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Heart of the City in Vancouver

— Photo: Dan Fung



Vancouver’s annual Downtown Eastside Heart of the City Festival includes a showcase concert and dinner at the Ukrainian Cultural Centre. Once again, the AUUC was proud to host a sold-out event on November 3, the story, with photos, appears on Page 7.

The Next Issue

The next issue of the “UCH” will be dated January 2020. Announcements of events in January or early February, 2020, as well as articles for the January, 2020, issue, should be in our office by December 10. Thank you for your consideration.

A World in Turmoil

Writing in the Toronto Star on November 2, Tony Burman asked, “What in the world would happen if many of the planet’s ruling elites pursued political and economic policies that plundered the environment, stifled genuine democracy, encouraged systemic corruption, looted public funds, slashed assistance to the poor, worsened income inequality at the expense of the dwindling middle class, and created tax laws designed to enrich themselves, their families, and their wealthy friends forever more?”

He answered, “Well, we are beginning to find out.”

Mr. Burman’s question pretty well reflects the behaviour of much of the ultra-rich stratum of human society. In spite of years of admonitions by those fearing revolution, the so-called 1% continue to grab as much as they can, leaving scraps for everyone else.

Of course, that breeds anger among those left behind, who find survival increasingly difficult. It also breeds a sense of nothing to lose and a world to win.

It is probably an oversimplification to attribute all the turmoil around the world to the excesses of the plutocrats, as Mr. Burman has done, but he has presented an impressive list of hot spots.

He begins with the Middle East, where (at the time of writing) protests had been in progress for two weeks in Lebanon, forcing the Prime Minister to resign. Of course, there is also Iraq.

Moving on the Americas, he cites Chile, Ecuador, Bolivia, and Argentina. He also mentions Haiti and Honduras.

Moving on to Europe, he mentions Spain’s Catalonia.

In Africa, he knows of Ethiopia, and in Asia there are Pakistan and Hong Kong.

An interesting inclusion is the September turmoil connected with “the global strike over the looming environmental catastrophe”, with an estimated six million participants before the UN Climate Summit.

With the “top 26 billionaires” owning as much as the world’s poorest 3.8 billion people, the pain filtering down to all levels of society is indeed being felt.

Mr. Burman ends with a reference to the USA, where the budgetary deficit has gone up by 50% since President Trump’s ascent to power. Policies have been put in place which will further enrich the already rich, at the expense of the rest of society, long after President Trump is history.

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Canadian Wins Nobel Prize for Physics

At the age of 84, and retired for 20 years, James Peebles has been awarded the Nobel Prize for physics. The Nobel committee gave him the prize because his work is the basis for our contemporary ideas about the universe, from the big bang to the present day.

Born in the francophone community of St Boniface before it became part of Winnipeg, Dr Peebles completed his undergraduate studies at the University of Manitoba



before moving to Princeton University in New Jersey for graduate school.

A dual Canadian-US citizen, he has taught at the Ivy League school for the past

five decades. He continues to do research at a “relaxed rate” because he enjoys it. He is a fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, and the Order of Manitoba.

The author of five books he has a sixth coming out in 2020, on the history of cosmology from Albert Einstein to today.

He shares the \$1.2 million prize with two other scientists, and will also receive a gold medal and a diploma. These will be presented in Stockholm, Sweden, on December 10.

He plans to share his prize with his family, and donate some to charity, including the University of Manitoba.

Best Wishes of the Season!



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



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



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Money Men Pessimistic

For quite a while, economists have been pessimistic about the world economy. For example, the International Monetary Fund continues to downgrade its expectations for the world economy, and foresees that growth in 2019 will be the slowest since the 2008 financial crisis, mainly because of widening global conflicts.

Hope for a slight rebound in 2020 are very guarded because of growing political tensions in the Middle East and the fear that the United States and China will continue to escalate their trade war.

The mid-October forecast for global growth is 3.0% for 2019, well below the 3.6% growth in 2018.

For the USA, the IMF projects a 2.4% gain, compared to 2.9% in 2018.

From the 19% growth by the Canadian economy in

2018, the IMF projects only 15% for 2019 and 18% in 2020 for this country. These were the forecasts in mid-October, in preparation for the meeting of the 189-country IMF and the World Bank.

Those meetings, and that of the G-20, the 20 largest economies in the world, are expected to concentrate on efforts to reduce the trade wars.

The IMF's chief economist, Gita Gopinath, said that, "...there is no room for policy mistakes, and an urgent need for policy-makers to co-operatively de-escalate trade and geopolitical tensions."

In early October, the United States and China reached a temporary ceasefire in their trade war when President Donald Trump agreed to suspend a tariff hike on \$250 billion (US) of Chinese products that was to take effect in mid-October. How-

ever, the Trump administration's threat to raise tariffs on an additional \$160 billion in Chinese imports on December 15 remains in effect.

The IMF expects that about half the increase in growth expected in 2020 will come from recoveries in countries whose economies slowed significantly in 2019, such as Mexico, India, Russia and Saudi Arabia.

The 2019 slowdown was caused largely by higher tariffs arising from trade disputes. Growth in trade in the first half of 2019 slowed to 1%, the weakest annual rate since 2012.

The IMF estimates that trade disputes will cause a loss of some \$700 billion in output by the end of 2020, about 0.8% of world output.

The slowdown in 2019 happened even though the Federal Reserve and other central banks cut interest rates and applied other means to stimulate their economies.

Current Eclectic

China Is the Key

In mid-November, reports were that American companies in China are scaling back, with lower revenues, less investment and job cuts.

The American Chamber of Commerce in Shanghai reported in mid-September that over half of its members said that Chinese and American tariffs had hurt revenue.

Nevertheless, the companies were more concerned about the slowdown in the growth of the Chinese economy as affecting their business.

American companies in Shanghai have been used to the problems associated with strong growth including strong local competition and rising costs.

The group has about 3,000 members, representing some 1,500 companies. This year, 333 responded to the survey. More than 75% claimed that they continue to be profitable in China, but only half anticipated revenue growth this year, compared to 81% last year and similar number in recent years.

A solid majority of 61% continue to be positive about prospects over the next 5 years, but in previous years that number was 80% or higher. Furthermore, 21% were pessimistic about the next five years, more than double earlier numbers.

One growing problem is the threat of declining market access, as China retaliates against America's exclusion of Huawei and other high tech companies.

Manufacturers are exploring other options, such as Southeast Asia, as manufacturing sites or materials sources, moving out of China to avoid tariffs.

Most members of the Chamber of Commerce expect the trade war to continue for at least a year, and quite a few see no end to it.



**Capital Campaign
for Accessibility**

Ukrainian Labour Temple

591 Pritchard

Winnipeg, Manitoba

After two years of preparatory work, construction has finally begun to make the Ukrainian Labour Temple an accessible space.

Built in 1919 by the Ukrainian Labour Temple Association (today the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians), the Ukrainian Labour Temple has been designated a National, Provincial, and Municipal historic site because of its architectural significance and its role as the centre of progressive social movements that shaped our city and our country. The Ukrainian Labour Temple was one of many buildings and places central to the labour movement during the Winnipeg General Strike. It is the one major surviving structure connected with labour actions during that watershed event in Canadian (and international) workingclass history.

The building remains in the hands of the organization that laid the cornerstone and erected the building in 1918-1919. For this reason it also has a rich and unbroken historical heritage connected to social and working class history. To this day it serves as a centre of cultural and political activity

The Accessibility Project:

Built at a time before accessibility was the norm, the Ukrainian Labour Temple was exempt from these requirements as building codes moved to require accommodation. Lack of accessibility has hampered the Labour Temple's interaction with the wider community and full appreciation of its historical value.

It has long been a dream to make the building an accessible space, better suited to use by the community, and to share its history through tours and events.

The first accessibility study was produced in the early 1990s, but the solution was inadequate because it required access from the rear of the building through construction of a ramp.

A new approach solved the problem. Accessibility will be achieved at the Pritchard and McGregor entrance through the installation of an interior elevator that will provide access to the main and lower levels. Accessible washrooms will be constructed on both levels.

This is significant work that will transform the Ukrainian Labour Temple and ensure it will serve for generations to come.

Project Information

- * Architects for the project: GW Architecture
- * Total project cost: \$1.3 million, of which \$701,660 is directly related to accessibility
- * Grants received to date: \$75,000 from Building Sustainable Communities, Province of Manitoba.
- * Other contributors: Ukrainian Labour Temple Foundation, Association of United Ukrainian Canadians (which has guaranteed completion of the project)

How to Donate:

Cheques may be made payable to the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians, and sent to: AUUC National Office, 595 Pritchard Avenue, Winnipeg, MB, R2W 2K4. Please mark "Capital Campaign" on the cheque. All contributions will be of great assistance and proper recognition will be given. For more information: auucwinnipeg@gmail.com

As we were preparing to go to press, AUUC Winnipeg Branch President Glenn Michalchuk forwarded the following message from Anna Rothney, Executive Director, Manitoba Federation of Labour:

Hi Glenn,
We're pleased to advise that the 1919 Centennial Finance Committee has approved a \$15,000 contribution to the ULT's capital campaign.
Cheque to follow soon...
In Solidarity,
Anna

Nursing Homes

One cause of hallway medicine in Ontario is the shortage of nursing homes to accommodate seniors who can not live independently any more. They often occupy hospital beds required for acute care patients.

There is every reason to think that the problem will get worse: in the first year of the Ford government, only 21 new nursing home beds were opened, while 2,812 people were added to the 35,000 on the waiting list.

The province's independent Financial Accountability Office (FAO) warned that Ontario's hospital hallway health-care crisis will worsen over the next two years because of the backlog.

Long-Term Care Minister Merrilee Fullerton said the Progressive Conservative government, which has promised to open 15,000 new beds within five years, is working to add beds more quickly. That's a number that falls far short of the need.

Ms. Fullerton noted that it now takes 36 months from approval to finishing construction, a time period officials are trying to shorten.

(Continued on Page 11.)

Indigenous Rights in British Columbia

On October 29, the *Toronto Star* carried a story by Tanya Talaga concerning legislation in British Columbia, which would move B.C. law toward the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The declaration's 46 articles are aimed at making sure Indigenous peoples can survive with dignity and are treated fairly and with equity after

colonization.

B.C.'s legislative assembly was full of First Nations leaders and witnesses, when Premier John Horgan's government introduced Bill 41.

Shamefully, Canada voted against UNDRIP in 2007, despite 144 other countries supporting it. It was only in 2016 that Canada agreed to sign the declaration.

Equally shamefully,

Saganash's own bill was blocked by Conservative Senators just before it would have passed last June.

(NDP M.P. Romeo Saganash is the Indian residential school survivor who worked for three decades to bring countries together to sign the UN declaration, and introduced a private member's bill to align Canada's laws.)

Premier Horgan called the bill "critically important because Indigenous rights are human rights".

"The road travelled to get

here has been filled with confrontation, litigation and negotiation" he said. "History is littered with words not followed up with action Our future must be better than our past."

It seems fitting, Ms. Talaga wrote, that it is British Columbia that is the progressive province leading change when it comes to Indigenous rights, as it is also home to many challenges.

This is the province where the Green party made adoption of UNDRIP part of its platform in the 2017 election.

It's the province with the first Indigenous law program, started at the University of Victoria, and it is the home province of Independent MP Jody Wilson-Raybould, who served as Canada's first Indigenous Minister of Justice in Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's last government.

It is also home to two incredible women who met last year in the B.C. Legislative Assembly — Melanie Mark, Minister of Advanced Education, Skills and Training, and Jessica Wood, Assistant Deputy Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation.

But B.C. is also where we see some of the biggest battles in upholding First Nations' rights, and where the UNDRIP concept of "free, prior and informed consent" will surely be tested.

This is where the proposed \$8.8-billion Site C Dam project, a 1,100-megavolt hydro dam on the Peace River, faces court challenges from First Nations and others

This is where the Trans Mountain pipeline expansion project would mean a seven-fold increase in oil tanker traffic along parts of the B.C. coast — a huge issue on many fronts, as the ships' movements threaten survival of killer whales and a spill would be catastrophic.

And this is the province where armed RCMP officers arrested 14 Wet'suwet'en defenders on unceded land last January, as they opposed the construction of a 700-km natural gas pipeline.

This new legislation has passed first reading. Laws will not change over night, human rights will not instantly be lifted to a place of equity. But the bill is expected to pass, since it was introduced by the sitting government.

An action plan will be developed — in partnership with First Nations leaders. The province said that the work will be watched, annually checked and reported publicly.

Feet must be held to the fire on this. Public accountability is key to ensure we are not just listening to more hol-
(Continued on Page 12.)

Honouring Louis Riel

On November 15, APTN News carried a report by Todd Lamirande concerning recognition of Louis Riel in Ottawa.

November 16 was the anniversary of Louis Riel's execution, but the city of Ottawa honoured him and the Métis a day early. The Métis flag was flown at city hall for the first time.

"... we think we have taken a great step today with the flag and with everyone being here in support of Métis," said Erik Gjos, president of the Métis Nation of Ontario.

Ottawa Mayor Jim Watson called the moment a proud

one for Ottawa.

"It's a recognition that we have a very vibrant and dynamic Indigenous community, whether it's First Nations, Métis, Inuit," he said. "And it's an opportunity for us to show respect to the Métis community. And to signify the importance of Louis Riel in our country's history."

Just steps away from the flag poles is a building with a black statue in front, honouring two soldiers who fell during the Battle of Cut Knife Hill, Saskatchewan, in 1885.

"Louis Riel was also elected a member of Parliament and obviously it was the

Prime Minister of the day and his Cabinet to make the decision to execute Louis Riel," said Mayor Watson.

Today the moment was about honouring Riel as the rehabilitated statesman.

Lately he's received several honours such as a coin with his likeness that was unveiled in Winnipeg in October.

As for the Infinity flag, Mayor Watson says it will be raised every year.

"And we'd be happy to do it, accommodate (the Métis) on Louis Riel Day," he said.

Flying the flag in Ottawa was just one of the many events across Ontario with more planned nationwide on November 16, the anniversary of his execution.

Another Indigenous Death in Thunder Bay

On November 18, CBC News posted a report by Jorge Barrera that the Ontario Office of the Chief Coroner is investigating the September 27 death of a 19-year-old First Nations man who arrived at the hospital in Thunder Bay on September 26 in "distress", and after discharge is believed to have been walked by a Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre security guard to the Lakehead University campus, which is roughly 900 metres away from the hospital.

The hospital's discharge practices are again under question following the death of the 19-year-old First Nations man. His body was found hours after his discharge, less than a kilometre from the hospital in a secluded area of the Lakehead University campus.

The death is a suspected suicide.

Chief Coroner Dirk Huyer said the investigation will look for systemic failures that may have contributed to the death.

Nishnawbe Aski Nation Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler has called for a thorough investigation of what happened. Grand Chief Fiddler wrote a letter to the hospital's CEO

raising questions about the hospital's discharge practices.

Grand Chief Fiddler said in the letter that discharged patients are often walked from the hospital to the nearby Lakehead University campus. He said this happens so often that university security guards routinely carry taxi vouchers to give away.

Brandon Walker, a spokesperson for Lakehead University, confirmed that the university's security personnel carry taxi chits.

"They are shared primarily with students (but on occasion with someone from the public visiting our campus) who need help getting home," said Mr. Walker, in an emailed statement.

"Surely, the hospital has procedures to support people in crisis... And surely this does not include walking them onto a university campus and leaving them alone to fend for themselves," said Grand Chief Fiddler in the letter.

"This practice is unconscionable."

Tracie Smith, Senior Director of Communications for the hospital, said discharge planning usually occurs for patients who are admitted for treatment in the hospital.

However, patients who come into the emergency department and then leave without needing additional treatment are not considered to have been admitted to the hospital.

"It's not black and white. If a person comes in and we provide the care, and if that care, if that situation requires additional steps, additional planning, yes of course that occurs," said Ms. Smith.

In a follow-up emailed statement, Ms. Smith said the hospital's policies, procedures, and practices are informed by quality-of-care reviews and they are updated regularly.

"We have robust processes in place to ensure and monitor implementation," she said.

Ms. Smith has said that the hospital's quality review team found no issues after it examined the 19-year-old man's ambulance visit to the hospital. She said the incident is undergoing a full quality review and the hospital is cooperating with the coroner's office.

"We are committed to providing the best care to all our patients, including those from the historically marginalized communities that we serve," she said in the emailed statement.

"Our hearts go out to this young man's family and community."

A 2010 coroner's investiga-

tion raised questions over Thunder Bay hospital's discharge practices. Managers had told the coroner that the hospital would develop strategy for discharge of at-risk patients.

The 2010 coroner's investigation probed the death of Kenneth Berg, 60, who disappeared after he was discharged from the Thunder Bay hospital on October 26, 2009.

Mr. Berg, who had schizophrenia and lived in a group home, arrived at the hospital by ambulance after he fell and hit his head on a curb. He was released at about 11:00 p.m., after receiving a bandage for his head.

The buses had stopped running and he left on foot from the hospital. He was missing for the next five months.

Kenneth Berg's body was found the following April in a drainage ditch, after the ice melted. He had ended up on a road several kilometres from the hospital, where he fell into the water-filled ditch and drowned.

The coroner's report said that the high number of emergency department patients was a "theoretical challenge" to developing a universal policy that would identify individuals at risk of not getting home safely.

The hospital was to develop a strategy involving questioning of each discharged patient

considered at any substantial risk, with an open-ended offer of assistance, if required, to ensure a safe return home," said the report.

It remains unclear whether the hospital ever implemented the strategy.

A spokesperson for the hospital couldn't say whether the changes mentioned in the 2010 meeting were ever implemented.

Richard Berg, the brother of Kenneth Berg, is a retired professor who taught philosophy, including classes on biomedical ethics, at Lakehead University. He sat on the Thunder Bay hospital's ethics committee for nine years.

Dr. Berg said hospitals have a responsibility to ensure at-risk patients make it home alive.

"Care doesn't end with the door," said Dr. Berg. "You have a responsibility to do what's best for the patient."

Dr. Berg said that the doctor who discharged his brother asked him if he was "good to go" and his brother said he was.

"He was discharged late in the evening and he was waiting in front of the hospital for a bus that never arrived," said Dr. Berg. "He wasn't competent to find his way around the city. He had some cognitive impairments in terms of direction ... but he was let go with a casual question."

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CSIS Breaks Rules

An Editorial by Wilfred Szczesny

Whenever a government of Canada introduces a new “security” agency, or gives an existing organization more power, we are assured that the oversight and other restrictions on the actions of the agency guarantees that we are safe from abuse.

The formation of the Canadian Security Intelligence Service was accompanied by such assurances, and the amendment of the rules brought in by the last Conservative government was too.

Therefore, it is disquieting, though not surprising, to learn from a report in the *Toronto Star* on November 16 that CSIS repeatedly broke the rules by which it is supposed to operate by failing to inform its political overseers when it undertook high-risk spy operations.

(“High-risk” means that an operation could risk human life, damage Canada’s international relations, or discredit the government if discovered.)

While the “Star” was able to determine that the rules were broken, it was not given details, supposedly because revealing them “would be injurious to national security”.

The report in the “Star” says that CSIS claims that the operations in question did not require Ministerial approval, that approval by the Director of CSIS was appropriate.

The point of notification, however, is not only to let the Minister know, but to give the civilian authority the opportunity either to advise against, or to veto, a high-risk operation. With CSIS operating without proper notification, without proper supervision, there is no way of knowing whether the agency is acting recklessly or contrary to the best interests of Canada’s residents.

Failure to abide by one important regulation raises doubts about the agency’s adherence to other restrictions. There is no way to establish confidence that the rights of individuals, both in Canada and abroad, are not being violated.

CSIS was formed when the Royal Canadian Mounted Police was caught in activities that were contrary to public policy. The question now arises whether CSIS is going down that same path.

How is the government going to ensure that it actually has control of its secretive security agency? How is it going to reassure the people of Canada that our rights will not be breached by an overzealous agency?

The people of Canada need answers that will give us confidence that CSIS is pursuing legitimate national security threats, and not abusing its powers.

COMMENTARY

Canada backs Coup

In yet another example of the Liberals saying one thing and doing another, Justin Trudeau’s government has supported the ouster of Evo Morales. The Liberals’ position on the violent ouster of Bolivia’s first ever Indigenous president stands in stark contrast with their backing of embattled pro-corporate leaders in the region.

Hours after the military command forced Morales to resign as president of the country with the largest proportion of Indigenous people in the Americas, Chrystia Freeland endorsed the coup. Canada’s Minister of Foreign Affairs released a statement noting “Canada stands with Bolivia and the democratic will of its people. We note the resignation of President Morales and will continue to support Bolivia during this transition and the new elections.”

Freeland’s statement had no hint of criticism of Morales’s ouster, nor did it mention that the now deposed President still had two months left on his 2015 election mandate. Elsewhere, leaders from Argentina, Cuba, Venezuela and Mexico condemned Morales’ forced resignation.

Ten days ago, Global Affairs Canada echoed the Trump administration’s criticism of Morales’s first-round election victory. “It is not possible to accept the outcome under these circumstances,” said a Global Affairs statement. “We join our international partners in calling for a second round of elections to restore credibility in the electoral process.”

The Canadian government also financed and promoted an Organization of American States (OAS) effort to discredit Bolivia’s presidential election. In a statement titled “Canada welcomes results of OAS electoral audit mission to Bolivia” Freeland noted, “Canada commends the invaluable work of the OAS audit mission in ensuring a fair

and transparent process, which we supported financially and through our expertise.”

The OAS played a crucial role in bolstering right-wing anti-Morales protests after the presidential election on October 20. Morales won the first round, which no one seriously disputes. The dispute is about whether he won by a 10 percent margin, which is the threshold required to avoid a second-round runoff. The official result was 47.07 percent for Morales and 36.51 percent for US-backed candidate Carlos Mesa.

Immediately after the election the OAS cried foul. But, the Centre for Economic Policy Research’s (CEPR) report “What Happened in Bolivia’s 2019 Vote Count? The Role of the OAS Electoral Observation Mission” challenges the OAS claims. The CEPR concludes that there is no evidence the election results were affected by fraud or irregularities.

CEPR co-director Mark Weisbrot criticized the OAS for questioning the election results without providing any evidence. “The OAS press statement of October 21 and its preliminary report on the Bolivian elections raise disturbing questions about the organization’s commitment to impartial, professional, electoral observation,” said Weisbrot. “The OAS should investigate to find out how such statements, which may have contributed to political conflict in Bolivia, were made without any evidence whatsoever.”

While backing the ouster of Morales, Trudeau has offered support for beleaguered right-wing leaders in the region. Amidst massive demonstrations against his government, the Prime Minister held a phone conversation 10 days ago with Chilean President Sebastian Piñera who has a 14 percent approval rating. According to the published report

of the conversation, Trudeau criticized “election irregularities in Bolivia” and discussed their joint campaign to remove Venezuela’s president. A CTV story noted, “a summary from the Prime Minister’s Office of Trudeau’s phone call with Piflera made no direct mention of the ongoing turmoil in Chile, a thriving country with which Canada has negotiated a free trade agreement.”

In Haiti, the only reason Jovenel Moise remains president is due in large part to the backing and support of Ottawa, Washington and other members of the so-called “Core Group”. Unlike Bolivia, Haiti is not divided. Basically, everyone wants Moise to go. Reliable polling is limited, but a poll last month found that 81 percent of Haitians wanted the president to leave. Many are strongly committed to that view, which is why the country’s urban areas have been largely paralysed since early September.

The Trudeau government is clearly following the Trump administration in backing the removal of Morales. Yet, there has also been conflict between Canadian capital and the Morales government.

Executives of Canadian mining companies have criticized Morales and expressed fear over “resource nationalism” in the region more generally.

In 2012, weeks of protest against South American Silver’s operations in central Bolivia — that saw an Indigenous activist killed — prompted the Morales government to nationalize the Vancouver-based company’s mine. Ottawa immediately went to bat for South American Silver. Ed Fast’s spokesman Rudy Husny told the *Vancouver Sun* the trade minister instructed Canadian officials to “intensify their engagement with the Bolivian government in order to protect and defend Canadian interests and seek a productive resolution of this matter.”

Once again, our government has prioritized the profits of Canadian corporations over the interests of Indigenous peoples. Shame on
(Continued on Page 11.)

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www.ukrainiancentre-edm.ca

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

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Story of the Winnipeg General Strike

MAGNIFICENT FIGHT: the Winnipeg General Strike by Dennis Lewycky. 2019. 222pp. Fernwood Publishing, Halifax and Winnipeg. Includes bibliography and index. Soft cover. ISBN 9781773630977.

Writer Dennis Lewycky begins his book on the Winnipeg General Strike of 1919 with two reasonable questions: why write about something that happened a hundred year ago, and why write about something that is already so much studied?

His first answer, in the preface, is curiosity about specific aspects of the strike, and a belief that others might also be interested. He outlines the extent of his knowledge of the subject and poses the main questions as he sees them. The preface is, essentially, an outline of the body of the book, with the style and recurring themes encapsulated.

Mr. Lewycky presents his narrative in four sections, the arrangement of which is interesting in itself.

He begins with a section presenting information about the strike itself. He gives rich detail about the strike, starting with two sets of labour negotiations which culminated in a strike. The first was the conflict between the Metal Trades Council (MTC) and the three large North End metal companies. The second was the struggle of the Building Trades Council (BTC) with the Builders Exchange.

In both cases, the specific issues were wages and working hours, and the general underlying issue was collective bargaining (which the employers refused to accept). Both conflicts ended in strike at the beginning of May.

Over the weeks of the strike, the third issue became reinstatement of the striking workers.

By mid May, the Winnipeg Trades and Labour Council decided to strike in solidarity with the MTC and the BTC. This solidarity action became a general strike when non-unionized workers also walked off the job. Mr. Lewycky presents a thumbnail review of the main events in the strike, until its conclusion on June 25.

The author then turns to a detailed analysis of the composition of the contending parties. He lists the groups and main persons on the striker's side, including police and many returning war veterans (World War I having ended). He does not overlook the important roles played by the city's women.

With equal care he lists the groups opposing the strike, from the corporate elite, to the Citizens Committee of 1000 to the three levels of government to religious elites to many returning war veterans.

The author takes great

pains to discuss the divisions within the two sides, to avoid any suggestion that the contest was between monoliths. The detail could have been tedious, but Mr. Lewycky has a knack for presenting a lot of detail, and even repeating information as he reveals it in a layered spiral, which keeps his reader engaged.

In this first section, the author starts the discussion of the political dimensions of the strike. He notes the low incomes and poor living conditions of the working people, whose incomes were eroded by wartime inflation, contrasting them with the relatively opulent conditions of the elite, whose incomes were buoyed by wartime profiteering. These realities were widely recognized, but the elite were not about to share the wealth.

Mr. Lewycky also discusses the role of some of the elite in characterizing the strike as a Bolshevik revolution, rather than a legitimate strike, a scare tactic intended to turn public opinion against the strikers — but also justify repression of the strikers. The author cites many examples of scaremongering reportage in the commercial media.

On the final pages of this section, Mr. Lewycky discusses the role of those members of the Committee of 1000, particularly Alfred J. Andrews, who were determined not only to end the strike, but to smash the movement to unionization. They opposed any settlement of the strike, and encouraged (including by dubious means) violent action against strike supporters. The culmination of this approach was Bloody Saturday, June 21, 1919.

Throughout the book, Mr. Lewycky stresses that the strikers were determined to keep their action peaceful.

Contrasting with the workers' approach was that of the Citizens Committee of 1000. "However, the preparation for a violent suppression of the Strike that took place was orchestrated by local professionals and government officials. Officials refused to negotiate fairly with the CSC (Central Strike Committee — Ed) and were intransigent on how they wanted the Strike to end. There never was acknowledgement that the issues involved were legitimate." (Pp. 46-47.)

In the second section of the book, Mr. Lewycky discusses the factors leading to the strike.

Mr. Lewycky writes that "This was a time of massive social movement and confront-

ation of cultures, faiths, principles, and identities."

He discusses the rapid growth of Winnipeg from the last decade of the 1800s. The city became a commercial centre. Canada's population grew by 20% between 1900 and 1921, and Manitoba's grew by 80%, but Winnipeg's population grew by 320% in those two decades. The author details the sources of immigration.

On the one hand the rapid growth introduced new levels of diversity to the city, with new ideas and ideologies; on the other, it put a great strain on the city's resources. With the stress on investment in business and economic growth, there was little investment in the needs of the working people.

Substandard housing and sanitation, poverty, and crowding created breeding grounds for disease and other ills. Declining income levels in the workingclass areas because of wartime inflation contrasted with the growing wealth of the elite, bolstered by lucrative wartime contracts and profiteering.

The author paints a stark contrast between life in the North End of Winnipeg, where the working class lived and south of the Assiniboine River, inhabited by owners of business, military officers, politicians and professionals.

The author discusses the role of various charitable institutions, often based on churches, in providing assistance to the poor. The development of various laws, particularly on education and health, is discussed at some length.

Paralleling the growth in population was the growth in unionization. Several pages are devoted to the details of this process, including strike action in Winnipeg and other locations and to various relevant laws that were adopted in this period, not only in Manitoba, but across Canada.

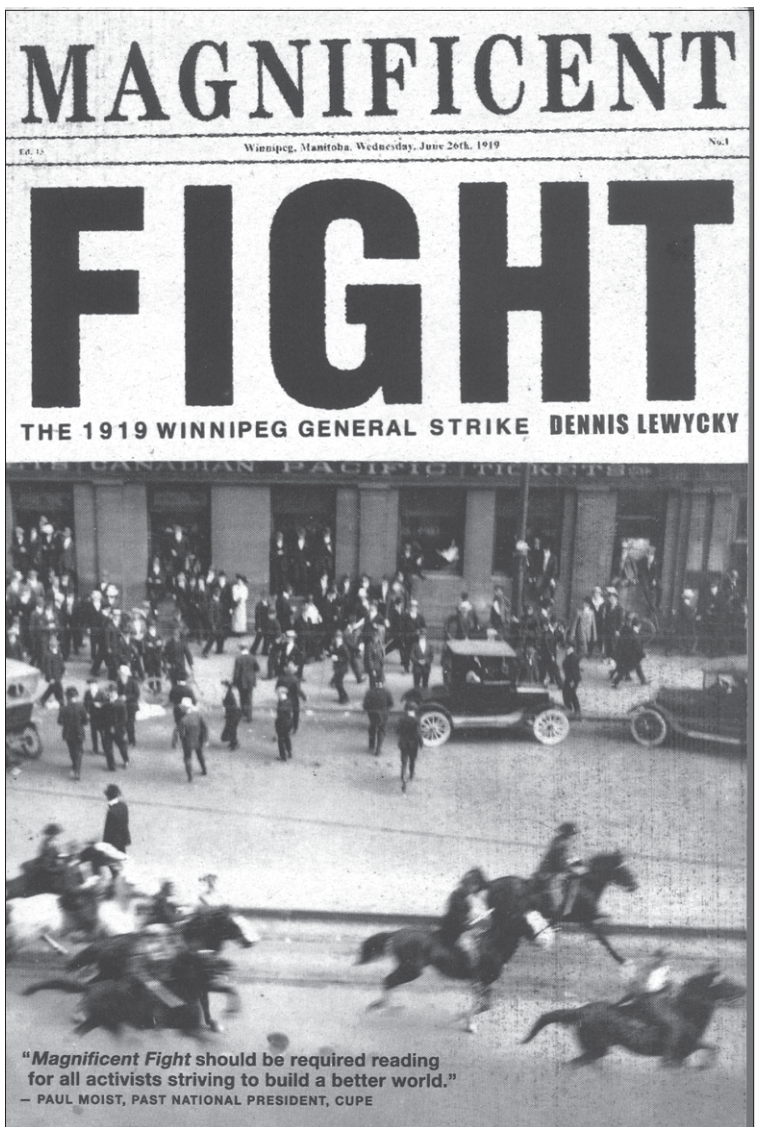
While all this change was going on, the dominant core value remained the view of Manitoba as "an outpost of the British Empire". The "established elite", of course, privileged under the status quo, viewed the changes as threats to their status.

The author discusses the development of the Socialist Party of Canada (SPC) and the Social Democratic Party of Canada (SDP), of which the Ukrainian Social Democratic Party (USDP) was part. He notes that, when the government attacked political groups in the summer of 1918, the SDP was banned, but the SPC of Canada was not affected.

This discussion is part of the

1919-2019 Centenary

WGS Winnipeg General Strike



analysis of the relationship between the trade union movement and political parties.

Mr. Lewycky moves on to a more detailed discussion of the effect of WWI on the international situation, but more particularly on Canada's domestic situation.

The war had profound effects in Canada, great growth in the national debt combining with high profits in war industries.

Perhaps more important than the economic effects were political developments. In 1914, the government of Canada adopted the War Measures Act, ostensibly to deal with the threat supposedly posed by "enemy aliens". As the war came to a close, in 1918 the government adopted Section 98 of the Criminal Code, making "political radicals and labour organizers" the new target.

The author discusses political events in Europe and the USA, including the Paris Peace Conference in January, 1919, and their effect on thinking in this country. He suggests that many working people saw European developments as inspiring hope, while the ruling class saw them as a revolutionary threat. "The state had to be ready to stop any and all efforts that had even a tinge of revolution-

ary potential."

The third section of the body of the book is devoted to the aftermath of the Winnipeg General Strike.

One topic discussed is royal commissions, first of all the Royal Commission of Industrial Relations which tabled its report in June, 1919. This report rejected the suggestion that "fanatical agitators" were the cause of labour unrest, and stated, instead, that "bread and butter issues were driving the discontent", and suggested a list of reforms to ameliorate the situation.

The second was the provincial Royal Commission on the Winnipeg General Strike. Though it reported in November, 1919, the report was not made public until March, 1920, after the sedition trials of people arrested in raids soon after the Strike. This study also concluded that economic and social conditions led to the Strike.

The author devotes 15 pages to "Sedition Trials and Deportations". He gives detailed information about the accused, as well as informing the reader about the judge, the prosecution, and the behind-the-scenes role of the government of Canada.

It is a picture of corruption of the justice system, starting with jury tampering (though

(Continued on Page 8.)

Youth Observers Attend AUUC Convention

As noted in the last issue of the *Ukrainian Canadian Herald*, the 47th AUUC National Convention was characterized by excitement for the future of our organization. When we look to the future, it's so important to think about who our leaders will be. That is why a new initiative by the AUUC to increase youth involvement at the 47th National Convention was so important.

Prior to the Convention, all AUUC Branches were notified that they could send up to two Youth Observers. The adopted definition of youth, ages 18-35, was inclusive, designed to enable younger members who are already heavily involved at the Branch level to gain knowledge and experience of the organization at the national level.

At the Convention, Youth Observers were given voice (no vote), and their comments enriched many of our discussions throughout the weekend.

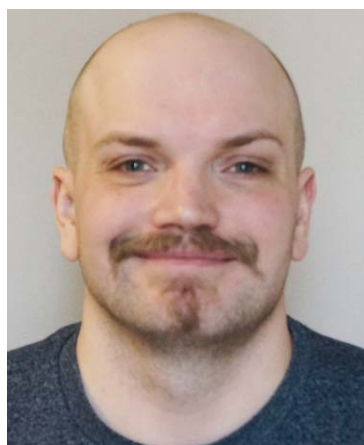
Special activities for the Youth Observers were organized, including a Winnipeg General Strike tour held on the Sunday evening.

As a member of the committee which organized this new initiative, I hope the AUUC continues to involve youth in future conventions. As we look to the future and move forward, it is exciting to see new people getting involved in the leadership of our organization.

After the Convention, Youth Observers were asked to provide their response to the following question: Reflecting upon your experiences at the 47th National Convention, what excites you most about the future of the AUUC? On this page are the responses we received.

— Emily Halldorson

We Need Young People



Matthew Fiset, Edmonton

As the Youth Observer from the Edmonton Branch, I was excited to see the resilience, professionalism and unity of the organization on a national level.

While I was not given the right to vote at the Convention, as elected delegates were, I was given the right to speak. I was also welcomed with a care package, and was taken on an interesting and informative tour of some of the landmarks of the Winnipeg General Strike.

As an organization, I believe that we are united by a common purpose as well as a strategic vision. Often, when working strictly at the local level, it can become all too easy to become short-sighted and bogged down in optimizing day-to-day operations rather than thinking of ways to implement long-term goals. Attending the Convention helped to remedy that myopic view.

It was refreshing to be able to speak to people from other

Branches that face different sets of challenges and have different sets of experiences to draw upon in terms of ways in which local operations can be improved in a broader sense. I look forward to implementing some of the lessons I learned, particularly as it relates to Edmonton's web presence.

This organization has correctly identified that its primary problem for its long term survival is demographic; we need to attract young people.

The early construction of the Winnipeg Ukrainian Labour Temple was done in the face of outright hostility from other Canadians. Increasingly, with the assimilation of successive generations, there is less of an imperative to preserve and celebrate Ukrainian culture. Furthermore, the celebrations of Ukrainian culture in Canada that do occur are often done from an explicitly right-wing perspective, and not from the workingclass perspective of the founders of our organization.

Much can be written about the history of our organization, and how it got to where it is today, but if we don't wish for our organization to become one that exists solely on an historical level, there is much work to be done. It is important for us, on a Branch level, to do more work within our communities, and to engage our youth to help them see membership as something with a positive value.



Justin McGillivray
Winnipeg

The Ukrainian Labour Temple became my second home the moment I started dancing 25 years ago. Since then, I have either been dancing, instructing dance, or sitting as a member of the Winnipeg Council and various other committees.

I was fortunate to be allowed to attend the 47th AUUC National Convention as a Youth Observer. The event was marked by one of the worst October snowstorms in Winnipeg's history, but even that couldn't stop the many delegates travelling from across Canada to take part.

Often we get so focused on Branch events that it is easy to forget that we are a part of a much larger organization. Seeing the many delegates from across Canada was rejuvenating.

There are many things that excite me about the future of the AUUC. Firstly, the strategies being put in place to help the AUUC move forward into its next 100 years are exciting. The investments being made in creating technology infrastructure for our website and the online edition of the *Ukrainian Canadian Herald*, as well as investments into our buildings such as the accessibility project for Winnipeg's Ukrainian Labour Temple, show that the AUUC is willing to meet the growing needs of the organization and community.

Strategies on creating membership benefits and making them meaningful and unique will provide each Branch with the ability to increase membership.

Secondly, the dedication to not only preserving the Ukrainian culture through song, music and dance but through investing in our various museums, will increase exposure to our organization and increase opportunities to bring in new members.

The AUUC also continues to take action and positions on various world issues, which was evident through the pass-

ing of resolutions on demanding action on climate change and support for refugees.

Finally and most importantly, the people in this organization display passion. There was so much joy in the faces of the delegates when they reported news on their branches' accomplishments, activities and events, despite

the long volunteer hours needed to make these initiatives successful. The amount of knowledge the various members have is quite impressive.

I would like to thank the National Committee for allowing the participation of Youth Observers in the National Convention.

— Photo: Emily Halldorson



Youth Observer Leanne Shumka led a Winnipeg General Strike tour, which included a stop at the Ukrainian Labour Temple.

— Photo: Michael Parasiuk



The Winnipeg General Strike monument unveiled this year features the overturned street car.

— Photo: Michael Parasiuk



The Youth Observers and a few other Convention participants visited several significant General Strike sites.

— Photo: Leanne Shumka



After the General Strike Tour, participants enjoyed a stop at the King's Head Pub.

Heart of the City Festival

AUUC Vancouver Branch began its 2019–2020 cultural season with a bang on Sunday, November 3.

Last season ended on a high note, with the Dovbush Dancers and the Dovbush School of Dance winning seven trophies at the B.C. Ukrainian Cultural Festival, and with all of the cultural forces performing at a sold-out concert at the Ukrainian Cultural Centre.

Following those successes, the new season began with the annual concert and dinner in conjunction with the Downtown Eastside Heart of the City Festival. Once again, the event had an overflow audience and a full house for the Ukrainian dinner which followed the show.

This annual event is a showcase concert and one of the highest profile events in the two-week festival. The Vancouver AUUC has partnered with the festival for more than 15 years, sharing performances from our cultural groups and hosting artists from various cultural communities in Vancouver's downtown eastside.

This year's show began with a Territorial Acknowledgement by Kat Norris, resident elder of the festival. As part of this ceremony, she shared stories from her personal life experiences.

The Barvinok Choir, directed by Beverly Dobrinsky, next performed a moving set of folk songs in both Ukrainian and English. The final two songs of the set were dedicated to choir member Lyubov Artemenko, who passed away unexpectedly in September.

— Story photos: Dan Fung

The Vancouver Folk Ensemble and guests, conducted by Pavel Rhyzlovsky, followed the choir with two orchestral pieces, "Berezhnyanka" and "Boykivsky Games", both pieces of dance music which got the audience smiling and clapping along.

The women of the Dovbush Dancers (director Debbie Karras) next performed the beautiful lyrical dance "Chervona Kalyna", gracefully ending the first section of performances by the AUUC's cultural forces.

The first guest performer of the afternoon, Arno Kamolika, then took the stage to share her Indian culture with a performance of Pushpanjali, classical Indian dance. She shared a pair of Bharata Natyam dances, with an explanation of the rituals and storytelling elements that the dances expressed.

(Continued on Page 8.)



The Vancouver Folk Ensemble played a medley of traditional Ukrainian folk melodies arranged by Director Pavel Rhyzlovsky.



MCs Terry Hunter and Dianna Kleparchuk kept the program flowing.



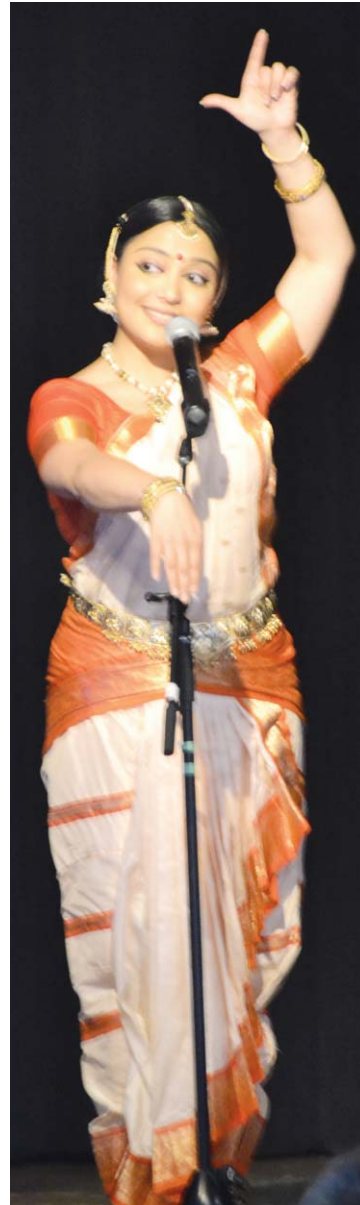
Kat Norris, Resident Elder of the Festival, spoke the territorial acknowledgment.



Vostok, an acapella trio, sang Eastern European folk music.



Women of the Dovbush Dancers in the final pose of "Chervona Kalyna".



Arno Kamolika performed classical Indian dance.



Dovbush Dancers performed "Nich na Ivana Kupala", a dance learned at the AUUC National Dance Workshop last fall.



Sudanda, a World Music Band led by Alaaeldin Abdalla, performed songs from different cultures.



Ukrainian cuisine is a welcomed part of the Heart of the City Festival Concert and Dinner.

Story of the Winnipeg General Strike

(Continued from Page 5.) Mr. Lewycky narrowly avoids calling it that).

In 20 pages on “Elections and Rejections”, Mr. Lewycky presents his argument that, if little was immediately won in the Strike, there were significant long-term effects.

While the occurrence of strikes dropped drastically in the year following the Strike, the voters elected those who had been charged with sedition or nuisance. The author points to political developments over the next six decades, including the formation of the CCF (now the NDP) and the election of Communists, as consequences of the Strike.

This had at least two

sources. One was the class consciousness which the Strike generated; the other was public unhappiness with the perversion of justice represented by the prosecution.

In discussion of “Social Welfare Development”, the author returns to the recommendations of the two royal commissions discussed earlier. The '20s were years of economic decline in Winnipeg, so relatively little was done about the commissions' recommendations. However, the section discusses what little was done, and devotes serious attention to the efforts of institutions developed along ethnic and religious lines.

The fourth, and last, section of the book discusses the

Strike's “Implications for the Present”. The discussion begins with recognition that, because the demands of the strikers were not met, many have judged the Strike a failure, and even a set back for working people.

This is counterposed with the view that the workers' aspirations were not eliminated, and the trade union movement has continued to provide benefits to their members.

The author also quotes writers who point out the lessons the Strike taught the working class, and the consequent progressive legislation from the end of WWII to 1975 and on.

“The debate over success or failure of the Strike may

continue,” the author writes. “Clearly there was disappointment, but there was no defeat; the worker may have lost the battle, but not the war. There seems to be some agreement that the Strike was a turning point in class relations in the city, and in union and political organizing in Manitoba.... It contributed to a major shift in working-class understanding of the state and how to organize to advocate for their interests.”

On the final pages of the narrative, Mr. Lewycky suggests what the story of the Strike might contain — re-

viewing again the report he has given. Still, he manages to make it fresh, with a new exposition and additional information.

In a “Post Script” the author gives another reason for his book: “to commemorate the courage and commitment of the workers in 1919”. Reviewing other commemorations of the Strike, he urges the reader to discuss, study, and act as a way to validate the struggle and sacrifice of 1919.

This book is certainly a good place to begin the process — or continue it.

— Wilfred Szczesny

Who, What, When, Where

Vancouver — Dovbush School of Ukrainian Dance will stage its **Christmas Recital at 3:00 p.m.** on Sunday, **December 15**, at the **Ukrainian Cultural Centre**, 805 East Pender Street. The concert will be followed by a **reception, Christmas carol singing**, and a visit from **Dyid Moroz**.

* * *

Vancouver — AUUC Vancouver Branch will celebrate **Malanka** on Saturday, **January 18**, at the **Ukrainian Cultural Centre**, 805 East Pender Street. **Cocktails — 6:00 p.m., concert — 6:45 pm, Ukrainian dinner — 7:15 pm, dancing to live music — 9:00 p.m.** Tickets: **\$60.00** — available online at auucvancouver.ca or call **(604) 254-3436**. **Dance only tickets at \$10 available at the door after 9:00 p.m.**

* * *

Readers 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.

Heart of the City Festival

(Continued from Page 7.)

A short intermission allowed for the next guest to set up their instruments. The audience was then treated to a set of World Music from the band Sudanda. This five-member band sang four songs from different cultures, expressing strength, courage, and the dreams of people around the world.

Following a “Dance Medley” from the Vancouver Folk Ensemble, the final guest performers took the stage. Vostok, a trio of singers who

sing Eastern European folk music, presented a set of five songs. Their beautiful voices and a capella harmonies were a treat for the audience's ears! This group will be travelling to Ukraine in the summer of 2020 with the Dovbush Dancers, and sharing their music there.

The program ended with the Dovbush Dancers performing “*Nich na Ivana Kupala*”, highlighting the traditions of Ukrainian midsummer celebrations. This dance is one of the pieces that was

learned at the National Dance Seminar in 2018.

Following this performance, the audience was invited downstairs for a catered Ukrainian dinner.

Thanks to the wonderful MC's, Dianna Kleparchuk and Terry Hunter, the afternoon flowed flawlessly.

A big thanks as well to Alex Tielker and his kitchen and serving staff for making sure everyone was well fed, and to Halyna's Catering for the delicious main dishes.

— Janice Beck



Beverly Dobrinsky led the Barvinok Choir in Ukrainian and English songs.



Guests waiting for their table to be called to the buffet.

Sustaining Fund Donations

Gerry Gilavish, Regina SK	\$100.00
Elsie Williston, Winnipeg MB	100.00
Jeanne Romanoski, Winnipeg MB	
<i>In memory of Jim Skulsky</i>	30.00

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Ukrainian Miscellany

Market in Land

The Verkhovna Rada, Ukraine's parliament, agreed to lift the moratorium on the sale of agricultural land from October 1, 2020, and limit their purchase by foreigners until 2024.

According to the Bill, citizens of Ukraine, legal entities of Ukraine, territorial communities and the state can obtain ownership of agricultural land plots.

A transitional period is introduced, until January 1, 2024, during which legal entities the ultimate beneficiaries of which are foreigners, stateless persons or a foreign state will not be able to acquire agricultural state land, communal property, or parcelled land.

The exception will be lands that are already on lease at the time the law comes into force, provided that such legal enti-

ties were created at least three years before the law came into force.

There is a restriction on land concentration within a united territorial community is introduced at 35%, within a region at 8%, and within the country at 0.5%.

It is also provided that citizens who have the right to permanent use, inherited lifetime possession of land plots of state and communal property, have the right to redeem such plots.

Political Infighting

The *Kyiv Post* reported that, "President Volodymyr Zelensky's Servant of the People party has experienced a political roller coaster over the past fortnight. This includes lawmakers taking polygraph tests due to rumours of accepting bribes, a lawmaker texting a sex worker during a parliamentary session, and the change in the party leadership. Now, the head of the president's party has initiated the first expulsion of a lawmaker, Anna Skorokhod.

On November 14, Ms. Skorokhod had accused authorities who arrested her husband, Aleksey Alyakin, of doing so due to her vote going against the party. She voted against the bill lifting the ban on farmland sale on November 13.

David Arakhamia, the head of the party faction in parliament, accused Ms. Skorokhod of offering bribes to other lawmakers.

Her husband, originally a citizen of Russia, declared bankruptcy, moved to Ukraine and obtained Ukrainian citizenship in 2013. His debt had reached \$8 million. He is the ex-owner of the bank Pushkino and founder of the company Progress Construc-

tion Plant LLC. He is associated with the Russian-Ukrainian businessman Pavel Fuks.

In September, 2015, Mr. Alyakin was put on the federal wanted list in Russia on suspicion of fraud, and in November, 2015, his name was added to the Interpol database of wanted criminals.

In June, 2018, Mr. Alyakin was arrested by the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) at the request of the Russian Federation.

His Ukrainian citizenship was allegedly annulled a month later.

For health reasons, his defence appealed his extradition and he was put under house arrest until November, 2018, with the aim of extradition. However, on January 3, 2019, the house arrest was cancelled due to Alyakin's claim that he was, in fact, a citizen of Ukraine.

Upon further investigation, it was discovered that Mr. Alyakin tried to avoid extradition by registering as a Ukrainian citizen. His citizenship was cancelled by migration services after they discovered he had provided fake documents and information.

On November 7, the courts denied Mr. Alyakin's claims of

citizenship, and on November 11 the investigation resumed, leading to Mr. Alyakin's arrest.

Ms. Skorokhod stated in parliament that the detention of her husband was illegal, and was due to "my political preferences, my political views and for not voting as the party indicated to me."

In the same statement, she appealed to President Zelensky with the request that "the president, the State Security Service and other law enforcement agencies stop the lawlessness that you are doing and stop the pressure on me and my family."

On November 14, the Prosecutor General's office confirmed that Mr. Alyakin had been arrested due to his presence on an international wanted list on suspicion of large-scale fraud. On the same day, Mr. Arakhamia announced he would initiate the expulsion of Ms. Skorokhod from the Servant of the People party at the next session.

Mr. Arakhamia claims that Skorokhod had been lobbying for the interests of 'specific oligarchic groups' and that "she is an agent for someone". He also said that two lawmakers had complained to him that her husband was pressuring and intimidating them.

sible by "major advances" since Volodymyr Zelensky was elected president of Ukraine in late April.

Kremlin adviser Yuri Yushakov did not give a date for the summit in a Russian public television broadcast on November 17. He said only it was "still under discussion, but certainly this year".

Since coming to power, President Zelensky has sought to revive the peace process to end a five-year-old separatist conflict in eastern Ukraine, which has killed 13,000 people.

Since October, the Ukrainian army and Russian-backed separatists in eastern Ukraine have been pulling back from key front-line areas of the conflict there, a precondition for the summit to take place.

Disengagement

A *Kyiv Post* report on November 9 said that the third round of the mutual pullback of Ukrainian troops and Russian-backed militant formations in the Donbas war zone had begun.

The pullback officially began at noon local time, as Ukrainian armed forces and Russia-backed militants fired off white signal rockets on their respective sides of the front line near the village of Petrivske in central Donetsk Oblast, some 600 kilometres southeast of Kyiv.

Both sides then confirmed their readiness to begin at 12:10 to 12:15 p.m. by firing green signal rockets.

Ukrainian observation points in the war zone and international monitors from the Special Monitoring Mission of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) both confirmed the signals. At 12:20, the operation officially began.

The disengagement near Petrivske envisages a total of 42 Ukrainian troops, three armoured vehicles and firearms units being gradually with-

drawn one kilometre from the front line, and taking up new combat posts closer to the Ukrainian-controlled town of Bohdanivka.

The disengagement of manpower and weaponry will continue for three days. After that, an operation to locate and defuse landmines and dismantle old fortifications and other military installations will take place.

The post-disengagement work in the area should last 29 days.

The Ukrainian military command says mutual disengagement will ensure better security for civilians living between the combatants by keeping both Ukrainian forces and Russian-backed militants farther from one another.

The initiative has drawn criticism from part of Ukrainian society, which considers the withdrawal of forces in Donbas capitulation to the Kremlin and the surrender of the country's territory to the enemy.

This is one of several steps to peace the new Ukrainian government embraced.

Normandy Four Meeting

Russian presidential representative Dmitry Peskov has confirmed that a Normandy Four summit will take place in Paris on December 9.

A report said that preparations for the meeting had entered the final stages.

Mr. Peskov also said that Russian President Vladimir Putin would hold an international telephone conversation, which "will be largely related to preparations for the Normandy format". He did not specify who would participate in the conversation.

According to *Ukrinform*, the Presidential Administration of France confirmed on No-

vember 15 that a meeting of the leaders of France, Ukraine, Germany, and Russia would be held on December 9 in Paris.

The Normandy Four summit has been repeatedly postponed over political differences.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said on October 23 that conditions for holding a Normandy Four summit included the approval of the "Steinmeier formula" and the disengagement of troops and military hardware in Zolote and Petrivske.

Ukraine has fulfilled these conditions.

Russia to Return Ukrainian Ships

Al Jazeera reported on November 17 that, on November 18, Russia was expected to return Ukrainian navy ships seized a year ago, in preparation for a summit to try and resolve the wider conflict between the two countries.

Russia seized two Ukrainian gunboats and a tugboat in November, 2018, as they headed through the Kerch Strait, a narrow waterway giving access to the Sea of Azov that is used by Ukraine and Russia.

Twenty-four Ukrainian sailors taken prisoner at the time were returned to Ukraine in September as part of a pris-

oner exchange.

"In accordance with agreements concluded with the Ukrainian side, three Ukrainian ships ... are being towed from the port of Kerch to an approved transfer point," border officials with the Russian secret service told the Interfax news agency.

On November 15, the office of the French president announced that a summit involving France, Germany, Russia and Ukraine was scheduled for Paris on December 9 to discuss ways to resolve the conflict in eastern Ukraine.

The summit was made pos-

Investigation of Ex-President

Ukraine's State Bureau of Investigation has sent the office of the Prosecutor General a draft notice of suspicion against ex-President Poroshenko.

The SBI also drafted a motion seeking the Ukrainian Supreme Council's consent to prosecute Mr. Poroshenko, a sitting Member of Parliament.

"The charge papers have been drafted and sent to the prosecutor's office as part of a pretrial investigation into possible unlawful influence on

a competition to select candidates for appointment as members of the High Council of Justice," the SBI wrote on November 18.

"The document refers to suspicion that the former president of Ukraine committed criminal offences under Part 3 of Article 109 and Part 2 of Article 364 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine," it said.

Mr. Poroshenko, a figure in 13 criminal cases, has failed to show up for 15 interrogations.

Hong Kong: For Your Reference

For the last six months, events in Hong Kong have captured the headlines. The mainstream media repeat the “pro-democracy” message of the protesters with no analysis of the situation whatsoever. In Canadian cities with large Chinese populations we have seen demonstrations both in support of and against the Hong Kong demonstrators. Canadian think tanks such as the MacDonald-Laurier Institute and right-wing newspapers such as the Toronto Sun have argued for Canada to take an active role in supporting what they describe as a “pro-democracy movement”. In a series of articles, Editorial Board member Glenn Michalchuk will present an analysis of the situation in Hong Kong to bring into focus what is at play in the Hong Kong protests. The next article in this series will look at the key figures leading the Hong Kong protests.

November 9 and 10 witnessed some of the most violent clashes yet between Hong Kong police and protesters opposed to the Hong Kong administration and China. One protester was shot by police, and a man who was seen arguing with protesters was doused with flammable

liquid and set on fire. Both the United States and Britain, while condemning the violence, were silent on the source of the violence.

China has long viewed the protests as both criminal and aimed at China itself. It has seen foreign support for the demonstrators as interference in an internal issue. Predictably, it reacted strongly. Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang accused the United States and Britain — which described events

on Monday as deeply disturbing — of hypocrisy, saying;

“...their lip service to justice has shown their double standards and ill intentions. The hateful act [of the torching] has caused widespread panic and concern among Hong Kong citizens. If countries like the United States and Britain are opposed to violence as they claim, why didn't they sternly condemn such acts that targeted civilians”. (*South China Morning Post*, November 11, 2019.)

The narrative in the West is that the protests are about democratic values against authoritarianism. Writing in *The Atlantic* as the weekend of confrontation played out in Hong Kong, Laura Mannering reported on artists engaged in the demonstrations. She described their works and the nightmarish world they invoked of an authoritarian Hong Kong under Chinese rule.

In a more revealing passage, and perhaps more to the point, the article also reflects on the hopes the West had for China being absorbed by neoliberalism, capitalism, and the attendant political order of “western style liberal democracy”:

“The agreement gave no specifics about what exactly would happen after 2047, but liberalization of the Chinese economy under Deng had cultivated a view internationally that its political system would surely follow. Life in Hong Kong then was superior to that on the mainland in almost every respect, Wong told me, and so ‘there was a great deal of hope that Hong Kong would democratize China.’” (“The Date Hong Kong Protesters Can't Escape”, *The Atlantic*, Laura Mannering, November 11, 2019.)

The return of Hong Kong and Macao to China

Both Macao (across the Pearl River Delta from Hong Kong) and Hong Kong are former colonies of Portugal (Macao) and Britain (Hong Kong). These former colonies were returned to China under agreements with Portugal and Britain by which China would maintain, for 50 years, political and economic institutions as the former colonies transitioned to full integration with China's economic and political system.

This was a pragmatic concession on the part of China, recognizing the reality that, as former colonies, Hong Kong and Macao societies each had a sizeable stratum of that had benefited significantly from the colonial structure and its financial and commercial ties to the West.

This reality — a class of citizens linked to former privileges of the colonial system — is at the heart of the current protests. It is a protest against the inevitable full exercise of China's sovereignty over Hong Kong and Macao.

It is increasingly becoming an anti-China movement. There are the two features to this: the call for Hong Kong's independence and the call for change within China itself.

The current protests

The current protests stem from the introduction of an extradition bill to allow the transfer of criminals between four territories: Hong Kong, Macao, Taiwan and China. While the protests have focused on the transfer of wanted persons to China the impetus for the bill was the case of a man who had fled to Macao after murdering a young Hong Kong woman. The wanted man was beyond the legal reach of authorities because no agreement exists between Macao and Hong Kong for repatriation of those

(Continued on Page 12.)

Ukrainian Canadian Herald Season's Greetings

Remember your family and friends with a message! We invite you to express seasonal greetings through an ad in the *Ukrainian Canadian Herald*, in the January, 2019, issue. One line (name and city) on two columns is only \$10.00. A five-line ad as shown is only \$35.00. See the diagram on this page for sizes. Larger ads are \$5.00/col./cm.

Deadline: December 10, 2018, for January, 2019.

Send your request to:

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

or: SEASON'S GREETINGS MESSAGE
658 Constellation Drive
Mississauga ON M6P 1A7
Phone : 416-588-1639
e-mail: kobzar2@aim.com

Please indicate the desired ad size:

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

Issue requested:

_____ January issue (deadline December 10)

Greeting in: English _____ Ukrainian _____

Request sent by:

Mail: _____ Phone: _____ Fax: _____

e-mail: _____ Or in person: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Prov. _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

e-mail: _____

MESSAGE:

Date: _____ Signature: _____

Cheque enclosed _____

Invoice required _____ Office receipt # _____

Season's Greeting Ad sizes at Various Prices

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



IVAN FRANKO MUSEUM
200 McGregor Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba R2W 5L6
(204) 589-4397
Free Admission by appointment only

Nursing Homes

(Continued from Page 2.)

With baby boomers raising the demand over the next few years, 55,000 new beds will be required by 2034 just to maintain the waiting list at current levels.

About 1,000 patients are treated in hospital hallways daily, a number that is expected to increase as the flu season arrives.

Last season, there were 5,450 flu-related hospitalizations in Ontario and 275 deaths.

During the 2018 provincial election campaign, Premier

Doug Ford promised to end hallway health care; Health Minister Christine Elliott says it will take time.

The previous Liberal government did not do much better than the current one. A total of 611 new nursing home beds opened from 2011 to 2018 under the Liberals, a number Minister Fullerton called “shocking” given that the waiting list in that period climbed to a median of 152 days from 99.

Ontario now has 626 long-term care homes with more than 78,000 residents.

JoKe TiMe

A burglar broke into a house, and heard, “Jesus is watching you.” He looked around, but saw nothing. Again he heard, “Jesus is watching you.” Then he saw a cage with a parrot. The burglar asked, “Did you say Jesus is watching me?” The parrot replied, “Yes.” The burglar asked, “What is your name?” The parrot said, “Clarence.” The burglar asked, “What idiot named you Clarence?” The parrot answered, “The same idiot that named the rottweiler Jesus.”

Canada backs Coup

(Continued from Page 4.)
Trudeau for supporting the ouster of Evo Morales.

— Yves Engler

In Canadian Dimension
Yves Engler has been dubbed “one of the most important voices on the Canadian Left today” (*Briarpatch*), “in the mould of I.F. Stone” (*Globe and Mail*), and “part of that rare but growing group of social critics unafraid to confront Canada’s self-satisfied myths” (*Quill & Quire*). He has published nine books.

Founded in 1963, *Canadian Dimension* is a forum for debate on important issues that face the Canadian Left today, and a source for national and regional politics, labour, economy, world affairs and art.

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:

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Website: www.auucvancouver.ca

CALGARY BRANCH

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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

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Ottawa ON K2E 5A9
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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

To All AUUC Members and Friends



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

Winnipeg AUUC Branch

Vancouver Seniors

Hope for

Peace on Earth!

Lesya Ukrainka Manor
Vancouver BC

To all friends and supporters of the AUUC —

May 2020

bring you good health, happiness, and prosperity!

AUUC Toronto Branch

IVAN FRANKO MANOR

200 McGregor Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba

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



HAPPY, HEALTHY NEW YEAR

*Season's Greetings
and
Best Wishes
for the
New Year
from
AUUC Richmond Branch*

SEASON'S GREETINGS
FROM THE DOVBUSH DANCERS
Wishing all AUUC members
and volunteers a happy and
healthy 2020!
VANCOUVER, BC
DOVBUSH

**Best Wishes for
the New Year!**

*The AUUC Ottawa Branch
sends
Warmest Greetings and
Best Wishes
to all
AUUC members and
supporters
for a Happy and Peaceful
2020!*

Indigenous Rights

(Continued from Page 3.)
low words. The government also must ensure that all forms of Indigenous governments — such as hereditary chiefs and Indian Act Band Councils — are consulted and in agreement with every word drafted in legislation that now goes forward.

Generations of First Nations have waited a long time for this day to come. But a long road of hard work is ahead. “This bill puts us on a good heading and the tides are in our favour,” Adam Olsen, Tsartlip First Nation and a Green party MLA of Sasnich North and the Islands, said.

We hope that B.C. will lead the way for all of us. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau promised to reintroduce UNDRIP legislation if re-elected, as he has been. In Ontario, NDP MP Sol Mamakwa’s private member’s bill to align that province’s laws with the UN declaration has been referred to committee after passing second reading.

Let’s hope the Ontario government does the right thing and expedites Mamakwa’s bill.

Hong Kong

(Continued from Page 10.)
wanted for criminal offences.

The bill was subsequently withdrawn but that did not end the protests. With the extradition bill withdrawn the objective of the protests became: retraction by the government of charges of rioting, release and exoneration of arrested protesters, establishment of an independent commission of inquiry into police conduct during the protests, and resignation of Carrie Lam the Chief Executive of Hong Kong.

The current protests are clearly seen by China as a challenge to its sovereignty over Hong Kong and perhaps a means to challenge the internal political order of China itself. Increasingly, other countries are siding with the protesters which is exacerbating tensions between China and these countries.

This places the Hong Kong protests on the front line of sharpening international contradictions as neo-liberalism is increasingly being challenged. It is being challenged by China’s economic power and international reach through its Belt and Road initiative, a resurgent Russia, and unrest in the Middle East and Latin America. Appeals to democratic values and human rights are becoming part of the currency of this clash.

— Glenn Michalchuk

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

Dovbush School of Ukrainian Dance
Vancouver, BC

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

Wilfred Szczesny
Mississauga, Ontario

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

**Larry and Dianna Kleparchuk
Vancouver, BC**

*Season's Greetings from beyond
the mountains to all AUUC Per-
forming Arts Groups and friends
across Canada.*

*Wishing you happiness, hope and
peace this holiday season.*

Barvinok Choir and Vancouver Folk Orchestra
Vancouver, BC

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

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

Vancouver AUUC Branch