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## National Inquiry Delivers Its Report

— Photo: Emily Halldorson



On June 3, the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls delivered its final report at the Canadian Museum of History in Gatineau. *Ukrainian Canadian Herald* Editorial Board member Emily Halldorson was present to record this historic event. Her report, with photographs, appears on Page 2.

## The Next Issue

The next issue of the “UCH” will be dated September, 2019. Announcements of events in September or early October, 2019, as well as articles for the September, 2019, issue, should be in our office by August 10. Thank you for your consideration.

## Huawei and Security

The United States has been pressing American and foreign companies, as well as foreign governments to freeze out Huawei, a Chinese company, out of the next generation of technological development.

The main argument put forward for this position is that Huawei poses a security threat as an agent of the Chinese government.

The usual suspects, such as Great Britain and Canada, however much they may initially have resisted, are falling into line with the US position. Their main motivation may be fear of US sanctions against users of Huawei technology, but they should be aware of the USA’s real motives.

Before accepting the security argument, Canada and others should bear in mind that security has become a standard US weapon in its international dealings. Even tariffs on Canada’s steel and aluminium were called security measures as an economic bargaining ploy — until they no longer

were.

It is possible that the USA has security concerns, but more probably it is acting to benefit American corporations, corporations which would not be able to compete successfully against Huawei on a level field.

Over time, the Chinese giant has shown its technical and economic superiority. The solution is to cut them out.

## In This Issue

## Defining Poverty Away

One way favoured by politicians to eliminate poverty is to define it out of existence. The Trump administration is following time-honoured tradition in proposing a new way to define poverty.

No one will be surprised that the change would deprive millions of poor Americans of the supports they currently get.

Eligibility for key programs that help low-income people — among them food stamps,

the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), Medicaid, Head Start, free school lunch — is tied to the federal poverty level. If people are at or near the poverty level, they receive benefits.

To decide whether a person is living in poverty, each year the government makes a calculation dependent on salary and family size. Every year, the poverty level increases with inflation.

The Trump administration is proposing to choose an inflation measure that will rise more slowly than the current one. In that case, incomes would increase faster than the poverty level. The people would still be poor, but would eventually be above the poverty level, and no longer eligible for benefits.

As Deborah Weinstein, Executive Director of the Coalition on Human Needs, a Washington, D.C., non-profit that promotes policies to help low-income Americans, puts it, “They want to define poverty out of existence without doing anything to make people less poor.”

The federal Office of Management and Budget says that it is considering changing how inflation is calculated to ensure that all measures “are

objective, accurate, relevant, and timely, thereby maintaining the integrity of official government statistics.”

As Kate Scully, Director of government affairs for Philabundance, the largest hunger relief agency in the Philadelphia region, sees it, “This change will lead to more hunger ... it will really hurt the 700,000 food-insecure people in our area in many ... ways.”

## Doors Open at Winnipeg ULT

— Photo: Glenn Michalchuk



The Winnipeg Ukrainian Labour Temple was a popular destination during Doors Open on May 25 and 26. A report appears on Page 10.

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## Closing Ceremony of MMIWG Inquiry

On Monday, June 3, the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) held a Closing Ceremony at the Canadian Museum of History in Gatineau, Quebec, to deliver *Reclaiming Power and Place: The Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls*.

The Closing Ceremony was attended by families, survivors, supporters and government officials.

The Inquiry, which began in 2016, sought to document the stories of MMIWG by speaking with family members, survivors of violence, experts and Knowledge Keepers across the country. Over 2,380 family members, survivors of violence, experts and Knowledge Keepers were interviewed during the Inquiry and their stories are contained in the 1,200 page full report.

Elders from several Indigenous nations opened the June 3 proceedings by sharing prayers and reflections. Each of the four Inquiry Commis-



**Prime Minister Trudeau was on hand to receive *Reclaiming Power and Place: The Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls*.**

sioners discussed elements of the report and their experiences working on the project. In her remarks, Chief Commissioner Marion Buller stressed how important it is for all Canadians to read the report, or at the very least, review its key findings.

After each of the commissioners had spoken, the report was given to Prime Minister Trudeau as a sacred bundle, in a presentation which blended ceremonial practices from many Indigenous nations.

The final report contains 231 calls to action, each of which was read aloud by families who were present.

During his speech, Prime Minister Trudeau acknowledged that Canada has failed Indigenous women and girls, but refused to call it a genocide, as it is labelled in the report. As he spoke, a couple of family members called out “genocide” and “call it what it is”.

The Ceremony concluded with performances representing Indigenous nations from coast to coast. During a performance by Winnipeg fiddler Sierra Noble and Métis jiggers the Ivan Flett Memorial Dancers, one family unrolled a large red banner which read “stop colonization”. Michelle Audette, the Inquiry Commissioner from Quebec, stopped security from removing the family and even joined them in holding the banner.

The ceremony ended with a modified powwow. Rather



**Members of Tina Fontaine's family appeared on stage with Assembly of First Nations Chief Perry Bellegarde. Tina Fontaine's death led to the formation of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.**

than a “grand entry” as its key event, a “grand exit” was made, with families and other attendees following the dancers out of the hall.

From beginning to end, the ceremony was steeped in Indigenous traditions, ceremonies and protocol.

The conclusion of the Inquiry does not mean the end of

the issue of MMIWG. While the Inquiry has gathered knowledge and stories, it is up to our governments and us as Canadians to put its recommendations into action.

Read the final report and learn about the Inquiry at <https://www.mmiwg-ffada.ca/>

— Emily Halldorson

## Grassy Narrows: No Agreement

**On May 29, Grassy Narrows issued a press release, reporting that no agreement had been reached on a Grassy Narrows Mercury Care Home. The text of the release is printed below.**

Grassy Narrows — Today the highly anticipated visit to Grassy Narrows First Nation by Trudeau's Minister of Indigenous Services has ended in disappointment with no meaningful action for people who have suffered for decades from mercury poisoning. No agreement was reached to secure funding for the Mercury Care Home and Treatment Centre which the government promised to build and

operate in November of 2017.

With the federal elections approaching, and the project only 1% funded, time is running out to deliver on this key promise which has become a litmus test for the Trudeau government's sincerity on dealing justly with Indigenous peoples and the environment.

“I am disappointed, but we are not done,” said Chief Rudy Turtle of Grassy Narrows. “We need action that our peo-

ple can rely on. We need to be certain that our loved ones who are hurting from mercury poisoning will finally have a place where they can be cared for with dignity. I will not rest until I am sure that the promise of the Mercury Home will be kept.”

“I invite Trudeau to show that he cares by coming to Grassy Narrows and putting the funds for our Mercury Home in a trust so that we know that this promise will be honoured,” said Chief Turtle. “I believe that he will find it in his heart to do the right thing for us.”

In January of 2017 Trudeau's spokesperson said that he would deal with the mercury crisis “once and for all”. Grassy Narrows has in-

ited Trudeau to visit five times, but he has never accepted.

Trudeau committed in March that his Minister would visit Grassy Narrows as he apologized for mocking a protester calling on him to deliver on the promised Mercury Care Home for Grassy Narrows at a high donor fundraiser at an opulent hotel in Toronto, saying “Thank you for your donation to the Liberal Party of Canada.”

The Minister's office generated great anticipation for the visit by promoting that there would be a signing ceremony for a “Memorandum of Agreement outlining a path forward to meet the long-term health needs of the community which has been impacted

by exposure to mercury.”

However, no agreement was reached. Minister O'Regan committed to the Chief that he would look into the possibility of a trust and get back to the Chief by Friday. He said that he hoped to have an agreement within a few days.

A December 1, 2017, letter from Minister Philpott commits Canada to build and operate the Mercury Home in Grassy Narrows, but the project is currently only 1% completed and is at a standstill.

Grassy Narrows people are planning a large demonstration in Toronto on June 20 called the River Run to call for Mercury Justice.

## Ottawa Shares Mercury Test Results

On May 30, the *Toronto Star* reported that the federal government had finally agreed to give to the people of Grassy Narrows First Nation the results of tests done decades ago, between 1970 and 1992, for mercury in blood from their umbilical cords.

A total of 357 infants on reserve and in nearby Wabaseemoong Independent Nations had their cord blood sampled.

Mercury levels found in those samples were high enough to affect brain devel-

opment, according to a 2016 scientific report that also said exposure in the womb can cause coordination problems and speech disorders.

At the time, Health Canada refused to reveal the names of nearly 150 residents who were identified at birth as being at risk for mercury poisoning, citing privacy concerns. Residents whose mercury levels were considered too high received letters from Health Canada with advice. The mothers of the cord-blood babies should have been informed,

but the information wasn't always passed on.

In 2017, the government began sending results to individuals who had signed consent forms, but consent was difficult to obtain from people who did not know that their cord blood had been tested.

In March, Indigenous Services Canada wrote to Grassy Narrows Chief Rudy Turtle and the council, to say that the cord-blood records would be released, without consent forms, to Dr. Donna Mergler, a mercury expert at Université du Québec à Montréal who, for several years, had been working with community members to study the impact of the industrial mercury.

Dr. Mergler could give the

data to the individuals.

Indigenous Services Minister Seamus O'Regan visited the reserve on May 29, but left without an agreement to secure funding for the Mercury Care Home and Treatment Centre.

During the 1960s, the Dryden pulp and paper mill, operated by Reed Paper, dumped 10 tonnes of mercury into the Wabigoon River that feeds Grassy Narrows downstream. The potent neurotoxin contaminated the fish, and poisoned the people who ate the fish.

The victims developed tremors, slurred speech, impaired hearing, tunnel vision and loss of muscle coordination. The mercury is still in the ground,

the river and the fish, still poisoning people.

The provincial government has committed \$85 million to help clean up the river. The money, in a dedicated trust, funded pre-remediation studies of the river.

The federal government said in 2017 that it would help build a care home for those suffering from mercury poisoning. Then-Indigenous Services Minister Jane Philpott committed to funding a feasibility study as well as the construction and operation of the treatment centre. More recently, the government, having completed the feasibility study, is making additional funding dependent on more provincial money.



## US Considers Action on Nord Stream 2

Bloomberg reported on June 12, that President Donald Trump is considering applying US sanctions to stop construction of the Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline between Russia and Germany.

Germany companies are working with Russian and other counterparts on building the pipeline.

Construction of the pipeline should begin in 2019, but is facing delays in securing permits from Denmark.

Even without Nord Stream 2, Germany and other Euro-

pean countries buy gas worth billions of dollars from Russia, some of the money going to Ukraine for transit fees. The new pipeline will reduce the cost of gas to Germany, but also deprive Ukraine of revenue.

Currently, Russia and Ukraine are somewhat mutually dependent as gas flows from Russia, through Ukraine, to Europe. They are also both vulnerable to the other's hostile action.

President Trump didn't say whom the USA might sanc-

tion to block the pipeline.

Rick Perry, US Energy Secretary said in Ukraine in May that he expected Congress to prepare legislation to sanction companies involved in the pipeline's construction.

A bill has been drafted in the American Senate targeting vessels laying the pipeline, denying American visas to executives from companies involved, blocking transactions in US-based property or interests held by those executives, and penalizing entities providing insurance to Nord Stream 2.

Presidents Trump and Putin were scheduled to meet in Japan at the end of June, during the G20 summit meeting.

against the coast and wash it away.

The ice that used to appear on the coast in late November and stay through the winter as a buffer for the shoreline is absent some years.

PEI is losing an average of 28 centimetres of land every year. The shoreline often falls off in large chunks in vulnerable locations. While land actually increased, in some areas, because of shifting sand, dominant reality is erosion.

Efforts to protect the coast by placing imported granite or local boulders along the shore mainly divert the ocean's energy to neighbouring land.

1987 and 1988 in the Tanker War, during which the US Navy escorted ships through the region. Also raised as evidence were drone and missile attacks on Saudi Arabia by Iranian-allied rebels from Yemen.

On the other hand, the USA has earned a reputation for manufacturing evidence to justify war, including the Gulf of Tonkin incident to justify war in Vietnam and the "weapons of mass destruction" lies to justify the war in Iraq.

It has also been pointed out that other actors had motives for this kind of attack.

As usual, even without additional evidence, repeated American assertions gained additional supporters for the Trump position. With the USA and Israel determined to sustain and increase pressure on Iran, with the long-term goal of regime change, the truth will probably not be of very much consequence.

Oman, after four other oil tankers off Fujairah suffered similar attacks in preceding weeks.

The US immediately blamed Iran for an attack with limpet mines, which can be magnetically attached to a ship's hull. It produced as proof black-and-white footage that American officials said showed Iranian Revolutionary Guard troops removing an unexploded mine from the Kokuka Courageous.

Iran denied any participation, and it became a "he said, she said" kind of situation.

Immediate reaction was mostly cautious. Experts wanted to examine both the mariners' recollections and any physical evidence remaining on the MT Front Altair and the Kokuka Courageous before assigning blame.

On the one hand, Iran used mines against oil tankers in

take over providing medical evacuation flights for United Nations troops in Mali. UN officials have warned Canada that the gap could cause serious problems if UN personnel are attacked and injured and can not be rapidly airlifted to a medical facility.

The UN will have to make

alternate arrangements with civilian contractors to provide evacuation flights, an option that falls short of the capabilities offered by military forces. Over the past year, Canadians have flown 10 medical evacuation flights.

Mali is reportedly the UN's deadliest mission.

## Current Eclectic

### Tariff Threat Continues

President Trump believes that "tariffs are a great negotiating tool, a great revenue producers (sic) and, most importantly, a powerful way to get companies to come to the USA". Consequently, he tends to use them as a cudgel to bully his negotiating partners into accepting his demands, and pays little attention to the unintended consequences.

For example, on May 29, he threatened to impose a 5% tariff on imports from Mexico, unless that country acted to prevent migrants seeking asylum from appearing at the US-Mexico border. This in spite of the Canada-Mexico-USA trade deal, which has yet to be ratified.

Mexico complied with the American demand enough to avert the tariffs. Car makers were glad, the tariff would have raised costs for car companies and parts suppliers that have grown dependent on Mexico's lower-cost factory labour.

Nevertheless, auto manufacturers continued to fear the threat new import duties imposed by the USA. Among their concerns were the continuing trade dispute between the US and China; the new free-trade deal struck last year with Mexico and Canada that must still be ratified by Congress, and Mr. Trump's love of tariffs.

According to Ford Motor CEO Jim Hackett, "What you crave in trade is equilibrium." Unpredictable shifting conditions make business very difficult.

Some importers from Mexico to the USA wanted to double or triple their shipments to beat the 5% tariff.

At the moment, car companies are facing a falling demand in the US, which is reducing earnings. Additional import tariffs on cars would further reduce profitability by increasing costs throughout the supply chain and on models built abroad and shipped to the US.

Nearly half of all vehicles sold in the US last year were imports. That should make domestic models more competitive (and profitable), but the imports are largely produced by American companies in foreign low-cost areas. What they gain at one end, they lose at the other.

Toyota Motor Corp. and General Motors Co. were both concerned about potential losses before the tariff threat was suspended.

With trade talks about to open with Japan and the European Union, observers expect that President Trump will use the threat of auto tariffs to gain leverage.

Tariffs on steel and aluminium have also hit car makers, with steel accounting for about 53% of the material in a typical auto and aluminium 11%.

The Trump administration is considering a 25% duty on imported vehicles and parts, a decision to be made in November.

Failure to ratify the new North American free trade agreement is a source of uncertainty for the auto industry.

The US-China trade war has been hard on the auto-industry supply chain, and in May the US levied 25% duties on \$2.3 billion worth of Chinese-made goods, including bumpers, seat belts and doors.

## PEI Disappearing

For some time, there have been reports that the melting icecaps as a result of global warming were threatening to drown some islands and low-lying coastal regions. For the most part the reports spoke about remote events: South Pacific islands or the coast of the USA.

However, one area where this effect is noticeable and affects Canada is Prince Edward Island. It seems that PEI is being washed out to the sea more quickly than ever.

Erosion has always been a

fact of life in PEI, as land exposed to wind and moving water will slowly be washed away. Prince Edward Island has a naturally more acute problem because, unlike most islands, which have a base of granite or another hard rock, it is made of sandstone and sand.

Recently, the erosion has been accelerated. Water levels are rising, and so are ocean temperatures. The added heat creates more violent storms, creating powerful, surfing waves that smash

## Rising Tension over Iran

In 2018, President Donald Trump of the USA withdrew America from the 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and world powers. Since then, he has imposed sanctions designed to squeeze Iran's economy and cut into its oil exports.

The European countries which were part of the deal stayed with the agreement. However, recently Great Britain joined the US action, and as the "UCH" went to press, Iran announced that, without other adherence to the deal, it would have to abandon its own terms.

In addition, it warned that it would cut traffic through the Strait of Hormuz, through which flows 20% of the world's oil.

On June 13, two oil tankers were attacked in the Gulf of

## Xenophobia in Quebec

Politicians in Quebec have been complaining about a labour shortage in the province, but that did not prevent them from passing two laws designed to keep foreigners out, and keep them in their place should they come in.

Well aware that the legislation contravened the Canadian Constitution, the government invoked Section 33 of the Canadian Constitution, the so-called notwithstanding clause, to protect them against constitutional challenges.

Bill 21, the "secularism bill" prohibits public servants in positions of authority — including teachers, police officers, crown prosecutors, and prison guards — from wearing religious symbols on the job. It

also bans people either giving or receiving a state service with a full-face covering, a provision clearly aimed at some of the province's Muslim women.

The immigration bill, Bill 9 regulates permanent residency, allowing the government to impose a French-language test and a "values test". It also allows the government to cancel the approximately 18,000 existing immigration applications, some of them years old.

The government used its majority to force through the laws in an around-the-clock weekend session before the National Assembly broke for its summer recess.

Some values!

## Canada Ends Mali Mission

On June 15, the *Toronto Star* reported that Canada's Foreign Affairs Minister Chrystia Freeland had announced that Canada would begin to wind down the Mali mission, starting in July and ending entirely on August 31.

It is not clear when Romanian forces will be ready to



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## If You Have Nothing to Hide ...

An Editorial by Wilfred Szczesny

Repeatedly governments, including the Government of Canada, seek (often successfully) power to investigate more aggressively, and with less transparency, criminal and/or security matters. Repeatedly, defenders of human and civil rights and liberties respond with warnings about the dangers to us all of allowing police and security service to operate in the shadows, with limited oversight, and with security-classified reporting. Repeatedly, too, we hear the proponents of greater policing powers assure us that, "If you have nothing to hide, you have nothing to fear."

Very few of us have nothing to hide, however trivial, insignificant, strictly personal, or even idiosyncratic. The more democracy has been valued in society, the more our right to privacy, to continue to hide our personal secrets, has also been valued.

There is a more practical reason to question the "If you have nothing to hide..." assertion — the huge amount of evidence that it is a lie, or at least a fool's comfort.

What clearer evidence exists against the "If you have nothing to hide..." assertion than the infants, toddlers and very young children who can not board aeroplanes because they are listed as terrorists on some country's no-fly list? How much do they have to hide?

If it happens to children, it also happens to adults who have "nothing to hide". If it can happen to them, we all have something to fear.

Reasons to fear also appear in other contexts.

Think back to all the stories of people wrongly convicted of crimes who were cleared after spending years in prison. Others were not so lucky — they were cleared after they were executed. How many wrongly convicted people with "nothing to fear" are sitting in prisons?

Pierre Trudeau did not face no-fly lists before becoming Prime Minister of Canada, but in 1989 (according to a story in the *Toronto Star*) CSIS destroyed the dossier on Mr. Trudeau, a fact reported 30 years later.

CSIS said, "That was a time when, as some historians argue, the security community occasionally saw threats that — hindsight being 20/20 — might seem exaggerated to us today."

Kind of like today — ask Matthew Soltys.

## COMMENTARY

### Comments at Ottawa Commemoration

**Bob Seychuk, AUUC National President and AUUC Ottawa Branch President, spoke at the June 9 commemoration in Ottawa of the Winnipeg General Strike of 1919. We present his remarks below. The report on the events on June 2 and 9 in Ottawa begin on page 7.**

Good afternoon, and welcome.

For those of you who don't know me, I am Bob Seychuk, local Branch President of the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians, the AUUC, which is the organization sponsoring today's event to commemorate the 1919 Winnipeg General Strike.

The AUUC is not a labour organization, it is a cultural, educational organization which was born in Winnipeg in 1918 — we are more than 100 years old, and our connection to the Winnipeg General Strike goes back to those days.

Let me go back in history a bit and explain a few things.

In the 1890s and early 1900s, hundreds and hundreds of immigrants from Eastern Europe — mainly from Ukraine — were arriving in Canada. They were encouraged to come by the government of the day, and most were on their way West to settle and farm the prairies.

Many stayed and settled in Winnipeg. Many were members of the Ukrainian Social Democratic Party, and they began to organize meetings and cultural events in rented facilities. At a mass meeting of these people in March, 1918, a decision was made to build their own facility — a Ukrainian Labour Temple. It would be the centre of their social, educational, cultural and political life in Winnipeg.

For these immigrants, life was very tough. Most had limited English language skills limited education, and few other skills. Most found work as labourers for very low wages. Some were fortunate to work in industries which had some sort of a union, but in the early spring of 1919 various labour

unions were either on strike or were attempting to negotiate — building trades were out, iron and sheet metal workers at Dominion Bridge and Vulcan Iron Works were out.

On May 6, 1919, the Winnipeg Trades and Labour Council took a vote of all of its affiliates, encouraging them to join and support those already out. The vote was 8667 to support, 645 opposed.

The Strike started on May 15, 1919, when telephone switchboard operators, who were all women, by the way, ended their shift at 7:00 a.m. and were not replaced. They were the first to go and were joining the building trades and the iron workers who were already out.

In total, approximately 30,000 union and non-union workers walked off the job, out of a city with a population of nearly 170,000. A Strike Committee was formed with representation from every union.

The newly constructed Ukrainian Labour Temple opened its doors in February of 1919.

Dozens and dozens of the newly arrived immigrants were members of the Ukrainian Labour Temple Association (this was the original name of the AUUC). Many were also members of the Ukrainian Social Democratic Party. They began to meet in their new building to discuss their lot in life and how to improve it.

In May and June, 1919, the new Labour Temple, because of its large size and active membership, became one of the main meeting venues for those involved in the Strike.

This building remains the last labour hall which was used in 1919 and is still in active use

today. It has a Federal designation as a National Historic Site as well as a Provincial and a Civic designation as a Historic Site.

The General Strike started on May 15, 1919, and within days the whole city was shut down. Police and firemen were out, but agreed to maintain order.

The mayor of Winnipeg demanded that the police service members sign a pledge that said that they did not support the strike and its aims. They refused and the city fired them all, and hired others as replacements. These replacements were seen as thugs — they had no guns but were issued baseball bats and large wagon wheel spokes to keep order and to prevent and break up large gatherings.

Most services in the city were on strike, but bread and milk delivery was allowed by the Strike Committee.

In response, business owners, professionals, politicians and many lawyers formed The Citizens Committee of 1000. It was headed by A. J. Andrews, a lawyer, and the goal was to oppose and sabotage the strike.

They had influence with all levels of government, and promoted the idea that the strike was the result of agitation by immigrants who were not Canadian citizens. They called for alien deportation.

In fact, most of the Strike leaders were British, and they knew well the class divisions in Great Britain.

On June 6, the federal government amended the Immigration Act to allow, without trial, the deportation of anyone not born in Canada and who was accused of sedition.

On June 16-17-18, Strike leaders were arrested for deportation and held without bail. The city mayor banned all public meetings.

On June 21, pro-strike WWI returned veterans organized a silent parade on Main Street in front of City Hall. It drew thousands of supporters. A streetcar operated by a scab was coming down the tracks toward the large crowd. It was knocked off the tracks and set on fire.

(Continued on Page 10.)

### 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/

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## Reflections on the 1919 WGS Conference

How should the past be remembered? Are historical events static in time, or should they be revisited and given new meaning time and again as we reflect on the constant evolution of history and society? The 1919 Winnipeg General Strike Conference, which unfolded at various locations around the city on May 8-11, took the second approach. Most presenters talked less about the events of the Strike itself and more about what is left out from common remembrances of the Strike, the way the Strike shaped events which came afterwards, how Strike history can influence modern social movements and union organizing, and how we can commemorate the Strike in vibrant and

engaging new ways.

Last month's issue of the "UCH" contained an article which provided an overview of the 1919 Conference. This article will focus on unpacking some of the ways the presenters breathed new life into the ways we remember this important event in local and national history.

The role of Indigenous peoples is rarely acknowledged in Canadian history, and accounts of the Strike are no different. We know little about what role Indigenous people may have played in the Strike, but we do know some of the many ways they were impacted by colonization during this time period. Adele Perry, author of *Aqueduct: Colonialism, Resources and the*

*Histories We Remember*, spoke as part of a panel entitled *Colonialism, Race, and the Winnipeg General Strike*. The Shoal Lake Aqueduct, built the same year as the Strike took place, has supplied the city of Winnipeg with clean drinking water for the past century. Ms. Perry challenged delegates to see the connection between these events, both of which tell a larger story of the dispossession of Anishinaabe people of their land, resources and traditional ways of life.

Settler labourers were a part of this dispossession, and Indigenous workers were largely excluded. The aqueduct has caused the community of Shoal Lake to be without road access for close to a century, and under a boil water advisory for decades. Just this month, Freedom Road opened, connecting the community with the TransCanada Highway.

The experiences of Shoal Lake are just one example of the dispossession story, which impacts Indigenous communities to this day.

Joining Adele Perry on the panel, Owen Toews, author of *Stolen Cities: Racial Capitalism and the Making of Winnipeg*, noted that the Strike took place only 30 years after the Red River Rebellion,

## 1919-2019 Centenary WGS Winnipeg General Strike

and many of those who opposed the Strike were involved in fighting against the Métis Resistance as well.

In fact, the displacement of the Métis in the Red River Valley continued throughout this period and well into the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Many Métis moved to shantytowns on the outskirts of the city, and

shifted the location of those communities as the pressure of urban development extended outwards.

In the late '50s and early '60s, the best-known and documented community, Rooster Town, was dismantled to make way for suburban development in an area which is now known as Grant Park.

Mr. Toews explained that Winnipeg is an Indigenous city, despite the historical erasure of this reality. Its true history centres on the story of settler dispossession of Indigenous peoples, and the city continues to be dominated by Indigenous politics. In recent years, Indigenous social movements have had a strong base in Winnipeg, including the fight for Freedom Road and the Idle No More movement.

The Strike brought together unionized and non-unionized workers to fight for a better life, but it ignored the Indigenous experience. Modern social activism and organizing can not do this, and by remembering (Continued on Page 10.)



Panelists at one session were (left to right): Davis Frank, Danny Schur, Tom Monteyne, Naom Gonick, and Sharon Reilly. Moderating this panel was Rhonda Hinthier.



Owen Toews presented on a panel called *Colonialism, Race, and the Winnipeg General Strike*.

## Keynote Speaker Event at ULT in Winnipeg

The 1919 Winnipeg General Strike Centenary Conference came to the Ukrainian Labour Temple in Winnipeg on Thursday evening, May 9, for a keynote speaker event. Conference attendees who were in Winnipeg from all over North America were looking forward to this event with great anticipation, a chance to experience some Ukrainian

hospitality in our historic building that was actually part of the 1919 strike, 100 years ago. AND WE DELIVERED!

The evening opened with the traditional Bread & Salt welcome performed by our Yunist Dance Ensemble.

Then AUUC Winnipeg Branch President Glenn Michalchuk gave a short talk on the history of the Labour



Jane McAlevey, accomplished organizer, prolific writer, and inspiring speaker, presented the Conference keynote address.

— Photo: Emily Halldorson

Temple and its role in the general strike.

Our Festival Choir was up next with some protest songs including, "Hold the Fort". People were invited to join in and "sing for your supper"!

A buffet-style supper was served next by our volunteers, including perogies, cabbage rolls, meatballs and gravy, garlic sausage and, of course, Winnipeg rye bread!

After dessert of lemon poppy seed loaf, it was down to business with keynote speaker Jane McAlevey. Dr. McAlevey is an accomplished union organizer and author, and travels throughout North America and the world.

Her talk on this evening was on organizing for power in the new gilded age. For 45 minutes, Ms. McAlevey had the crowd engaged. She could have gone on longer, but saved time for some questions from

the audience. It was good to see some younger people asking some very thought provoking questions.

The evening was almost over, but there was time for one more dance: Yunist Dance Ensemble closed the evening, debuting a new dance called "Razeshaska".

All too soon, the evening was over, all the specially ordered 1919 Beer was finished, and it was time for the attendees to board the buses and head back to their hotels.

Thanks go out to all our volunteers and performers at "the hall" for making this a special event that won't soon be forgotten.

A lot of networking was done this evening, and throughout the conference, so other halls take notice — you may be receiving some new inquiries in the near future!

— Tim Gordienko

— Photo: Emily Halldorson



The Yunist Dance Ensemble performed before a full house at the Keynote Speaker event.



The Festival Choir performed a number of protest songs.



## Calgary Ukrainian Festival Marks 10 Years

What a pleasure it was for the Calgary Hopak Ensemble to once again take part in Calgary Ukrainian Festival, which, this year, celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> year of operation. Housed in the Acadia Recreation Centre in Calgary on June 1 and 2, this year's festival was bigger and better, encompassing both the curling and hockey rinks, which were turned into entertainment pavilions.

The main stage, the food and drink stations, and over 20 vendor booths remained in the large curling rink area. The exhibits, children's craft tables, and the festival performers staging area were moved over to the hockey arena. In this additional space, a second

performance stage was erected for those who wanted to try new experiences, like folk dancing Ukrainian style, bubble boogie, singing, or relaxing away from the crowds.

And crowded it was!! It was truly amazing to engage with the thousands of people to partake in the delicious Ukrainian food like borscht, kubasa, pyrohy, and holopchi. A favourite on the menu this year was "pyrohy poutine" — can you imagine that! Of course this was washed down with Ukrainian beer. From poppy seed cake to exquisite cookies, it was a taste fest for all.

In honour of the tenth year celebration, our amazing choreographer, Trevor Shular,



Calgary Ukrainian Festival Dancers, accompanied by the Calgary Hopak Orchestra, opened the concert with "We Are from Ukraine", including the traditional bread-and-salt greeting, and closed it with a rousing "Hopak".

brought together the talents of 28 members of Calgary's Ukrainian dance community, who joined forces to showcase two dance numbers. The multi-regional dance, "My z Ukrainy", choreographed by Serguei Makarov, presented costumes and dances from the many regions of Ukraine and ended with the traditional welcome of bread and salt.

The final "Hopak", choreographed by Bogdan Tkachishyn, included dancers from age 5 to adult. How delightful to see these incredible dancers weaving their magical spell for an entranced audience. Many of those dancers had never performed with a live orchestra. "Thank you" to Violetta Dimitrova and the Calgary Hopak Orchestra for providing such a life-changing

experience for these dancers.

The festival managed to bring in over 750 performers from all over Alberta. From dancers, choirs, and orchestras to a bandura ensemble, this year's performances were outstanding!

On Saturday, the Calgary Hopak Ensemble was able to repeat the May concert's repertoire, from the Dance School

numbers, through to the five dances performed by the Hopak Dancers. The Calgary Hopak Orchestra and Choir performed numbers from the May concert as well.

A huge "thank you" to our dance instructors, who kept the enthusiasm going in their students for this final performance of the year.

(Continued on Page 10.)



The boys group Harney Sharavary performed the dance "The Farmers".



The Hopak Dancers presented "Volynska polka".

## May Celebration of FRCO

On Sunday, May 26, the Federation of Russian Canadians Ontario (FRCO) held its annual Spring Banquet and Concert. The theme was Mothers Day, *Dyen Pobedy* (Victory Day) and the arrival of spring.

The sold out event, under the capable hands of MC George Tomaszewski, began with Rosemary Pollock and Vasya Julea singing "Derynya moya" — a young man sings about his love for his distant village and country — and Garmon Moya — a young girl asks the accordionist whom she loves to play happy melodies.

They were joined by Vicky Vuksinic to sing "Shol Kozak" — a young Kossack falls into a freezing river on his way home from the war. A young lady happens by, and he tells her he was trying to catch a sturgeon with his bare hands. She invites him to her home to dry off. He does not return to his home that spring.

"Yablonyevee vecher" — Spring has come again — was the next number, followed by

an amazing medley of Moldavian tunes on the accordion, played by Vasya Julea

Sviatlana Litvinava sang "Barenya soobotyeya", a comical nonsense song in which a young man is courting a woman with pockets of gifts, hoping for a kiss but settling for a hug.

The Beryozka Choir, under the direction of Sviatlana Litvinava and accompanied by Vasya Julea on the accordion, performed nine songs:

"Veeshnya" — a young man asks a daisy to predict whether a girl he intends to woo and marry loves him;

"Oysya", with soloist Vicky Vuksinic — originally a moving song about Kossacks fighting for freedom, the version presented by the choir was a humorous one in which young Chechen men see a beautiful Russian girl at a bazaar and act silly;

"Oy toomany" — the partisans are treading through meadows and forests in dense fog as they fight the enemy;

"Rozpryhayty khloptsi koni" — a rousing popular



The Beryozka Choir of the FRCO, conducted by Sviatlana Litvinava and accompanied on the accordion by Vasya Julea, entertained the audience with nine songs.

old Ukrainian folk song;

"Charka", with soloists Rosemary Pollock and Vicky Vuksinic — a Byelorussian folk song about partying (a *charka* is a shot) which says that the more *charkas* you drink the less you feel the cold;

"Orenburgski pohovi platok", with soloists Trista Mueller and Rosemary Pollock — on a winter night when a blizzard rages outside, a woman sings of her love for her mother, for whom she has knitted a soft downy shawl to keep her warm;

"Cherez rechenku mostok", with dancers were Sasha Wachta and Lorna Clark — a rousing and happy melody, although the message is bittersweet, that love is good

when it is shared between two people, but cannot be managed when a third person is involved;

"Katyusha", a song composed in the 1930s, which became one of the most popular to come out of the Soviet Union during the Second World War — Katyusha was the name of the mobile rocket launcher mounted on many platforms, including trucks, artillery tractors, tanks and armoured vehicles. It was also the name of a young girl who, in this song, is standing amid the apple and pear blossoms and thinking of her sweetheart who was at the front;

"Katya" — a Russian folk song which tells how unhappy Katya is, as her philandering

husband is out drinking at night and does not come home. In the end, everyone laughs at Katya, making her feel even worse.

After the concert, the audience was treated to a wonderful banquet catered by BabyPoint, including varenyky (perogies), holubtsi (cabbage rolls), kapusta (cabbage), chicken, beef, and more. The desserts were all home-made by the women of the FRCO and were delicious.

The afternoon ended with door prizes of *matryoshki* (nested dolls), plants and other items.

Thanks to all the people who helped make the afternoon memorable.

— Lorna Clark



— Story photos: Wilfred Szczesny

# WGS Commemorations in Ottawa

## Weekend the First: the Walk

AUUC Ottawa Branch commemorated the Winnipeg General Strike of 1919 over two weekends in a way that was unique among Branches of the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians as it drew on the resources and traditions of the city.

The first event, on the afternoon of Sunday, June 2, was a Labour History Walk of Downtown Ottawa, led by Borys Gengalo, historian and active member of the city's Ukrainian Canadian community.

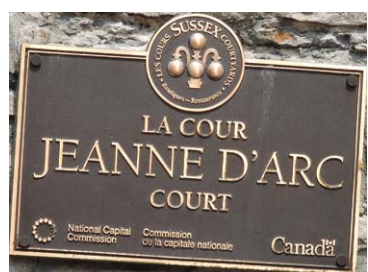
The event organizers lived a charmed life: the rain of the day, threatening the cancellation of the walk, stopped just in time to allow about 20 participants to gather, and held off until they had, at the end of the tour, entered the shelter of a local pub.

Before leaving the starting point, the Market area in lower town, Mr. Gengalo spent some time setting the Ottawa historical background.

Some of the story was somewhat jarring, given Ottawa's current image of gentility. Barring no holds, Mr. Gengalo asserted that America's Wild West towns had nothing on early-day Ottawa — and he proceeded to justify his assertion.

One point was the economy of the region in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. The main industries were lumber (harvesting of trees in the forests) and timber (cutting the lumber into boards and other forms used in construction).

The consequence was that men who had been in the wilderness for months periodically gathered in Ottawa.



The tour's first stop was Jeanne d'Arc Court to learn about the charitable role of churches.



Historian Borys Gengalo led the Labour History Walk of Downtown Ottawa on June 2, starting at the corner of Laurier and Metcalfe.

Another point was the conditions in Lower Town, which was inhabited by the working class — Francophone and Irish Catholic labourers. It was a densely populated cedar swamp, lacking such needs as running water and sewers — a perfect breeding ground for disease such as the cholera epidemic of 1847. It was also the location of hotels, bordellos, bars and other businesses catering to the transient single men.

Add to that mixture the lack of any law enforcement until the mid-1800s, and the possibility — nay, the probability — of violent lawlessness becomes obvious.

Added to that was the rivalry between the lumbering and timber companies, culminating in the Shiners' War of the 1830s. The British sent in the army, which slowed, but did not stop the violence as arrests were made.

Churches played key social roles, Mr. Gengalo said, as they provided any social services which were available. The established church was Anglican, the religion of the ruling class which lived in Upper Town. The Francophone population soon had its Catholic churches, often accompanied nearby by an Irish

Catholic church.

Leaving the starting point, the walk came to Jeanne d'Arc Court, where the Grey Nuns (Institute Jeanne d'Arc) bought up the hotels to establish women's hostels.

After several other stops, the walk reached Major's Hill Lookout, where Mr. Gengalo provided more information about the development of the labour movement. He reported that the first union organized in Ottawa was the typographers, in 1866, followed by many small unions.

Unions were legalized in 1872, as much in an effort to control them as to encourage them. In 1889, the Ottawa Trades and Labour Council was formed.

Because of wage cuts and other declining working conditions in October and November, 1890, the Chaudiere workers, though not unionized, went on strike. The police and militia were called out to protect the mills.

In 1892, the Knights of Labour came in, but did not have much success.

The height of labour organization was around 1900, with a drop off as government work became more prominent.

Though government work was poorly paid, serious organizing of the civil service did not start until about 1950, led by the postal workers.

Asked about the role of Ukrainian Canadians, and specifically the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians, in the development of the labour movement in Ottawa, Mr. Gengalo called on Myron Momryk, a specialist in this area as a result of his former work with the National Archives.



About twenty people joined the Labour History Walk of Downtown Ottawa on June 2.

Mr. Momryk said that members of the Ukrainian Social-Democratic Party were in Ottawa before World War One. They invited a speaker to Ottawa for May 1, 1918. Authorities intervened, and 17 people were arrested, of whom 16 were interned until 1920. The remaining one, who was the speaker, was a citizen.

The Ukrainian Labour-Farmer Temple Association was very active in the 1930s. There was a Ukrainian Labour Temple on Preston Street until the mid-'60s. In World War Two, the ULT was closed, but not confiscated.

When Ukrainian performers travelling in Canada went to Ottawa to visit the Soviet embassy, the concerts at the

ULT attracted good audiences. However, the RCMP visited often, and participants faced discrimination at work. By the 1960s, mostly elderly members were left, and in 1966-7 the building was sold.

The Ukrainian Canadian community was politically divided, especially during the Cold War, with the RCMP very active.

After Borys Gengalo made closing remarks, in which he expressed appreciation for also having learned from the group (such as the fact that the non-unionized women telephone operators were the first to go out in the Winnipeg General Strike in 1919), the group adjourned to the Beer Market pub to continue their gathering over a pint or two.

## Weekend the Second: the Talk

The second event in the Ottawa AUUC Branch two-weekend commemoration of the Winnipeg General Strike, was Labour Stories and Songs at the Carleton Heights Com-

munity Centre, on the afternoon of Sunday, June 9.

Close to 40 people were on hand to participate in the presentation "Solidarity Forever: the Labour Movement through Song".

The event was opened by AUUC Ottawa Branch member Vera Seychuk, the main coordinator of both events, with a welcome to those who had devoted the beautiful summer afternoon to an indoor event. Ms. Seychuk then introduced Bob Seychuk, AUUC National President and AUUC Ottawa Branch President.

Mr. Seychuk presented an interesting and informative speech connecting the centennial of the Ukrainian Labour Temple in Winnipeg with the Winnipeg General Strike of 1919. He ended his remarks with the admonition, "We would do well to pay attention to what is happening around us today."

(Mr. Seychuk's comments appear on Page 4.)

Next on the program was Jennie Hornosty, Adjunct Research Professor at Carleton University. Dr. Hornosty introduced the central figure of the day, Stephen Richer. Her comments painted a rich picture of Dr. Richer's attributes.

(Continued on Page 12.)



This Notre Dame Basilica and one-time La Salle Academy, a French Catholic institution, had an Irish Catholic counterpart just down the street, not an infrequent juxtaposition.



Tin House Court is a tourist destination in Ottawa, featuring this reconstructed building in an area where wooden homes were forbidden. It was a metal exterior covering a log cabin.



## Interview with Linda Sarsour

*Linda Sarsour was co-chair of the 2017 Women's March, the 2017 Day Without a Woman, and the 2019 Women's March, and is a former executive director of the Arab American Association of New York. Ms. Sarsour first gained attention for protesting police surveillance of American Muslims, and later become involved in other civil rights issues such as police brutality, feminism, immigration policy, and mass incarceration. She has organized Black Lives Matter demonstrations and was the lead plaintiff in a suit challenging the legality of the Trump travel ban.*

*When Linda Sarsour was invited to Winnipeg for the commemoration of the centenary of the Social Planning Council of Winnipeg, AUUC Winnipeg Branch hosted the April 26 event. The Ukrainian Canadian Herald had an opportunity for a brief interview with the Muslim Palestinian American activist.*

— Story photos: Wilfred Szczesny



**UCH:** How long have you been involved in social action?

**L.S.:** I became an activist, unfortunately, immediately after the tragic events of 9/11, when law enforcement agencies came to my community and were rounding up Muslim men, and I became a translator for women in my community who lost their husbands to the injustice system in America.

**UCH:** So you are an Arabic

speaker?

**L.S.:** I am fluent in the Arabic language.

**UCH:** Are you yourself an immigrant or a child of immigrants?

**L.S.:** I am born and raised in the United States of America, but I am a first generation American, and my parents are immigrants from the occupied Palestinian territories.

**UCH:** Oh, so that is why you are so familiar with struggles there.

**L.S.:** I actually just came back from Palestine this past summer, so I, and my children, have experienced what it means to live under military occupation, as people who have visited our immediate family who still lives there in the West Bank under military occupation.

**UCH:** I noticed from the first words you said on the stage today, that you sound very confident, very bold. Is that how you really feel or is that partly a front?

**L.S.:** Since I was a young child, my parents were very deliberate about teaching me about my lineage and my heritage, and teaching me about the struggles of the Palestinian people, how the Palestinian people needed us as Palestinian Americans to be a voice for them in places where they are voiceless. So I have been a very confident young person since a very early age.

After the tragic events of 9/11, as an American, I was horrified by the treatment of Muslim Americans, how we were being blamed for the actions of a very few group of people. I felt that my country was being very unfair to Muslims, and that we too were horrified by the event, and in fact, 75 Muslims died in the World Trade Centre on that

very horrific day.

And so, watching men in my community just be taken, just for the virtue of who they are, or their faith or nationality, it really radicalized me.

And I said, "My parents didn't come to America for this. My parents came here to live in dignity and in freedom.

"These immigrants in my community, they were working hard. They were honest people who were not there to impose on anyone's life."

I felt so hurt to see children in my community crying for their fathers. And so, I have been working for almost the last 20 years, on protecting the civil rights and civil liberties and human rights of Muslim Americans, and other immigrants in my city, and I have been doing that ever since.

**UCH:** The days, especially right after 9/11, were very very hard. They are not that easy now. How would you describe the changes over the last 20 years?

**L.S.:** Believe it or not, it is worse to be an American Muslim now, in 2019, than it was even days and weeks after 9/11.

Under this administration, the Trump administration, the right-wing extremists have become very emboldened, and they have come out publicly, and have done public demonstrations against Muslims. They have come out with Neo-Nazi signs.

They have specifically targeted our communities, not just from a place of individual hatred or hate crimes against Muslims, but through policies. I mean, Trump's first week, he announced the Muslim ban, where he banned Muslims from six Muslim-majority countries, and we now have families in the United States who are separated from their loved ones.

And people will say, "Well that's only six Muslim countries, not every Muslim country". And I say to people, "How many countries have to be on the list for us to say 'that's wrong?'"

So I am worried, if Trump gets another four years, that we may see more countries from the Middle East, and from South Asia, or Muslim-majority countries, be banned from coming to America.

We have had an almost 150% increase in hate crimes against Muslims or Muslim institutions, women in hijab who have been targets of violent acts.

It's just been very scary to be a Muslim. And also to be a Muslim political activist, under this administration, I have been targeted by the son of the President of the United States of America. I have been libelled and slandered in the media. I have had death threats against my life that have been investigated by law enforcement. So it's been scary, just

being an American who has points of views that I want to share, and feeling targeted for that.

**UCH:** One side of the story is that Trump has certainly emboldened the racists and others in the alt-right. Have you found that, as a result of this, there has also been more of a fight-back, a push-back, against this?

**L.S.:** Sometimes I have to find some blessings in the darkness, and I think one of the blessings that Trump has brought with his administration, is a very strong resistance. I helped organize the Women's March on Washington, which was the day after the inauguration of Donald Trump, which continues to be the largest single-day demonstration in American history.

It was a way for us to re-inspire our country, which fell into despair.

People were crying. People were like, "We can't believe this happened". And then they saw this group of women organizing the entire nation. We had close to 3.5 million people in our country that went to the streets. It was inspirational. And around the world of course, including in Canada.

It was so inspirational, so intersectional. You saw representatives of all the different communities.

We have continued that resistance against Trump.

As you know, in 2018, we had a very important election. Where our Congress was majority Republican, now it is majority Democrat, but not only are they majority Democrat, but many of them are women of colour. We sent the two first Muslim women to Congress, the first Palestinian-American woman. We have sent the first black woman from Massachusetts, and two Latina women. We sent the first Indigenous woman to Congress.

So it was a very inspirational time for us in 2018, and we hope to continue that inspiration into 2020.

**UCH:** Very good. Do you work with any particular group, or do you spread yourself around the community? Just where is your focus?

**L.S.:** I work with the Women's March, which has now become an institution. We institutionalized the Women's March, because we just had a lot of political and social capital that we wanted to maintain.

**UCH:** So when you say you institutionalized it, you mean that you have a standing committee that works on this?

**L.S.:** Yeah, so there is an actual organization called Women's March now, so I work with them.

I also work with an organization called MPower Change. It's a Muslim grassroots organizing platform where we

(Continued on Page 11.)



A panel with moderator Shannon Sampert, Indigenous activist Chantell Barker, Linda Sarsour and Quebec-based writer and activist Nora Loreto to commemorate the centenary of the Social Planning Council of Winnipeg was held at the Ukrainian Labour Temple.



## Ukrainian Miscellany

### PrivatBank Drama

When the oligarchs were stealing public assets, Igor Kolomoisky and Gennady Bogolyubov, both from Dnipro in eastern Ukraine, business partners since 1992, established PrivatBank, which accounted for one fifth of Ukraine's banking assets.

In December, 2016, the bank was nationalized by the Ukrainian government, which alleged that the two co-owners had given 97% of its loans to themselves through various offshore companies, usually in Cyprus. The Ukrainian government recapitalized the bank with \$5.5 billion, as Mr.

Kolomoisky went into exile.

A Kyiv court ruled in April that nationalization of the country's largest lender was illegal.

PrivatBank's chief financial officer, Anna Samarina, said that the bank lost \$303 million of deposits after the ruling, amounting to 5% of deposits. Part of the loss has been recovered, but the bank is still below its previous deposits.

With legal fights with former owner Igor Kolomoisky continuing, up to 10% of the bank's operating costs are now dedicated to legal

costs.

The election of President Zelensky was a signal to Mr. Kolomoisky that he could return to Ukraine.

Although Mr. Kolomoisky was President Zelensky's main media backer in the presidential campaign, the new president has not interfered in the operations of PrivatBank.

On May 21, PrivatBank, still in government hands, filed a civil case against its prior owners, Ihor Kolomoisky and Gennady Bogolyubov, both of them US citizens resident in Miami, as well as nineteen anonymous companies, in the state court of Delaware, USA.

The defendants are accused of hundreds of millions of dol-

lars of damages arising in connection with claims for unjust enrichment, fraudulent transfers under state laws (including Delaware and Ohio), and violations of Ohio's racketeering and corrupt organizations statute, and for civil conspiracy.

It is charged that from 2006 through December, 2016, the total movement of funds (credits) into the ultimate beneficiary owners' laundering at PrivatBank Cyprus was \$470 billion. This amounts to approximately double the Gross Domestic Product of Cyprus during the same period.

If true, this is the biggest case of money laundering in history, and it has been perpe-

trated by a single group.

All the accusations are of crimes. However, as this is a civil suit, PrivatBank's investigators have provided all the materials. PrivatBank investigators have done extraordinary detective work, providing what is probably the most detailed study of large-scale money laundering into the United States, in this case from Ukraine. It runs to 104 pages, though it has not been proven in court yet.

It will be interesting to see how the ruling of illegality in the nationalization and the civil suit for restitution play out.

### NABU Law Ruled Unconstitutional

On June 5, the Constitutional Court of Ukraine ruled that some provisions in the Law on the National Anti-Corruption Bureau of Ukraine were unconstitutional in granting the Bureau power to file civil claims for the invalidation of transactions of persons under investigation for high-level corruption.

The ruling followed a complaint to the Constitutional Court by Zaporizhia Ferroalloy Plant, an enterprise controlled by Ihor Kolomoisky's and Hennadiy Bogolyubov's Privat Group.

The National Anti-Corruption Bureau of Ukraine (NABU) said that the decision of the Constitutional Court of Ukraine to deprive the National Bureau of the authority to invalidate illegal agreements in court protects the organizers of corrupt schemes and actually legitimizes the embezzlement of funds of state enterprises during the procurement of goods, works and services at inflated prices.

The NABU authority to file claims for invalidation of agreements, was envisaged by the Law from its very beginning of its foundation and it was an effective tool for the elimination of corruption at state enterprises. During four years of the NABU's work, the courts supported 35 claims of the National Bureau, cancelling 97 illegal agreements.

The relevant decisions became the basis for the return of more than 6 billion UAH to the state. In all these cases, the NABU proved in court that the relevant agreements signed by the state-owned companies caused damage or shortfall in income.

The ruling of the Constitutional Court means that most of these rulings can be overturned. In addition, evidence used in the civil cases may be declared inadmissible in the corresponding criminal trials, invalidating the entire anti-corruption reform of the country.

### President Zelensky Under Attack

Volodymyr Zelensky, recently elected President of Ukraine, took office in May, and is finding that winning office may be easier than holding it. His opponents are applying whatever leverage they can to undermine his administration and discredit his administration.

After initial indications from political parties that they would not oppose an early dissolution of the Supreme Council, Ukraine's parliament, on May 24, representatives of the Popular Front submitted a submission to the Constitutional Court, asking that the decree on the dissolution of the Verkhovna Rada (Supreme Council) be declared unconstitutional.

Andriy Parubiy, Speaker of Ukraine's parliament, said that, in his official capacity, he had handed over to the Constitutional Court all necessary documents on the existence of a coalition in Ukraine's parliament at the time when the *Narodnyi Front* (People's Front) party left the coalition, which included independents as well as factions.

The Constitutional Court of Ukraine is currently considering the constitutionality of President Zelensky's decree dissolving Parliament early and calling Parliamentary elections for July 21.

It all hinges on determining whether a majority coalition existed in parliament at a certain time

President Zelensky, a political neophyte, does not control a majority in parliament, which has created another problem. As is normal, when President Zelensky was elected, Petro Poroshenko's Cabinet resigned, including Minister of Foreign Affairs Pavlo Klimkin, Minister of Defence Stepan Poltorak and Head of the State Security Service Vasyl Hrytsak. Apparently the Supreme Council has to ap-

prove the resignations, which it declined to do when President Zelensky submitted the relevant legislation.

That may be the source of an embarrassing charge against the president — plagiarism. Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL) reported that some paragraphs in President Zelensky's remarks during a visit to Brussels on June 4-5, his first trip abroad, came directly from earlier speeches by then President Poroshenko.

The Zelensky administration has placed the blame for any plagiarism on "holdovers" within the Foreign Ministry, whom it accuses of secretly working to undermine the new head of state. His office has announced an investigation.

With Minister of Foreign Affairs Pavlo Klimkin still in place, and ex-President Poroshenko's camp, like Poroshenko spokesperson Svyatoslav Tseholko quick off the mark with evidence, the suspicions are strong.

President Zelensky is reported to have said that, "If confirmation is found of private cooperation of state employees from the Foreign Ministry with Poroshenko, harsh administrative, disciplinary, and personnel steps will follow." As a minimum, this probably means heads will (figuratively) roll.

Rival political forces have been mobilizing their supporters against President Zelensky. Radio Svoboda reported on June 10 that a protest had taken place at the Presidential Administration, as demonstrators voiced their opposition to "capitulation and the revanche of pro-Russian forces in Ukraine" and burned a white flag. Similar protests occurred in other places.

The demonstrators demanded the removal of Leonid Kuchma, Ukraine's head representative at the Trilateral

Contact Group in Minsk. Apparently, on June 5, at the first meeting in a month and a half of the Trilateral Contact Group, former President of Ukraine Leonid Kuchma made a proposal to revoke the economic blockade of the occupied parts of the Donbas.

Attacks on the Administration are also coming from other sources. The Kharkiv Human Rights Protection Group, Halya Coynash's group which seems more interested in attacking Russia than protecting human rights in Ukraine, has attacked on several fronts.

One case is the KHPG attack on the appointment by President Zelensky of Andriy Bohdan as head of the Administration. KHPG claims he "is a man prohibited from holding public office".

Ukraine's Supreme Court has refused on May 29 to consider the case, claiming that the only people entitled to appeal the decision are either Mr. Bohdan himself, or persons whose rights are directly affected by the appointment.

The KHPG response is, "The right of citizens to expect that elected representatives will comply with the law does not appear to count."

The law in question is the Law on Cleaning Up Government, also known as the lustration law, which was adopted on September 16, 2014, to ensure that people appointed by former president Victor Yanukovich would be prevented from holding office.

Mr. Bohdan served under President Yanukovich, appointed by Mykola Azarov shortly after the latter became Prime Minister. Following his dismissal in March 2014, Mr. Bohdan became an adviser to Ihor Kolomoisky who was then Governor of Dnipropetrovsk oblast. He has since been Kolomoisky's lawyer, and worked on Volodymyr Zelensky's presidential cam-

paign.

Application of the post-coup witch-hunt law on lustration involves the Public Lustration Committee, a non-governmental organization, which appears to have been the plaintiff.

Such is the atmosphere in Ukraine these days that Ivan Bakanov, the acting head of the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU), felt compelled to announce that his wife has Russian citizenship, and that she has applied for Ukrainian citizenship.

The *Kyiv Post* reported that the statement had been published on the SBU's Facebook page on June 12. Mr. Bakanov said that he posted the statement about his wife's citizenship to counter those who might want to blackmail him.

President Volodymyr Zelensky appointed Mr. Bakanov, a friend since childhood, as the SBU's First Deputy Chief on May 22. As the SBU's head Vasyl Grytsak reportedly went on vacation on June 3, Mr. Bakanov temporarily took over his duties.

Ivan Bakanov was the head of Volodymyr Zelensky's presidential campaign. Earlier, he was the head lawyer of Mr. Zelensky's production company Kvarstal 95.

Not all the news is negative for President Zelensky.

First of all, it appears that popular support for an early election is growing.

More important, polls are showing that President Zelensky's party, Service to the People, has extremely strong support among decided voters, well ahead of the nearest competition, and his support is growing.

That may explain the effort to delay the election. Early thought was that the organized groups could beat the fledgling Zelensky group in a quick election. In light of the polls, the opposition may feel that their best bet is to try to weaken the president over the coming months.



## Reflections on the 1919 WGS Conference

(Continued from Page 5.)  
bering the context of dispossession in which the Strike took place, we take some small steps forward in ensuring that future workingclass struggles are more inclusive.

Some of the other panels and roundtable discussions at the 1919 Conference sought to remember the Strike by highlighting some of the coalitions and campaigns which are fighting for workers rights in Canada now. While they may not look the same as the class struggles of the early 1900s, these movements have something in common with the Strike.

Unlike collective bargaining and strikes undertaken by members of a particular union, these movements focus on an issue faced by a broad spectrum of workers, and in that way, they embody the spirit of the Strike, in which unionized and non-unionized workers walked off the job together.

Josh Brandon (Manitoba Fight for \$15) and Alia Karim (Ontario Fight for \$15) spoke about the Fight for \$15 movement on two different panels, held on different days of the conference. The Fight for \$15 is a grassroots movement pushing governments to raise minimum wages to \$15 per hour. Successful campaigns have taken place in New York, Washington and Ontario.

Ms. Karim explained that the Fight for \$15 combats discrimination in wages by providing a living wage for all

workers. Movements like this challenge us to think more creatively about how we tackle workingclass issues. Are we best working in silos and waging labour disputes in our work places? Or should we, in the spirit of the Strike, seek out creative new opportunities to form broad-based grassroots movements to improve the lives of all workers?

Those working on the Fight for \$15, and many of the speakers at the conference, made the case that one of the greatest lessons of the Strike is that we are stronger together.

The 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Strike has inspired many projects commemorating its events. On the Strike Bus Tour held on the last day of the conference, delegates were shown a small plaque on the side of City Hall. Until recently, this was the only physical recognition of the Strike in the city of Winnipeg.

The opening night event, entitled *Remembering 1919: Commemoration and the Winnipeg General Strike*, featured Noam Gonick, Danny Schur, Tom Monteyne and Sharon Reilly, all of whom are working on unique commemoration projects.

Ms. Reilly spoke about the new 1919 Strike Walking and Driving Tour books, which seek to make learning about the Strike more dynamic while engaging new audiences in the history of Winnipeg's working class.

Messrs. Monteyne and

Gonick are creating large public monuments in key locations associated with the Strike. The sheer size of the pieces will encourage Winnipeggers and visitors to engage with the Strike, even if it is only for a moment as they walk by. For some, hopefully, these monuments will inspire them to learn even more.

Mr. Schur is behind *Strike! The Musical* which debuted at Winnipeg's *Rainbow Stage* in 2005. Later this year, a major feature film based on the musical, and called *Stand!* will be released.

All of these projects demonstrate a renewed interest in the Strike and a desire to engage with history in new ways, a theme which ran throughout the 1919 Conference as well. The conference demonstrated that history is not static, but rather, historical events like the 1919 Strike can continue to take on new meaning. In many ways, the struggles of the working class have changed, but they are, in many ways, also very much the same.

By remembering the Strike, we can build momentum and strive for change in the future.

— Emily Halldorson

## Alexander Babiy

Alexander (Alex) Babiy, born on November 2, 1930, passed away peacefully at Woodlands of Sunset on Sunday, May 12, 2019.

Alex was a member of the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians for 62 years, and belonged to the Shevchenko Senior Citizens Club. Until his health interfered, he was an active member, assisting with such tasks as helping pick up supplies for perogy-making.

Alex enjoyed playing cribbage, attending Jr. B Hockey games, fishing and hunting up north, and tending his garden.

Alex will be mourned by Clara, his wife of over 62 years, as well as his daughters Claudia Danyluk (Dale) and Vera Babiy, grandchildren Tamara Hooykaas and Kyle Danyluk (Lisa), brothers Victor (Lillian) and Terry (Gail), sisters-in-law Anne Hunka and Olga Babiy, and many nieces, nephews, extended family members, and friends.

Alex was predeceased by his parents John and Christine



Alexander (Alex) Babiy

Babiy, his brother Bill Babiy, brothers-in-law Walter Hunka and Mike Bosnich, and sister-in-law Manya Bosnich.

Following a service on May 15 in the chapel at J.J. Patterson & Sons Funeral Residence in Welland, Alex was interred in Woodlawn Cemetery.

As a memorial tribute, a tree will be planted through The Niagara Woodlands Restoration Program. A tree grows — memories live.

## Comments at Ottawa Commemoration

(Continued from Page 4.)

The replacement police "specials" and mounted North West Mounted Police charged the crowd. Several people were shot and two died. The crowd dispersed.

Several days later, on June 25, the Strike Committee called for an end to the Strike, and on June 26 at 11:00 a.m., after six weeks, it ended.

The message from the Strike Committee was to "carry on via the ballot box at the next election".

The Strike was broken with few immediate gains, but the general public was politicized to a degree which was new. A Royal Commission was called and established that new working conditions and fair wages were needed.

Things started to change. Many of today's benefits originated with the General Strike, such as: the 40-hour work week; overtime pay; sick leave; job security; safety

standards.

Society is still waiting to receive a fair living wage for all, gender equality and guaranteed collective bargaining — witness the latest (Ontario) provincial legislation: a legislated 1% salary increase for three years for Ontario public sector employees; rollbacks on planned increases to minimum wages; reversals on pay equity; cuts for education and larger class sizes.

What was remarkable was that the citizens of Winnipeg stood shoulder to shoulder in solidarity with the strikers. The goal was to achieve better working conditions for all.

We would do well to pay attention to what is happening around us today.

Watch for the  
*Ukrainian  
Canadian Herald*  
on line.

## Doors Open at Winnipeg ULT

With Winnipeg General Strike celebrations in full swing during the month of May, the Ukrainian Labour Temple was the venue for many events connected with the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemorations. One of these was "Doors Open Winnipeg", an annual event in which historic and other buildings of interest are opened to the public in the last weekend of May.

The Winnipeg Branch of the AUUC has participated for many years as a way to showcase the history and architecture of the Hall as well as the performing arts groups based there. This year saw a record

number of people come to the Hall on May 25 and 26. Several Winnipeg General Strike bus tours stopped at the ULT and came in for tours.

Over the two days, 500 people came to the Hall and heard of its history — both that connected with the strike and the other roles it has played in the hundred years of its existence.

Of all the places that played a major role in organizing workers during the strike only the Ukrainian Labour Temple has survived. It has remained in the hands of the organization which built it, thus ensuring that its historical significance has been protected.

Tours of the Hall are given by members of the Winnipeg Branch. The two-day event included cultural performances by the Mandolin Orchestra, the Festival Choir, Yunist Ensemble and Yunist School of Dance. Tours were also given of the Ivan Franko Museum, located in the Ivan Franko Manor.

"It was a great success. People are really impressed by the building and its history. They go away feeling there is something special about the Hall," said Branch member Tim Gordienko who guided many of the tours.

— Glenn Michalchuk

## Calgary Ukrainian Festival Marks 10 Years

(Continued from Page 6.)

"Thank you to the Senior Hopak Dancers for representing us in both Saturday and Sunday's performance schedule. Your dedication is so greatly appreciated.

We very much look forward to next year's festival to renew old acquaintances and make new ones.

It is indeed pleasing to note that the Ukrainian culture is alive and well in Calgary!

— Darlene Hrynchshyn

The Hopak Dancers, choreographed by Trevor Shular, performed Bukovyna.





# Interview with Linda Sarsour

(Continued from Page 8.)  
 train Muslim organizers around the country to engage in voter registration, voter engagement, and building power in voting blocks in Muslim communities across the country.

**UCH:** I gather from a lot of your comments that you work a lot with women. Are there also men involved in the ac-

tivities that you are taking?

**L.S.:** Yes, my staff are both men and women, but I am very invested in women's leadership, and some of the most bravest and courageous people representing our Muslim American community in the United States are women.

They are bold. They are on the front lines. They are un-

apologetic. And the men are following us, which is great!

**UCH:** Thank you very much. Would you like to say any other words to my readers?

**L.S.:** I just want to say that I am just very honoured to have been in this Ukrainian Labour Temple, knowing the history of this community, and the history of organizing.

And I am very grateful to the Winnipeg community who gave me a chance. Even after hearing a lot of horrible things about me, they gave me an opportunity. They let me be heard, and I hope that I changed some minds and hearts today.

**UCH:** Thank you. We are very glad to have had you here, in our building.

**L.S.:** Thank you very much. I appreciate it.

## Sustaining Fund Donations

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

The Editorial Board  
 of the  
*Ukrainian Canadian Herald*  
 wishes our readers a great summer  
 of safe and happy holidays!

Rejoin us in September  
 revitalized and ready  
 for a new season of exciting activities  
 in the  
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## Happy Birthday, Friends!



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

Morindie Bagan  
 Clara Capowski  
 Anne Kawchuk  
 Mary Tropak  
 Marian Ursuliak

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

The **Vancouver Seniors Club** extends birthday greetings to July and August celebrants:

Mary Blonar  
 Mary Brown  
 Pat Moschenross  
 Dorothy Oreskovich

We wish you the best of health and happiness in the coming year!

The **Welland Shevchenko Seniors** extend a happy birthday wish to July and August celebrants:

Anne Hunka  
 Christine Whatmough  
 Brenda Zynomirski

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

**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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## WGS Commemorations in Ottawa



**AUUC Ottawa Branch member Vera Seychuk was the main coordinator and M.C. of the event.**

(Continued from Page 7.)

She told us, "(Stephen) is a Professor Emeritus of Sociology and former Chair of the Sociology and Anthropology Department at Carleton University, as well as the author of numerous books and many articles, mostly on education and Canadian society."

Very interesting, because very unusual, was the detail that, after retiring, his projects included "teaching social research methods to the Cree People in James Bay, so that they could do their own research".

Stephen Richer "has been engaged in protest and singing since the age of 16". While working on his PhD at John's Hopkins in Baltimore, "In the US he was involved in the civil rights movement and the anti-Vietnam war movement."

Dr. Richer began his presentation with "Take This Hammer", a song with roots going back, probably, to the 1870s.

This set the pattern for the lecture-performance, with discussion of the roots of the songs being considered, a look at variants, and audience participation in a well-known version.

Dr. Richer, who played the banjo, introduced his "band": Patricia Reynolds on guitar and Carmel Whittle on harmonica and rhythm. In addition to accompanying the singing and singing along, they occasionally took the lead.

In a question and answer format, he led the audience through a discussion of song as a form of protest. Dr. Richer stressed what he considered the three main developers of music in labour struggles: the Knights of Labor, the IWW and the United Mine Workers of America.

Noting that he was discussing American sources, he recognized that there were some Canadian labour songs, especially from Quebec, but asserted that most Canadian songs were adaptations of pieces from the USA.

Speaking first about the Knights of Labor, Dr. Richer asserted that the KOL was established in 1869 as a craft union (perhaps because it was started by garment cutters — other authorities disagree), and by 1885 had 100,000 members, including 14,000 in Canada. They were Christian, and used gospel music and hymns as the basis of their songs. An example was "Hold the Fort" which was popular during the On to Ottawa Trek. (The audience sang along to both the hymn and the union



**Event organizers and volunteers were pleased to welcome some 40 people to the informative and entertaining indoor activity on a beautiful Ottawa afternoon.**

song.)

The KOL were instrumental in initiating both May Day and Labour Day celebrations (the Haymarket Massacre and the Pullman strike). Their motto was "An injury to one is a concern to all."

Dr. Richer next turned his attention to the International Workers of the World, also known as the IWW and the Wobblies.

The IWW, he said, was founded in 1905, as an industrial union. Its motto was "An injury to one is an injury to all."

The IWW was communist inspired, taking an inclusive class approach to the labour movement — so inclusive that, at one time, it organized a panhandlers' union in Ottawa. At its peak, it had 150,000 members, and continues to have units in Edmonton and other cities.

The IWW has a rich tradition of song, collecting its music in the "Little Red Song Book" (so-called for its appearance), officially "Songs to Fan the Flames of Discontent".

Famous IWW singer-songwriter Joe Hill (1879-1915) used familiar melodies from pop songs, gospel tunes and hymns. He differed from his predecessors by introducing parodies, so that "In the Sweet Bye and Bye" became "The Preacher and the Slave", better known as "Pie in the Sky".

Again, the audience sang both the original and the parody.

An interesting bit of information about this song was that the bosses would send the Salvation Army bands to Wobbly gatherings to try to drown out the speakers. The bands were met with parodies of their songs.

Another song, "Bread and Roses" (words by James Oppenheim) arose from the Lawrence Textile Strike of 1912, led by the IWW. Following a discussion, the singing was led by Pat Reynolds and Carmel Whittle.

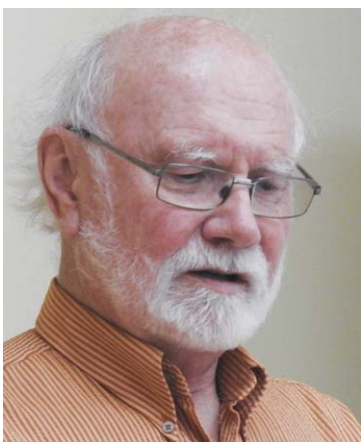
Perhaps the best-known IWW song is "Solidarity Forever", written by Ralph Chaplin. Pat sang an additional verse in the spirit of feminism. Finally Dr. Richer turned to the United Mine Workers of America, which was particu-



**Leading the singing and encouraging audience participation were Stephen Richer on banjo, Carmel Whittle on harmonica and rhythm, and Pat Reynolds on guitar.**



**These faces prove that the presentation was entertaining as well as informative.**



**Bob Seychuk tied AUUC history to the Winnipeg General Strike.**

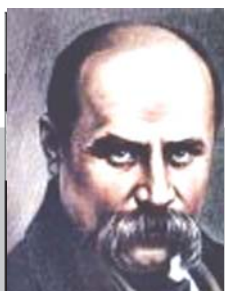


**Jennie Hornosty introduced the main focus of the afternoon, Stephen Richer.**

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larly active in the 1930s, and at its peak had 800,000 members.

The spiritual "I Shall Not Be Moved" goes back to the time of slavery in America, where its origins are a mystery. With a change to the collective "We Shall Not Be Moved" it became one of the most popular labour songs — and with a change of just one line per verse it was adaptable to (and was adopted by) almost every human struggle.

Again, it was a time for audience participation, with participants adding verses.

Dr. Richer asked basically the same question in different forms several times.

To the question, "Why did the trade union movement use songs?" he answered:

1) Singing promoted solidarity and group integration;

2) For the IWW, its diversity and far-left, anti-establishment positions attracted artists, including song writers and musicians;

3) Casual work, repetitive and physical, was conducive to singing;

4) Singing was a good way to educate a largely uneducated union membership, relying on oral traditions.

To the question, "why the use of spirituals and gospel tunes?" the answer was:

1) The songs would be familiar to the workers, the target audience;

2) Spirituals were often originally protest songs;

3) Religious songs have a sacred quality to them, which would carry over to the protest songs which copied them;

4) The religious songs tended to be simple and repetitive, and so, easy to learn and sing;

5) They offered hope for the future;

6) Their call and response form encouraged participation and collective involvement.

With "You Gotta Go Down and Join the Union", adapted by Woody Guthrie from the gospel song "Lonesome Valley", to close the singing, and thanks to all, it was time for food and other refreshments to round out a very worthwhile afternoon.

— Karl Honor