaza and the Occupied West Bank. Imperialist "regime change" campaigns are targeting Venezuela, Nicaragua and other countries around the world. The US occupation of Afghanistan is now entering its 18th year, with no end in

sight. Canada's arms sales are helping the Saudi regime conduct a vicious war against the people of Yemen. Even the hopeful signs of progress on the Korean peninsula towards a peaceful resolution of that longstanding conflict are being undermined by hawkish forces inside the U.S. Administration and the military-industrial complex.

The widespread advance of racist, national chauvinist, and neo-fascist movements is adding to global instability. The deepening economic crisis of capitalism is fuelling increased rivalries, trade and tariff wars, even predictions of another global economic meltdown. The crisis of climate change is already bringing destructive weather systems, droughts, rising ocean levels, and other dire consequences.

### Canada's Role

In the face of this rapidly deteriorating situation, Canada should and must be a voice of reason and restraint, and a principled advocate for peace and disarmament. Instead, however, Ottawa has become one of the most bellicose voices marching to the 'drums of war'. The current Liberal government of Justin Trudeau and Chrystia Freeland has tilted Canadian foreign and defence policies in a far-right,

militarist and interventionist direction, and its bloated war budget squanders valuable resources which would be better spent on socially useful purposes. Any hope that this government would slash carbon emissions, or prioritize the needs of workers, Indigenous peoples, the poor and marginalized, seniors and youth, has vanished. Instead, Canadian military spending is skyrocketing, from the current levels of \$20 billion, to a projected \$36 billion by the middle of the next decade.

Across Canada, a number of useful and important peace & solidarity initiatives are taking place. But we must face the reality that overall, the peace movement in Canada and internationally today is not sufficient to address these many dangerous and interrelated threats. Unlike earlier periods – the 1980s with its huge mobilizations against the danger of nuclear war, or the early 2000s when millions protested the invasion of Iraq – the anti-war movement today is far smaller. The doctrine of "responsibility to protect", which the imperialist powers use as a pretext for their geopolitical agenda, has disoriented and neutralized popular resistance.

Today it is more urgent than

ever to foster greater cooperation, and unity of action among all of the forces for peace, solidarity and social justice. In the view of the Canadian Peace Congress, the absolutely imperative task of our times is to build powerful mass mobilizations for a decisive shift in Canadian and global politics, away from confrontation and militarism, and towards peace and disarmament. Only such a change can give the human race a realistic chance to save the planet from war and environmental disaster, and to improve the lives of billions of people.

But success requires far more than well-meaning phrases. Common action to transform Canadian foreign and defence policies toward peace and disarmament is needed now! We call upon all the diverse forces in our movement to set aside differences, unite around our shared concerns, and build campaigns to push back the threat of war and militarism, before it is too late!

The Canadian Peace Congress stands committed to this urgent and decisive goal and welcomes dialogue and joint action with any and all peace and solidarity groups and other concerned organizations and movements to help work for its realization.

— Executive Committee, Canadian Peace Congress, March, 2019

## Trudeau Doctrine

(Continued from Page 3,) part, Pedro Pablo Kuczynski, to "stress the need for dialogue and respect for the democratic rights of Venezuelan citizens, as enshrined in the charter of the Organization of American States and the Inter-American Democratic Charter".

But the Lima Group was established as a structure outside of the OAS largely be-

cause that organization's members refused to back Washington's and Ottawa's bid to interfere in Venezuelan affairs which, they believe, defies the OAS' charter.

While many liberal Canadian commentators promote the idea that the Lima Group operates independently of Washington, their U.S. counterparts are not deceived. In a story titled "Intervening

Against Venezuela's Strongman', Trump Belies 'America First'" the *New York Times* described U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's influence over the Lima Group declaration of January 4 that rejected Maduro's presidency.

The paper reported that Mr. Pompeo is in "close contact with" Ms. Freeland "who has played a leading role in rallying global criticism of Mr. Maduro."

The claim the Lima Group is independent of Washington

conjures up a story Jean Chrétien recounts telling U.S. President Bill Clinton in *My Years as Prime Minister*: "Keeping some distance will be good for both of us. If we look as though we're the fifty-first state of the United States, there's nothing we can do for you internationally, just as the governor of a state can't do anything for you internationally. But if we look independent enough, we can do things for you that even the CIA cannot do."

While currently focused on Venezuela, the nascent "Trudeau Doctrine" has wider regional implications. Chrystia Freeland has justified Canada's aggressive interference in Venezuela's affairs by saying "this is our neighbourhood",

while Justin Trudeau's personal representative for the G7 Summits and recent appointee to the Senate, Peter Boehm, told CBC, "This is our back yard, the Western hemisphere. We have a role here."

Describing Latin America as "our back yard" is the language favoured by so-called Ugly American politicians seeking to assert the Monroe Doctrine. Latin Americans should beware of the emergence of Ugly Canadians promoting the "Trudeau Doctrine".

— Yves Engler

(Yves Engler is the author of *The Black Book of Canadian Foreign Policy* and most recently *Left, Right: Marching to the Beat of Imperial Canada*.)

## Obfuscation on SNC-Lavalin

(Continued from Page 4.) obligations to safeguard independent prosecutions.

Drago Kos, a senior anti-bribery official with the OECD, said, "It's still at the stage of allegations but even this is enough for us to be concerned." In a telephone conversation, he told the *Toronto Star* that the excuse used by Prime Minister Trudeau and others for their interventions (that they were concerned about jobs at SNC-Lavalin) is not a legitimate justification for interfering with the judicial process under the OECD's

convention on combating bribery of foreign public officials in international business transactions.

In fact, that convention specifically says that investigations and prosecutions "shall not be influenced by considerations of national economic interest, the potential effect upon relations with another state or the identity of the natural or legal persons involved."

Canada, which is a signatory to the convention included similar language in the section of the Criminal Code

dealing with remediation agreements.

Mr. Kos specifically disagreed with the testimony of Michael Wernick, the Clerk of the Privy Council, who gave a different interpretation of the clause, saying that "national economic interest" is meant to prevent favouring one country over another in a prosecution.

Mr. Wernick told the Justice Committee, "My view is that the economic impacts of jobs – and it's explicitly in the Criminal Code, the impact on suppliers, pensioners, customers, communities – is a relevant public interest consideration." Mr. Wernick told the justice committee in his testimony.

## A Spat among Friends

It seems that in February German Chancellor Angela Merkel had a little disagreement with a suggestion from the USA as presented by U.S. Vice-President Mike Pence.

At the Security Conference meeting in Munich on February 16, Ms. Merkel withstood American pressure to provoke President Vladimir Putin by conducting naval manoeuvres

in the Kerch Strait, a narrow channel between the Crimean peninsula and the Russian mainland.

It seems that Chancellor Merkel referred to reservations from Ukrainian president Petro Poroshenko.

The German government and that of the USA occasionally find themselves at loggerheads on various issues.



## Ukrainian Miscellany

# Ukraine's Danger of Election Violence

In February, 2019, on the eve of the presidential election in Ukraine, the United States Institute of Peace issued Special Report No. 441, Preventing Violence during Ukraine's 2019 Elections. Printed below are excerpts from that report by Jonas Claes, a senior program officer at the US Institute of Peace, Artem Myroshnychenko, an independent research consultant in Kyiv, and Yevheniia Polshchikova, an independent social researcher in Kyiv who has worked as an analyst for the World Food Program, UNICEF, the World Bank, and others.

In the "Summary" which introduces the report, the writers find:

"Ukraine has entered a busy election season, with a presidential election slated for March 31, 2019, and parliamentary elections to follow on October 27. Many Ukrainians expect turbulent and "dirty" elections.

"Though the risk of intense, wide-spread election violence is low, voter and candidate intimidation is likely. Both the presidential and parliamentary elections will likely see interference from Moscow and post-election protests.

"Organizing elections amid an ongoing violent conflict creates unique security challenges as it provides new targets for armed groups aimed at undermining political stability.

"The extensive presence of right-wing extremist groups also poses the threat of physical violence, while collusion among politicians, law enforcement personnel, and criminal networks at a local or regional level may lead to harassment and violent competition.

"The Ukrainian National Police and the Central Election Commission are best positioned to prevent election-related violence and to protect political candidates, civic activists, and voters. Authorities will need additional training on election violence analysis and prevention in order to strengthen their local preparedness and ensure electoral justice.

"Diplomats should coordinate their messaging to encourage a high threshold for election integrity, ensure accountability for corruption and violence, and counter Russian interference."

The risk assessment was done between September and December, 2018, and identi-

fies the key conflict dynamics at play in the run-up to Ukraine's presidential and parliamentary elections.

The report says that "Ukraine has become the epicentre of great power conflict between two parties with a clear interest in the election outcome: Russia and the transatlantic alliance."

The elections are being held "...in this context of international competition".

The report notes that, "Though the risk of severe election violence is minimal, low-intensity forms are likely, particularly in advance of the parliamentary elections. Such election-related violence is expected in the form of voter and candidate suppression, Russian interference, and postelection protests.

"The structural risks are compounded by the lack of a clear front-runner for the presidency."

The report says that,

"The October elections for the Verkhovna Rada (parliament) pose slightly different problems, since localized competition for power is fierce and more difficult to control. Criminal influences are strong in certain oblasts, and parties that do not win the presidency may resort to violent measures to increase their numbers in parliament as compensation."

### Risks of Election Violence

"Election violence is a form of political violence deliberately used to change the election process or outcome. It can happen at any time during the election cycle: before, during, and after election day, and could take many forms, including the destruction of voting materials, cyber attacks, intimidation of candidates and voters, targeted assassinations, and physical attacks by extremists.

"Election violence is common around the world because it works: it effectively deters voters and candidates, undermines the integrity of the vote, and helps shape the election results. However, carefully selected and timely prevention efforts, assistance, and diplomacy can help reduce the risk of violence.

"In Ukraine, most of the security risks that could drive or trigger violence are internal. (Stress added -Ed.) The extensive presence of right-wing extremist groups poses the threat of physical violence, while collusion among politicians, law enforcement personnel, and criminal networks at a local or regional level may lead to har-

assment and violent competition. Many Ukrainians expect turbulent and "dirty" elections. (In the Ukrainian context, "dirty elections" refers to the perceived use of unfair or illegal tactics by political actors.) Despite voter intimidation and attacks on election infrastructure, observers, and the media in recent elections in Ukraine, only a few NGOs and electoral assistance providers have prioritized the prevention of election-related violence in terms of reporting, dedicated resources, and activities. The risk of intense, widespread election violence is fortunately quite low but merits more attention."

### Spillover from the Donbas War

The report studies particular dynamics in certain oblasts. Among these are the armed conflict the Donbas region.

The report says, "The presence of heavy weaponry and illicit unregistered small arms increases the severity of possible violence. The ongoing war also effectively prevents around five million Ukrainian voters in Crimea, Luhansk, and Donetsk from voting.

.... "Organizing elections amid an ongoing violent conflict creates unique security challenges as it provides new targets for armed groups aimed at undermining political stability. Additionally, the conflict limits access for civil society and election observers.... While people in Crimea and the NGCAs are able to register and vote in government-controlled territory, the related security risks, as well as the financial and administrative burdens, are expected to significantly suppress voter turnout. In addition, an estimated 1.6 million internally displaced persons face tough hurdles to participation in the electoral processes, owing to complex registration and voting procedures."

The report says that the declaration of martial law by President Poroshenko on November 26, 2018, did not affect the official campaign season. "The most direct impact was the cancellation of forty-seven local elections in communities where martial law was imposed, out of 151 elections that were originally scheduled for December 23."

According to the report, "A concerning development is the increased tolerance for violence in Ukrainian society as a legitimate method of conflict resolution." This is "manifested especially in the willingness to participate in violent street protests". The Orange Revolution of 2004 and

the so-called "Revolution of Dignity" 2013-14 "enhancing the appeal of protest as an effective tool for change".

The report says that, "Violent historical figures and those killed during the Euro-maidan protests are often glorified, while nonviolent conflict resolution methods are perceived as tools of the weak."

### Political-Criminal Nexus

The report notes that, "Election violence presents an effective and low-risk tool for organized criminal groups aimed at securing cooperation from and complicity with political and security authorities. Connections between local officials and criminal organizations present a serious risk of localized intimidation and physical attacks. Much of the violence is expected to occur ..., with competing criminal networks acting as conflict entrepreneurs, threatening political challengers to guarantee their access to power and resources.... Competition over access to power and property between different groups usually escalates in the run-up to elections."

The western oblasts of Rivne and Zhytomyr are cited as "examples of regions where criminal groups maintain a strong grip on authorities." However "political-criminal networks and patronage systems are also well established in Zakarpattya" and other eastern and southern parts of Ukraine.

The report says that, "... political candidates across the spectrum are known to use intimidation as a tactic, either through their own covert armed groups or by hiring thugs...."

### Militarization of Far-Right Groups

The report is concerned that veterans of the 2013-14 action, and far-right extremist organizations have become more visible perpetrators of violence and "present a physical threat to voters and candidates, ethnic or religious minorities, and left-wing, LGBTQ, and human rights activists".

"Groups like the OUN Volunteer Movement, the Brotherhood, C14, and Carpathian Sich operate independently but can be recruited to intimidate or provoke violence for political purposes."

The report says that, "Several far-right groups maintain ties with law enforcement and government officials, leading to an unacceptable leniency toward some of the violence they perpetrate and a severe lack of accountability."

### Limited Space for Civil Society and Opposition

The report says that Ukraine remains an unconsolidated (partly free) democracy. Recently there has been a

record number of attacks on civil society activists, with inadequate investigation and prosecution. The death of Katerina Handziuk is one of more than fifty attacks on activists and human rights defenders in 2018. "The head of Kherson's regional council was charged with organizing the murder."

### Religious Polarization

The report says that "... the creation of a unified Orthodox Church of Ukraine ... has deepened religious divisions that could escalate into violence. This momentous split within the Eastern Orthodox Church has evolved into a significant conflict dynamic, deepening geopolitical tensions by reducing Russia's influence in Ukraine."

.... "Any form of diversity, whether ethnic, religious, cultural, or economic, can be exploited by politicians, who invoke a threat narrative to unify their constituencies."

President Poroshenko and Russian President Vladimir Putin have "instrumentalized the autocephaly process as a key political strategy to swing the electorate, deepen the split between parishioners, and gin (sic) up fears over security. Parish churches in Ukraine are increasingly being used by political actors as propaganda platforms to shape voter preferences during campaigning."

### Strong but Vulnerable Institutions

The report discusses the weakness of the inexperienced Central Election Commission, which could lead to distrust of election results. One concern is the regional administrations, whose "influence could be misused to harass opposition candidates and even shape the election outcome.

"Gross mismanagement, real or perceived, and delays in processing and investigating election-related complaints are possible triggers of violent protest."

### Voter Dissatisfaction and Distrust

"Despite significant institutional and legal improvements, entrenched corruption, collusion, and impunity create a growing sense of injustice and voter apathy," says the report.

### Oblast Risk Dynamics

The report says that several oblasts "face specific challenges". Kyiv, Donetsk oblast, Kharkiv, Odesa, and Zakarpattya are named as vulnerable sites.

The report says, "Despite these challenges, the overall risk of intense, widespread election-related violence remains low." Then it proceeds to list a range of common yet under-reported forms of violence in Ukraine.

# WGS Commemorative Events

(Continued from Page 5.) beyond. Alongside several prominent roundtable panelists and presenters from Vancouver to Halifax, the 1919 WGSCC proudly features as its keynote, activist, organizer, educator and author Dr. Jane McAlevey!

The 1919 WGSCC will also feature performances from local and internationally-renowned artists (TBA) at historically significant venues — including the Ukrainian Labour Temple.

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION: <https://www.brandonu.ca/1919/>

FOR FURTHER INFO, please visit: 1919-2019.com OR facebook.com/1919WinnipegGeneralStrikeConference

Saturday, May 11. Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives - Manitoba Presents: **BOOTS RILEY. Knox United Church, 400 Edmonton Street. 5:30 p.m. Doors open. 6:30 p.m. Event with Q & A to follow.**

Tickets: **General: \$30, Student: \$20. Ticket and Post Event Supporter Meet-n-Greet: \$100 (includes \$50 charitable receipt), Available at McNally Robinson, Eventbrite, CCPA-MB, Answers (U of M) and U of W Info booth.**

Boots Riley is a prominent black American rapper, producer, screenwriter, community organizer and director whose pro-labour feature film debut, *Sorry to Bother You*, received universal acclaim from audiences & critics alike — topping the National Board of Review's best films of 2018. Lead for the political Hip Hop group *The Coup*, Boots' radical roots were forged from a young age by way of the International Committee Against Racism and the Progressive Labor Party (PLP).

All event Info: <https://www.policyalternatives.ca/offices/manitoba/events>

Saturday, May 11. **1919 Social.** Presented by Myers LLP. **Ukrainian Labour Temple, 591 Pritchard Avenue. 8:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m.** Tickets: **\$10, need to be reserved, call 204-947-1400.**

We regret that venue is not accessible — stairs are required to access venue and use facilities.

Sunday, May 12. **The Graphic History Collective 1919: A Graphic History of the Winnipeg General Strike — Book Launch.** McNally Robinson Booksellers (in the Atrium) 1120 Grant Avenue. **2:00 p.m. Free event.**

In May and June, 1919, more than 30,000 workers

walked off the job in Winnipeg, Manitoba. The strikers made national and international headlines, and they inspired workers to mount sympathy strikes in many other Canadian cities. Although the strike lasted for six weeks, it ultimately ended in defeat. The strike was violently crushed by police, in collusion with state officials and Winnipeg's business elites.

One hundred years later, the Winnipeg General Strike remains one of the most significant events in Canadian history. This comic book revisits the strike to introduce new generations to its many lessons.

Monday, May 13. **If 30,000 Strikers Marched Today! Book Launch.** McNally Robinson Booksellers, 1120 Grant Avenue. **7:00 p.m. Free event.**

A poetry reading by working class poet Ron Romanowski. The launch of his 8th book of poetry dedicated to the strikers of 1919 and activists working today, *If 30,000 Strikers Marched Today!*

This is fierce poetry written by a working class poet, who also wrote a book of protest for the 90th anniversary of the Strike in 2009, which became a local best seller.

For more information call **Ron at 204-667-6802** or visit the **McNally Robinson Website.**

Tuesday, May 14. **Winnipeg General Strike Illustrated Presentation.** Henderson Public Library **6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Free event.**

Join Michael Dupuis historian and author of *The Winnipeg General Strike Ordinary Men And Women Under Extraordinary Circumstances* as he explores the causes, events and results of the Winnipeg general strike in an illustrated presentation. **Registration for this free event opens February 21** on the **Winnipeg Public Library's website.**

Wednesday, May 15. **Winnipeg Labour Choir Concert.** Ukrainian Labour Temple, 591 Pritchard Avenue. **6:00 p.m. Doors open. 7:30 p.m. Concert. Tickets: \$10.**

Loa Henry has resurrected the Winnipeg Labour Choir in honour of the 1919 Winnipeg General Strike and a tribute to the working men and women who participated in the strike. Guest performers are musicians: Greg MacPherson, Harry Havey and Karen Dana, Joseph and Mike Warbansky.

The concert takes place 100 years to the day when

women telephone operators walked off the job at the call of the Winnipeg Trades and Labour Council. The venue for the concert is the Ukrainian Labour Temple, chosen as the place strikers often went to organize and strategize.

After the concert there will be a cash bar.

Wednesday, May 15. **Winnipeg General Strike Centennial Gala Dinner.** Presented by **Manitoba Building Trades. RBC Convention Centre, Third Floor, Hall A. 5:30 p.m. Cocktails. 6:30 p.m. Program and Dinner**

For tickets call **204-947-1400.**

Entertainment: Rainbow Stage preview performance of *Strike! The Musical*, comedy performance by Steve Patterson, music and dancing with The Danny Kramer Band — brought to you by UNIFOR.

Thursday, May 16. On the 100th anniversary of the 1919 Winnipeg General Strike **Memorial Service for Mike Sokolowski, Brookside Cemetery.** 3001 Notre Dame Avenue (*immediately west of Red River College*). **7:00 p.m. Free event.**

Please join **MayWorks** at Brookside Cemetery for a grave side memorial service for Mike Sokolowski, who died as a result of a gunshot wound on June 21, 1919 during a peaceful demonstration.

After the service we will visit the gravesite of Steve Schezerbanovich who died a few days later of gangrene poisoning as a result of gunshot wounds also received on June 21.

Saturday, May 25. **Solidarity Forever Parade** Presented by **UFCW 832. 11:00 a.m. to noon. Free event.**

Parade will start at 11:00 am in the **Exchange District** and make its way to **Memorial Park** to be followed by a **Community Concert.**

For more information or to register a Float or Walking Group in the parade, call **204-947-1400.**

Saturday, May 25. **Solidarity Forever Community Concert.** Presented by **CUPE Manitoba/Programming by Mayworks. Memorial Park. 2:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Free event.**

Performances by: Bruce Steele (Host); Sierra Noble; James Keelaghan; David Rovics; Heather Bishop; Maria Dunn with Shannon Johnson; Red Moon Road; Nathan Rogers; Joe Jencks. Includes: **Family Fun Zone**, brought to you by **The Manitoba Teachers' Society** and **Food Court**, brought to you

by MAHCP.

For more information call **204-947-1400.**

Saturday, May 25 and Sunday, May 26. **Doors Open at the Ukrainian Labour Temple.** It's Our 100th Anniversary! **Ukrainian Labour Temple.** 591 Pritchard Avenue. **11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.** Tours from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. **Free event.**

The Ukrainian Labour Temple is again proud to be part of *Doors Open* Winnipeg's annual look inside historic and unique structures.

The Ukrainian Labour Temple was constructed in 1918-1919 and had its official opening in February, 1919. It is the only surviving Labour Hall associated with the events of the Winnipeg General Strike.

Come join us for some Ukrainian hospitality and entertainment. We will also be conducting some exciting guided tours of our 100 year old building.... opening some long closed rooms, poking into some dusty corners, and revealing some long lost secrets of this historic building with a somewhat controversial past history!

The Ukrainian Labour Temple holds heritage designations from all three levels of government. The building continues to be a vibrant centre for progressive culture and politics, and remains a focal point for the Ukrainian community.

Sunday, May 26. **1919 SYMPATHETIC STRIKE Tour. 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.** \$15 for employed adults - no charge for students, seniors, or those unemployed. Reserve a seat: **commgroup@mts.net** or call/text **204-793-3289.**

In May, 1919, over 30,000 workers shut down Winnipeg in one of the most important moments in our political history. For six weeks, inflammatory social conditions and relations ignited into a major protest over wages, rights, inequality and revolution

The Tour will go through highlights of what happened in 1919, exposing the social and economic conditions that led to and followed the Strike. The tour reflects on how the echoes of the Strike can be heard in the Winnipeg of today — both inspiring some people and threatening others.

The Strike Tour starts in the north end of Winnipeg, goes to the residential area south of the Assiniboine River and ends in the Exchange area of the city, particularly on the Red River at Victoria Park.

The tour has been fully booked for the last four years so register early. Confirmation and location to meet will be sent to you after you register and provide an e-mail address.

Saturday, June 8. **Rise Up 100: Songs for the Next Century Concert.** Presented by MGEU / Programming by The Winnipeg Folk Festival. **The Cube.** Old Market Square. **2:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Free event.**

Performances by: Tom Morello, Ani DiFranco, John K Samson, Leonard Sumner and more. Includes: **1919 Tavern**, brought to you by **LiUNA** and **Little Brown Jug Food Court**, brought to you by **Assiniboine Credit Union.**

For more information call **204-947-1400.**

Thursday, June 13. **Women Strike! 1919-2019, The Winnipeg General Strike.** Written & directed by Norman Nawrocki. **Ukrainian Labour Temple.** 591 Pritchard Avenue. **7:00 p.m. Doors. 7:30 p.m. Performance of traditional Ukrainian folk music. 8:15 p.m. Play**

**Ticketed event.** *Women Strike!* is a one-act play for three women. They play the roles of six courageous East European working women who became involved in the 1919 Winnipeg General Strike.

Monday, June 17 at **11:00 a.m. Student Preview Matinee** (tickets **\$15.00** each) Tuesday, **June 18** to Friday, **June 28.** Tuesday, **July 2** to Friday, **July 5.**

**RAINBOW STAGE** presents **STRIKE! THE MUSICAL.** Music & Lyrics by **DANNY SCHUR.** Book by **RICK CHAFE** and **DANNY SCHUR.** **7:30 p.m. evening performances. 2:00 p.m. matinee performances** (for days see [www.rainbowstage.ca](http://www.rainbowstage.ca))

**Tickets from \$25 up to \$65 all in taxes and fees included.** Tickets are available on-line [www.rainbowstage.ca](http://www.rainbowstage.ca) or by calling **204-989-0888.**

Friday, June 21. **'Bloody Saturday' Sculpture Unveiling.** A public art work by Bernie Miller and Noam Gonick. **Corner of Market and Main.** Time: TBA. **Free event.**

A memorial to the 100th anniversary of the 1919 General Strike will be launched in Pantages Plaza. This permanent installation replicates the streetcar which was tipped and burnt at the climax of Bloody Saturday, June 21, 1919.

The artwork was commissioned by the Winnipeg Arts Council with additional support from the Government of Canada, the Manitoba Federation of Labour and Manitoba's Unions, Centre Venture, the Winnipeg Foundation, the Amalgamated Transit Union and IATSE Local 856.

# Manufacturing Consent

(Continued from Page 3.)

CBC News presented an online gallery of pictures that had been tweeted out by the Venezuelan opposition that supposedly showed the brutal “repression” being committed by the Venezuelan government. The CBC did not mention, however, that many of the pictures in their gallery were not even from Venezuela! Two of the pictures, for example, were of police crackdowns against student protesters in Chile last year. One picture, which showed a young woman who had been savagely beaten, was actually taken in Egypt at the height of the Arab Spring three years ago!” (by Camilo Cahis, *Venezuela Analysis*, March 27, 2014)

## Sanctions as a weapon and the acceptance by the media

The lack of media scrutiny in its reporting on Venezuela has ramped up in the period since 2017, when Canada joined the U.S. in imposing numerous economic sanctions. The media has never challenged the legality of these sanctions which are illegal by international law since only the United Nations has the power to impose sanctions.

Canada has two laws covering sanctions. One is the United Nations Act which recognizes the primacy of the United Nations, the other is the Special Economic Measures Act or SEMA, which allows it to sidestep interna-

tional law and impose sanctions unilaterally. It was under SEMA, in September, 2017, and the cover of the Lima Group, which was founded one month before, that sanctions were imposed by Order-in-Council (allowed by SEMA), bypassing any vote in the House of Commons.

Given the lack of scrutiny by the media, most Canadians do not realize that Canada, the U.S. and the European Union are acting in contravention of international law and norms when they impose and strengthen sanctions against Venezuela. What they are led to believe is the false equation that the Venezuelan government abuses the people and therefore sanctions are justified.

## Propaganda for a coup

The propaganda for a coup reached a fever pitch in the weeks and days leading up to February 23. That was the date, set by the self-declared President Juan Guaido and the “opposition”, for bringing U.S. aid across the Columbia border to Venezuela.

The media reported non-stop about the emergence of dual political power in Venezuela and the recognition of a parallel government by more than 50 countries in the world. At the same time the media ignored the role of sanctions and falling oil prices as the source of Venezuela’s economic problems, preferring to blame Venezuela’s crisis on corruption and mismanagement.

However, two particular events stand out in the manipulation of information leading up to February 23. The “fake news” about the Tienditas Bridge and the Amnesty International report documenting human rights violations in Venezuela.

## The “fake news” of the Tienditas Bridge

On February 6, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo posted on Twitter:

“The Venezuelan people desperately need humanitarian aid. The US & other countries are trying to help, but #Venezuela’s military under Maduro’s orders is blocking aid with trucks and shipping tankers. The Maduro regime must LET THE AID REACH THE STARVING PEOPLE”.

The message of Pompeo was clear. Maduro is ruthless, does not care about the people of his country, and is willing to shut down and blockade a huge six-lane highway in order to stop them eating. The tweet bolstered the U.S. position that Maduro must go and be replaced with Juan Guaido of the Venezuelan opposition.

The mainstream media around the world reported Mike Pompeo’s tweet and included a photo. Here is what some of the media said.

BBC News reported:

“US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has demanded Venezuela reopen a bridge on the Colombian border for an aid shipment organized by the opposition.”

*The Independent* reported:

“Nicolas Maduro’s regime blocked the Tienditas International Bridge with a giant orange tanker, two large blue containers and makeshift fencing.”

CNN reported:

“The Venezuelan government, led by embattled President Nicolas Maduro, has blocked a bridge connecting Venezuela to Colombia, according to Colombian officials and a CNN photojournalist at the scene.”

The CBC, too, engaged in reporting the fake news of Mike Pompeo. The CBC subsequently updated their post of February 7, removing it and replacing it with this admission:

“CBC News was among the many news organizations that used the photo in stories, stating that Maduro’s forces had purposely blocked the Tienditas Bridge with shipping containers and a fuel tanker” Thus, at a time when the U.S., Canada and the European Union were exerting maximum pressure for regime change, the media in Canada, Britain and the U.S. used the story to inflame public opinion.

The truth, as reported by the *Orinoco Tribune* and others is that the bridge has been

blocked for years.

## The Amnesty International report and its role in the coup

On February 20, just three days before the date set by the U.S. to bring aid across the Venezuelan border, Amnesty International released a report documenting human rights abuses in Venezuela. Before this report, released just days before the anticipated showdown at the Colombian/Venezuelan border, a search of the Amnesty website shows only two short references to Venezuela. Timing is everything and this report certainly served the needs to inflame public opinion.

On February 21, Foreign Affairs Minister Chrystia Freeland labelled the Amnesty allegations another example of the “despicable” regime of Nicholas Maduro.

The countdown to the coup was on. It was now aided by what many would consider to be a human rights organization above any partisan campaigning. The Amnesty report provided the media with “incidents”, “facts”, “figures”, and “sound bites” ready for the media and governments to regurgitate for the morning and evening news.

A review of the main media shows they took this information and republished it verbatim. This was then used to draw the conclusion needed by governments angling for regime change. MSN reported the comments of a Canadian official:

“The latest report, and many before it, outline how the despicable Maduro regime abuses and kills protesters and silences its critics,” said Freeland’s spokesman Adam Austen.

“These unconscionable acts are the very reason that Canada is playing a leading role in the defence of the rights of Venezuelans” said Austen. “Our work in the Lima Group is motivated by a desire to restore democracy and protect human rights and this work continues.”

However, the Amnesty report, from first to last sentence, is a troubling document. The report offers no verification of the allegations it presents; it simply asserts that these are true. Moreover, it is

a document that focuses exclusively on the actions of the government. In a clash between any government and an opposition one would expect to find incidents on both sides.

It is a known fact that the Venezuelan opposition is armed and contains groups who do not hesitate to use extreme violence. On May 20, 2017, Orlando Figuera died when he was stabbed six times and set on fire as he attempted to cross through an opposition blockade of a street. Though it was reported on in the international press, Amnesty did not comment on his death. On February 23, as reported by the New York Times on March 10, opposition forces burned the very trucks they were attempting to force across the Venezuelan border.

Can Amnesty be trusted? The Amnesty International report on Venezuela is a classic example of an unverified source. Almost all of the claims made in the report are based on Amnesty International’s assertion that it investigated the reported allegations; it offers no documentation of the incidents. The “truth” of the report rests entirely on the premise that Amnesty is above the fray and beyond reproach.

The one incident it documents, the killing of Luis Suarez, is actually a story reported by another source. A search reveals that it is reported first by Instagram and then as a social media link on the website of a television station in Miami in a story posted on January 25. Amnesty then included it as part of its report.

The majority of the report is based on Amnesty claims followed by conclusions. This is typical of the report:

“In an interview with Amnesty International, they said that upon being arrested, the authorities beat them, called them “guarimberos” (protestors who use violence) and “terrorists”, exposed them to irritant substances, deprived them of sleep, and threatened to kill them. According to their testimony, the officials who detained them belonged to several different state security forces and were accompanied by people dressed in civilian clothes.”

(Continued on Page 12.)



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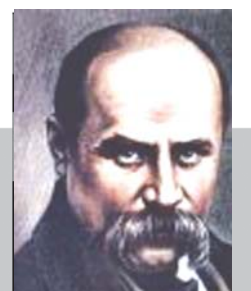
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## Manufacturing Consent

(Continued from Page 11.)

Which leads Amnesty international to this conclusion:

“Arbitrarily detaining more than a hundred adolescents and subjecting them to cruel treatment, which at times may have constituted torture, shows how far the authorities are willing to go in their desperate attempts to stop the protests and subdue the population,” said Erika Guevara-Rosas.”

The exception to that tactic in the report is the use of the organization Foro Penal, a Venezuelan human rights organization, as a source in parts of the report. But who is Foro Penal? Foro Penal maintains a web site and publishes in Spanish. Foro Penal's coverage of human rights issues is entirely from the angle of blaming the Bolivarian government for violence and other crimes.

It turns out Foro Penal has close links with the U.S. and Canada, both of which have given it human rights awards. Canada's award was pre-

sented to Foro Penal by Ben Rowswell, who was Canada's diplomatic representative to Venezuela for a time. Ben Rowswell eventually had his diplomatic credentials revoked by the Venezuelan government because he maintained a social media network linking thousands of opposition supporters. Ben Rowswell is often seen on the CBC commenting in support of the opposition and the need for regime change.

**Footnote: The role of the CBC**

While the corporate media is seen as engaging in politics that suit corporate interests, the CBC is perceived as having a special role as a publicly funded news provider. It is seen as a voice of journalistic independence, dedicated to

finding the truth about events.

One would expect that the CBC, as a publicly funded broadcaster, would have taken up the task of reporting on the situation in Venezuela by analyzing events in order to present an accurate assessment. However, in this regard, it has failed any test of journalistic independence or dedication to presenting the truth.

On issue of sanctions and the push for regime change in Venezuela, the CBC has come out as a defender of these policies, openly promoting the politics of intervention and sanctions by the Lima Group. Like its counterpart in the U.S., National Public Radio, the CBC has chosen to echo the narrative that Venezuela is a corrupt dictatorship while the opposition is a democratic alternative that will turn Venezuela around economically.

— Glenn Michalchuk

## Who, What, When, Where

**Vancouver** — AUUC Vancouver Branch will hold a **Perogy Lunch and Mini-Bazaar** at the **Ukrainian Cultural Centre**, 805 E. Pender, from **11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** on Sunday, **April 14**. Come and enjoy Ukrainian food, handicrafts, and home baking.

\* \* \*

**Calgary** — A **Spring Concert**, the final concert of the year, presented by the **Calgary Ukrainian Hopak Ensemble**, with special guest artists, **Edmonton's Trembita Folk Choir**, at **2:00 p.m.** on Sunday, **May 5**, at the **Ukrainian Cultural Centre**, 3316 – 28 Avenue S.W. For tickets, **\$15.00** each, call **Darlene** at **403- 271-2379**. Join us for **refreshments** after the concert.

\* \* \*

**Winnipeg** — AUUC Winnipeg Branch invites everyone to **Pysanka Workshop** at the **Ukrainian Labour Temple**, 591 Pritchard Avenue on Saturday, **April 13. 10:00 a.m. to 12:00** — **Children's Workshop. \$10.00** (Parents must stay with children). **1:00 to 4:00** — **Adult Workshop. \$10.00**. Supplies included for both workshops. **RSVP to Kim @ 204-293-7105** (after 5:00 p.m.). Maximum 20 participants per workshop.

\* \* \*

**Winnipeg** — AUUC Winnipeg Branch invites everyone to the **Re-dedication of the Ukrainian Labour Temple**, 591 Pritchard Avenue from **5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.** on Thursday, **April 25**. There is **no admission charge**, but **seating limited**. To attend **RSVP to 204-467-5043** or to **auucwinnipeg@gmail.com**.

\* \* \*

**Winnipeg** — AUUC Winnipeg Branch presents the **Winnipeg Mandolin Orchestra in Concert**, with guest artists **The Bart House Band** (for info: barthouse.ca) at the **Ukrainian Labour Temple**, 591 Pritchard Avenue, at **8:00 p.m.** on Saturday, **May 4**. **Tickets: \$20.00** available **at the door**.

\* \* \*

**Toronto** — **LEGENDS OF TIME: Exhibition and Sale of Paintings by Oleh Nedoshytko** will be unveiled with an **opening reception** at the **Taras Shevchenko Museum**, 1614 Bloor Street West, from **2:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.** on Sunday, **April 7**. The exhibition will run to May 24. For Shevchenko Museum operating hours and contact information, see the ad in this issue.

\* \* \*

**Toronto** — AUUC Toronto Branch invites members and friends to a **luncheon** buffet at the **Old Mill**, 21 Old Mill Road, at **noon** on Wednesday, **April 24**. Admission: **Members — \$25.00; non-members — \$30.00**.

\* \* \*

**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.**

**Why not renew your subscription now?**

## 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  
E-mail: auuctorontobranch@gmail.com

### WELLAND BRANCH

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

**Happy Birthday, Friends!**



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

Anne Husar

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

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

Joan Kowalewich  
Audrey Skalbania

Enjoy your day with family and friends!

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

Rose Kwiecinski  
George Sitak

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