

# HERALD BICHIK

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## Malanka Celebrated in Regina

—Photo: Mark Greschner



Several Branches of the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians, including AUUC Regina Branch, celebrated Malanka, the Ukrainian New Year. As shown in the photo above, the traditional “Kolomeyka”, as well as other dancing, was part of the fun. A report on the Regina event, with photos by Mark Greschner, appears on Page 7.

### The Next Issue

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

### Correction

The volume number of the last (February, 2019) issue of the Ukrainian Canadian Herald was XXVIII. Incorrect information appeared at the bottom of the masthead. We truly regret the confusion arising from the error.

### Renovation Is Proceeding

The latest report was that the renovation of the building at 1604 Bloor Street West in Toronto is progressing on schedule. The building is expected to be ready for occu-

pation on June 4, at which time the Taras Shevchenko Museum will move from its present site to its new home.

The new location will provide more space, better climate control, added security features, more flexibility and other advantages to the Museum.

Everyone is excited!

## Not a Safe Haven

Alex Neve calls Canada’s continuing position that the United States is a safe country for refugees a “heart-breaking absurdity”. That was his conclusion after participating in a six-country.Amnesty International delegation along the U.S./Mexico border.

Far from being safe, he says, it is beyond question that the frightening reality for refugees and migrants in the United States is one of unrelenting human rights violations. It is time for Canada to suspend the Safe Third Coun-

try Agreement and exert all possible pressure on the Trump administration to end the deepening and dehumanizing assault on the safety and dignity of refugees and migrants.

Mr. Neve saw three LGBT teens fleeing frightening violence and discrimination in Honduras who needed the protective presence of 20 inter-

national observers, simply to make sure that U.S. border guards at the crossing between Tijuana, Mexico, and San Ysidro, California, did not unlawfully turn them away as they tried to lodge their claims for asylum. They were allowed in only after a tense standoff and threats from both U.S. and Mexican officials. They have now disappeared into the harrowing world of U.S. immigration detention.

He is also aware of the

case of Valquiria. She and her son were detained as soon as they made their asylum claims at the border. U.S. officials forcibly separated her from 7-year-old Abel the next day. She has not seen her son in more than 10 months and has no idea when they might be reunited.

Those two accounts are the norm. The U.S. asylum and immigration enforcement system has become cruel, punish-

(Continued on Page 11.)

## The Case of the Lagging Wages

Job vacancies in Canada are at 550,000 and rising, but wages are lagging.

It is truly a conundrum: jobs are begging for workers but wages are stagnant. That should not happen; a labour shortage should result in rising wages.

A senior Bank of Canada official tried to explain it at the end of January. However, the Toronto speech by Senior Deputy Governor Carolyn Wilkins seems not to have been very convincing.

She said that weaker wage growth in energy-producing provinces since the 2014 oil-price slump has dragged down the national numbers.

However, that does not explain why wages have fallen short of where they should be. In the tightened job market, Canada’s unemployment rate

has dropped drop to a 43-year low.

“This is particularly puzzling when you consider what businesses are telling us about how hard it is to fill jobs,” Ms. Wilkins told the Toronto Region Board of Trade.

Of course, it must be the fault of the workers. They are not up to snuff, so employers struggle to find candidates with the right skills.

Or maybe cautious employees hesitate to take higher-paying jobs elsewhere — like a new city.

Or maybe there are structural factors, like technological advances that have lowered demand for routine jobs, and reduced competition in some industries.

Or maybe its the so-called gig economy that has taken away bargaining power for some workers (in other

words, employers just are not ready to pay more).

Wilkins offered some potential ways to improve the job market. Policy-makers (and businesses) could invest in education and training, find ways to encourage labour mobility and increase the competitiveness of Canadian firms.

The Bank of Canada expects Canada’s economy to expand after a recent slow patch — perhaps wage growth will eventually be the result.

It is probably true that nobody is going to move to a new city to take a minimum-wage, variable part-time job. On the other hand, how many workers moved to Alberta when there were good jobs with good pay?

Maybe employers just are not begging hard enough.

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## Saskatchewan's Premier Apologizes

On January 7, Saskatchewan Premier Scott Moe apologized to survivors of the '60s Scoop for failing them and leaving them "caught between two worlds".

"On behalf of the government of Saskatchewan and on behalf of the people of Saskatchewan, I stand before you today to apologize. I stand before you to say sorry," Mr. Moe said before 200 people. "We are sorry for the pain and the sadness that you have experienced. We are sorry for your loss of culture and language. And to all of those who lost contact with their family, we're so sorry?"

About 20,000 Indigenous children were seized from their birth families and relocated to non-Indigenous homes starting in the 1950s until the late 1980s. The practice stripped children of their language, culture and family ties.

Premier Moe said that the consequences are being felt to this day and he thanked the survivors, now adults, who told their stories at six sharing circles the government set

up so that the province could better understand what happened.

One survivor, Kerry Opoonechaw-Bellegarde, said that she felt lonely going into the legislature, because she wanted her parents to be there. Both of her parents were residential school survivors. She had hoped Premier Moe would mention the parents of those seized in his apology. She met with the Premier afterwards, but left disappointed.

"I showed him the picture of my parents and I said, 'You forgot to directly apologize to our parents'," said Ms. Opoonechaw-Bellegarde.

Robert Doucette, a survivor and co-chair of the Sixties Scoop Indigenous Society of Saskatchewan, said that he cried during the ceremony, as he thought about lost members of his family that he'll never see.

The apology was a highlight of his life and a step in the right direction, he said.

"I waited 56 years for this apology," Doucette said. "I heard the Premier say that he

was sorry; and there was acknowledgment of the harms that they perpetrated on First Nations and Métis children and I appreciate that."

Premier Moe acknowledged that there "is nothing that we can offer that will fully restore what you have lost. But what we can offer is the solemn assurance that government policies have changed and they continue to change."

Some survivors said before the apology that they hoped it would come with action to reduce the number of children in care. The number of children in out-of-home care in Saskatchewan was over 5,200 at the end of September.

Chief Bobby Cameron from the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations, which represents 74 First Nations in the province, did not attend the ceremony. He said that the apology is empty if it's not accompanied by action, and called for child welfare reform.

"Our First Nations children are still being ripped away from their families, communities and culture," Mr. Cameron said. "This needs to stop immediately."

ancestors were distinct First Nations citizens before the Indian Act and so are we," Blackstock eloquently tweeted.

Time and time again, Canada fails to understand the importance of Indigenous law and the sacred bonds with the land and communities. This was evident, too, in the "less than ideal" situation playing out in northern British Columbia this week.

Wet'suwet'en hereditary chiefs are caretakers of 22,000 square kilometres not covered by any treaty. Hereditary chiefs have protected the land, on behalf of families, since before Canada existed.

This isn't a part-time job; it is a sacred duty.

When it came time to "consult" on the proposed \$6.2 billion Coastal GasLink pipeline, the hereditary chiefs, unlike the chiefs and band councils, were left out. On Wednesday, in the interests of the safety of the land defenders, Wet'suwet'en chiefs struck an interim agreement to give the company temporary access behind the gates.

This isn't over by a long stretch, warned the Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs (UBCIC) Grand Chief Stewart Philip.

It is neither "adequate nor substantial" for companies and governments to deal with the elected band councils and then turn around and say we have done our consultation work, Philip said.

The 675-kilometre pipeline

## Digitizing Taped Material

The problem with tape is that it deteriorates. That is the problem an Indigenous media group and researchers are racing against, to save a slice of history before it is lost.

The project is called "Digitizing the Ancestors". It is a joint venture of the Sound Studies Institute at the University of Alberta, and the Aboriginal Multi-Media Society of Alberta (AMMSA), an organization behind digital and broadcast news outlets serving Indigenous communities throughout the province.

The aim is to copy old audio and video tapes saved by Indigenous news media over the years, and convert them to a digital format.

CEO Bert Crowfoot said that in the 1980s, AMMSA bought the liquidated archives of its predecessor, the Alberta Native Communication Society which published a newspaper and provided broadcast programming and news for Indigenous communities in the province, with studios in Edmonton, Lac la Biche, Fort Chipewyan, and Wabasca-Desmarais in northern Al-

berta.

The archive includes thousands of reels of tape dating back to the 1960s, with Indigenous music, stories, and audio and video interviews with elders and community leaders such as the late Anne Anderson, an author of Métis history, and Cree language books, including a Cree dictionary.

Much of the store is saved on fragile magnetic tape nearing the end of its shelf life. That prompted the partnership between AMMSA and the Sound Studies Institute, directed by University of Alberta musicologist Mary Ingraham, to catalogue and transfer the tapes to digital media.

After an inventory, the first step was to identify the most sensitive tapes needing urgent action, because magnetic tape starts to deteriorate after 50 to 60 years.

"By doing this you're keeping them alive," Bert Crowfoot said. "You're keeping their words alive, and you're keeping their message alive, and that's what's important."

## Canada's Action Is Less Than Ideal

*The Toronto Star has a powerful writer on Indigenous issues. Tanya Talaga produces essays which get to the core of an issue. This piece appeared on January 11, after the Royal Canadian Mounted Police arrested 14 people protecting their territory against the threat of a pipeline.*

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau called the arrest of 14 Wet'suwet'en land defenders a "less than ideal situation" this week, adding everyone has the right to protest, as long as they respect the rule of law.

Let's unpack that for a moment. A "less than ideal situation" is missing the sale on three-ply Kleenex at Shopper's Drug Mart and having to settle for two-ply instead.

A "less than ideal situation" is locking your keys in your car.

The arrests of 14 people by heavily armed RCMP officers over an issue that will loom large in the 2019 federal election — adherence to Indigenous human rights and land title? Less than ideal doesn't capture it.

As this week again showed, on a number of important fronts, the Trudeau government's relations with Indigenous communities are nowhere near ideal.

Take the situation that tran-

spired in an Ottawa hearing room on Wednesday as Canada once again found itself arguing against Cindy Blackstock, Executive Director of the First Nations Family and Caring Society. At issue was which children are Indigenous enough, according to the Indian Act (a paternalistic law created in 1876 that governs the lives of all Status Indians in this country), and therefore who should qualify for services under Jordan's Principle, which aims to ensure all Indigenous kids receive equitable care no matter where they live.

At the end of the hearing, Blackstock said "nobody had an answer as to what will happen to children" in need of urgent care for life-threatening conditions while the tribunal process continues — or, more to the point, who will pay for their care. At least until the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal meets again to discuss this issue in March, children will remain at risk. She added the society has offered to sit down and mediate directly with the government.

Blackstock will never support using Canada's Indian Act blood quantum method to determine who is, or is not, First Nations. Belonging should be decided by the Indigenous communities themselves, not by Ottawa. "Our

project could be further delayed if the National Energy Board decides that the pipeline falls under federal, not just provincial, jurisdiction, he said.

That would mean environmental hearings would take place. For the prime minister, the Site C Dam on the Peace River presents yet another situation that is far from ideal. And it is one that has caught the attention of the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, which was first reported by *The Narwhal*, an online investigative news site (full disclosure I am a volunteer on *The Narwhal's* Board of Directors).

The UN body has ordered that Canada suspend construction on the 1,100 megawatt hydro dam, which would flood 128 kilometres of the Peace River in Treaty 8 territory. The UBCIC has launched a civil suit against construction.

"The committee is concerned about the alleged lack of measures taken to ensure the right to consultation and free prior and informed consent with regard to the Site C dam, considering its impact on Indigenous peoples' control and use of their lands and natural resources," said the Dec. 14, 2018 letter that was sent to Rosemary McCarney, Canada's ambassador to the UN.

The committee gave Canada until April 8 to respond.

Now, Prime Minister, that is less than ideal.

## The Wet'suwet'en Protests

**What is the Coastal GasLink pipeline project?**

The proposed Coastal GasLink pipeline would span 670 kilometres across northern British Columbia. It would supply natural gas from near Dawson Creek, B.C., to the planned LNG Canada export facility near Kitimat, B.C., where it would be converted to liquefied natural gas for export. Construction is estimated to cost about \$4.8 billion. Canada Coastal GasLink would be the only pipeline to supply LNG's facility.

**How much gas would it carry?**

Initially, the pipeline would carry 2.1 billion cubic feet of natural gas per day to the LNG Canada export facility. That's roughly the same amount of natural gas needed to heat 22,000 average-sized detached homes for one year. According to the BC Oil and Gas Commission, there would be potential to expand pipeline capacity to carry five billion cubic feet of natural gas per day.

**Has it been approved?**

B.C.'s Environmental Assessment Office issued an Environmental Assessment Certificate for the project in October, 2014. The project was initially required to un-

**(Continued on Page 12.)**



## Cancer Treatments Improving

People repeatedly ask “Why haven’t they found a cure for cancer?” The answer is that they have, for certain kinds of cancer. However, there are many kinds of cancer, so any given treatment may not work for a particular cancer.

Fortunately, there are people working on finding additional cures, as well as improving existing treatments.

Thanks to early detection and treatment, and declining rates of smoking, cancer-related deaths for breast, prostate, lung and colon have been decreasing steadily for the past 25 years. Unfortunately, the good news has not applied to cancers such as pancreatic cancer or glioblastoma (brain cancer).

Still, thanks to huge advances in new technologies, like the decoding of the human genome and the cumulative work of thousands of cancer researchers, scientists have a better understanding of the biology of cancer.

This has led to genuinely promising new categories of treatment. Recent advances are starting to have an effect.

One of these is “targeted therapies” for specific types of cancer. This comes from major advances in our understanding of the tiny defects in the cells that multiply, leading to the development and spread of cancer. Knowing what triggers cancer’s out-of-control growth allows the development of drugs that stop the malfunctions.

The advent of immune-checkpoint inhibitors is another. One of the most frustrating aspects of cancer is its invisibility. It evades our immune system, which is supposed to detect and attack a threat like a rapidly growing tumour. Checkpoint inhibitors detect the cancer cells, so that the immune system can do its job. These drugs are promising in a variety of cancers, but have been most effective against melanoma and non-small cell lung carcinoma.

Immunotherapy — the development of cell therapies, where immune cells are collected from patients, altered in the laboratory, and re-administered to patients to directly target tumour cells. This is showing promise.

## What’s the story of SNC–Lavalin?

When Justin Trudeau became Prime Minister in late 2015, he brought Jody Wilson-Raybould into his Cabinet as Minister of Justice and Attorney-General. A woman with strong legal and Indigenous credentials, Ms. Wilson-Raybould was an ideal candidate for the appointment. In addition to providing competency in the position, her presence boosted Mr. Trudeau’s claims that he was a feminist with a desire for nation-to-nation reconciliation with Indigenous people.

During her tenure as Minister of Justice, Ms. Wilson-Raybould was responsible for introducing, and successfully guiding through Parliament, several significant Criminal Code amendments.

SNC–Lavalin is a huge company of major importance in the economy, particularly, of Quebec. It is one of those businesses which are sometimes called “too big to fail”, which does not mean that they can not fail but rather that politicians are afraid to let them fail.

Montreal based SNC–Lavalin, among the world-leading engineering firms, employs thousands of highly-trained employees in Canada.

SNC–Lavalin is also a company well known for doing whatever it takes to make that extra dollar. It is no stranger to legal actions.

The company was aware that an investigation was coming which could lead to criminal charges and result in prison terms for its executives, as well as severe financial penalties for the firm and a crippling ten-year prohibition against bidding on federal contracts. Therefore, it launched an intense lobbying campaign

for legislation allowing a “remediation agreement”, instead of a trial, as an alternative resolution to charges of corruption.

Such legislation already existed in the United States of America, in the United Kingdom, and in other countries. Under the pressure of the lobbying, Canada’s government, led by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, also enacted such a law. Learning well from the previous government, the current government buried the legislation in a huge omnibus bill passed with a minimum of consideration, so that Canadians would not ask too many questions.

The legislation came into effect on September 19, 2018, during Ms. Wilson-Raybould’s tenure as Minister of Justice and Attorney-General.

No official information has been made public about Jody Wilson-Raybould’s attitude toward the remediation agreement legislation. While one would expect that she would have supported the legislation, in the specific case of SNC–Lavalin she apparently chose not to resort to that option.

That would seem to muddy the waters, leaving open the possibility that she did not support the legislation, but was overruled or, perhaps, bent to the weight of pressure favouring it.

In January, 2019, she was shuffled out of her two original roles into the position of Minister of Veterans Affairs of Canada.

In February, the *Globe and Mail* suggested that senior officials in the Government of Canada had pressed Ms. Wilson-Raybould to abandon taking SNC–Lavalin to court and engage, instead, in a pro-

cess of remediation. The opposition parties quickly went on the attack. As time passed, they raised questions in Parliament, insisted on a Parliamentary Committee hearing, and insisted on a public hearing.

The Prime Minister responded that nothing improper had happened, and that he had assured the Attorney-General that the decision on how to proceed was hers alone.

Ms. Wilson-Raybould was silent, claiming that any discussions between her and other officials was governed by attorney–client privilege.

On February 14, shortly after the Prime Minister said that her continued presence in the Cabinet was evidence that there had been nothing improper, Ms. Wilson-Raybould resigned from the Cabinet. This set off another, more energetic, round of Opposition demands for an investigation. The Opposition also demanded that privilege be waived to allow Ms. Wilson-Raybould to speak, a demand which, as we go to press, has not been met.

The Prime Minister’s Office has been at great pains to distance the Prime Minister from charges of unduly influencing the Attorney-General. The latest occurrence, as we go to press, is the resignation of a key adviser to the Prime Minister. Gerald Butts resigned while denying allegations that senior officials in the Prime Minister’s Office applied political pressure on former Attorney-General Jody Wilson-Raybould to settle criminal charges against SNC–Lavalin.

The entire affair poses serious problems for Prime Minister Trudeau and the Liberal Party as the federal election approaches. Pipeline issues, Indigenous issues, relations with China and with the USA, and many other questions suggest that a one-term government is increasingly probable.

## Current Eclectic

So is the development of vaccines specific for antigens unique to certain cancer cells, and the use of viruses to target tumours.

These powerful new techniques do not work for all patients nor for all tumours. Scientists are studying the reasons why. In the meantime,

### UNDROP

The *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and other people working in rural areas* (UNDROP) has been formally adopted by the 73rd Session of the United Nations General Assembly, by a vote of 121 in favour to 8 against, with 54 abstentions.

This ratification formally introduces the Declaration as a UN human rights instrument, and will be used as a tool to continue the struggle for the recognition of peasant rights worldwide. La Via Campesina (LVC) and its allies were key contributors in bringing the Declaration from the grassroots level to the international stage.

La Via Campesina (a Spanish phrase meaning “the campesino way” or “the peasants’ way”) was founded in 1993 by farmers’ organizations from Europe, Latin America, Asia, North America, Central America and Africa. It describes itself as “an international movement which coordinates peasant organizations of small and middle-scale producers, agricultural workers, rural women, and indigenous communities from Asia, Africa, America, and Europe”.

As a coalition of 182 organisations in 81 countries, LVC advocates family-farm-based sustainable agriculture, and was the group that coined the term “food sovereignty”. It has campaigned to defend farmer’s needs, to stop violence against women, for recognition of the rights of peasants, and for agrarian reform.

The National Farmers Union of Canada was a founding member of LVC. NFU Youth Vice-President Jessie MacInnis was at the UN General Assembly for the adoption of the Declaration, which she calls “...An exciting and truly ground-breaking moment for La Via Campesina. To have an internationally recognized instrument at the highest level of governance that was written by and for peasants from every continent is a tremendous achievement. To have a tool such as this to support our continued work at the grassroots level is invaluable.”

MacInnis also took part in

most newly diagnosed patients are still likely to receive chemo- and/or radio-therapies as their first-line treatment.

Still, it is an incredibly exciting time for biomedical research, as new technologies offer unprecedented opportunities for new advances in treatment.

a delegation of LVC peasant leaders who lobbied for state support prior to the adoption of the Declaration.

In a commentary on the NFU website ([www.nfu.ca](http://www.nfu.ca)) she adds, “This Declaration sends an important message that our livelihoods matter and our small-scale methods of food production are vital for a sustainable future. Not only does it have the potential to serve farmers, but also rural communities and consumers, because society as a whole will benefit when peasants rights are realized.”

The nonbinding nature of the Declaration presents a challenge, but it will still be an incredibly potent tool for organizations to use in grassroots lobbying and within the court system. Just as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights set the standard for human rights law, we hope that UNDROP can serve as the foundation.”

Canada was among the 54 countries which abstained, claiming to have concerns with collective rights, and saying that priority issues identified in the Declaration are addressed through existing international instruments and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

The issue of collective rights was raised by many states, arguing that they are not recognized under international law and are not recognized by any of the core international human rights treaties.

“Now that the declaration is a recognized international instrument,” says MacInnis, “LVC and its allies will work to build implementation strategies that fit into a broad spectrum of national and regional contexts. LVC will mobilize to bring peasants rights violations up against the articles of the Declaration and lobby for policies and strategies that protect and respect the value of peasants within rural communities and their crucial role as conscientious stewards of the land and sustainable food producers.”

The UNDROP is a tremendous achievement for LVC, MacInnis concludes, “but the struggle for justice, dignity, and support of peasant livelihoods is far from over.”



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## Ruled by Law?

An Editorial by Wilfred Szczesny

The Government of Canada claims to be ruled by law, but the arbitrariness of that law is on constant display.

Exhibit number one can be the SNC-Lavalin affair. There were laws, but the company had them changed, hoping to benefit. Then a total political mess was created when normal process was bent in an effort to benefit the company, apparently with arbitrary action against a person who stood strong against the pressure.

Exhibit number two may be the arbitrary action against the executive of Huawei. Rule of law would say “set her free” because the basis of the American request is illegal and because the conditions of the extradition treaty are clearly not met. What we have instead is the law of the jungle, where the powerful rule and the weak submit.

Exhibit three may be the whole story of pushing pipelines across Indigenous lands. The Government of Canada rides roughshod over the rights of the Indigenous people, arresting those who stand up for their rights. Nation-to-nation seems to mean “what we decide will be enforced by the RCMP.

Exhibit four may be the gang-up on Venezuela. When it involves the world’s largest oil reserves all the rights are with the oil companies, and regime change deposing a legitimate government is acceptable to get at those reserves.

Exhibit five might be free trade agreements. There is much fine talk about letting working people share in the wealth, but when push comes to shove, the right of corporations to make record profits any way they can holds sway. They can even sue governments for imputed lost profits.

Exhibit five might be global warming. The law is look after the environment, but do not interfere corporate activity. It’s okay if they move the jobs to lower-wage areas, along with the money they got to keep them afloat.

The rule of law in Canada is becoming quite scary.

With people living \$200.00 from disaster at the end of the month, raising interest rates, privatizing health care and transportation and whatever other services someone wants to operate, cutting services and raising fees is just dandy

All of it is within the law, and if it is not, the law can be changed, and if the law is not changed, the authorities can exercise discretion — and that too is within the law as long as the right person is using the right discretion.

## COMMENTARY

### Is Capitalism Dying?

More often than not, articles about the decline of capitalism are written by left-wing critics. However, a few months ago the *Toronto Star* had an interesting article called “How big firms are killing capitalism” by Jonathan Tepper, which it picked up from Bloomberg. Jonathan Tepper is the founder of Variant Perception, a research group for asset managers.

The article began with the well-known story of the ejection of Dr. David Dao from United Express Flight 3411 on April 9, 2017. The flight was overbooked, but Dr. Dao refused to give up his seat because he had patients to treat the next day. His removal was done by police officers from Chicago’s O’Hare Airport, much to the disbelief of fellow passengers.

In the video, which went viral, he could be seen bleeding from the mouth as police dragged him down the aisle.

Instead of apologizing United’s CEO blamed the passenger for being belligerent. Public outrage grew so great that the CEO apologized and the airline reached an undisclosed settlement with Dr. Dao.

The article continued by noting that, years ago, such a public relations disaster would have caused United’s stock to stumble, but financial analysts agreed that it would have no effect on the airline.

In 2016, the company reported a net income of \$2.3 billion. It bought back \$2 billion of stock.

Research analysts dismissed the incident, because “consumers might not have much choice but to fly UAL due to airline consolidation, which has reduced competition over most routes.”

Online news sites ran headlines like, “Airlines Can Treat You Like Garbage Because They Are an Oligopoly”. Investors focused United’s dominant market position, and the stock price went up.

The article then pointed out

that the “American skies have gone from an open market with many competing airlines to a cosy oligopoly with four major airlines”.

Even to say that there are four major airlines, however, overstates the true level of competition. Most U.S. airlines dominate a local hub, unironically known as “fortress hubs”, where they have a near-monopoly. At 40 of the 100 largest U.S. airports, a single airline controls a majority of the market.

United dominates many of the country’s largest airports. In Houston, United has around a 60% market share; in Newark, 51%; in Washington Dulles, 43%; in San Francisco, 38%; and in Chicago 31%.

Mr. Tepper notes that this situation is even more skewed for other airlines. For example, Delta has an 80% market share in Atlanta and 77% in Philadelphia. For many routes, you simply have no choice.

The episode between Dr. Dao and United as become a metaphor for American capitalism in the 21st century. A highly profitable company can bloody a customer without consequences because consumers have no choice. Big firms are killing capitalism because competition is the essence of capitalism, but competition is dying.

Rising market power by dominant firms brings a host of evils: less competition, lower investment in the real economy, lower productivity, less economic dynamism, fewer startups, higher prices, lower wages, and more wealth inequality.

If you believe in competitive free markets, you should be very concerned, says Mr. Tepper. If you believe in fair play and hate cronyism, you should be worried. With fake capitalism, CEOs cosy up to regulators to get the kind of rules they want, and donate to get the laws they desire.

Larger companies get

larger, while the small disappear, and the consumer and worker are left with no choice.

Freedom is essential to capitalism. Milton Friedman picked *Free to Choose* as the title of his extremely popular PBS series on capitalism, and *Capitalism and Freedom* was the title of his book that sold over 15 million copies. He argued that economic freedom was “a necessary condition for political freedom.”

“Free to Choose” sounds great, yet we are not free to choose.

In industry after industry, consumers can only purchase from local monopolies, or oligopolies that can tacitly include The U.S. now has many industries with only three or four competitors controlling entire markets.

Since the early 1980s, market concentration has increased severely. Here are some examples:

Two corporations control 90% of the beer Americans drink;

Five banks control about half of the nation’s banking assets;

Many states have health insurance markets where the top two insurers have an 80% to 90% market share. In Alabama, Blue Cross Blue Shield, has an 84% market share and in Hawaii it has 65% market share.

Four players control the entire U.S. beef market and have carved up the country.

After two mergers this year, three companies will control 70% of the world’s pesticide market and 80% of the U.S. corn-seed market

The list of industries with dominant players is endless. It gets even worse when you look at the world of technology. Laws are outdated to deal with the extreme winner-takes-all dynamics online. Google completely dominates internet searches with an almost 90% market share. Facebook has an a most 80% share of social networks. Together, they have a duopoly in advertising with no credible competition or regulation.

Amazon is crushing retailers and faces conflicts of interest as both the dominant e-

(Continued on Page 8.)

## SEE US ON THE WEB!

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Edmonton AUUC, Trembita Ensemble  
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Taras Shevchenko Museum:  
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# Women Support the Strike

On 1 May, 1919, the Winnipeg Building Trades Council went on strike. The Winnipeg Metal Trades Council went out the next day. Other strikes ensued, and on May 13 the Winnipeg Trades and Labour Council decided to launch a general strike in sympathy with the striking workers.

The Winnipeg General Strike was a manly affair. Thousands of male workers struck, the leadership of both the strike and its opposition were men, the photos of the strike are dominated by men.

However, in the background were thousands of women who participated in, provided for, and politicized the strike. While we will never know how many women were involved in the strike, their role was significant beyond their numbers.

An estimated 30,000 workers and 5,000 veterans took part in the strike, but like the veterans, the women helped turn a union protest into a cultural revolt.

By 1911, there were nearly 12,000 working women in Winnipeg and double that number outside the city. These working women were employed in stores, workshops, restaurants, laundries, telephone exchanges and offices.

Of the school teachers, 80% were women who were among the best paid working women. A teacher could make up to \$100 a month (\$2,200 in 2018 dollars). A top-rate stenographer could hope to make \$900 a year.

Young women employed in the small workshops of the city's garment district could not do as well. A government study of this industry found that many women were making less than \$10 a week.

Women who rented a house took in boarders to supplement a family income.

To meet the demand for domestic servants in the upper-class homes of south Winnipeg, over 2,000 young women were brought to Winnipeg from the British Isles between 1900 and 1915. Employers paid their travel expenses, and the women paid back the travel costs, which usually amounted to about six months of wages.

For some rural families, their daughters would work in the city to supplement the family income.

There was a large increase in the number of women working outside the home. Before the turn of the century, women were starting to organize trade union support.

Women in the needle trades

were the first. The United Garment Workers (Local 35) was organized in 1899.

In April, 1918, Helen Armstrong was elected president of the Hotel and Household Workers' Union, and she was the first woman on the Winnipeg Trades and Labour Council. However, as she was to emphasize, she was often alone at union meetings.

The Central Strike Committee called for an 11:00 a.m. start to the strike. However, female telephone operators launched the strike at 7:00 a.m. on May 15. A shift change gave about 500 workers the opportunity to refuse to take their seats in solidarity with the strikers in the metal and construction trades.

The Women's Labor League, and particularly the young working women, played an important role in supporting the strike. Organized by Helen Armstrong (wife of George Armstrong) and Gertrude Puttee (wife of Arthur Puttee, publisher of the labour weekly, *The Voice*) the League took a very practical and political role in the strike. They operated a soup kitchen during the strike that fed hundreds of people and particularly helped the young women who had little support.

Another important leader was Winona Dixon (wife of Member of the Legislative Assembly Fred Dixon) who was a suffragette, social reformer, and member of the Manitoba Political Equity League.

Jessie Kirk, an executive member of the Dominion Labour Party, was elected as the first woman on City Council in 1920.

They leafleted and marched with the strikers. They were often arrested by the police, but were only charged occasionally.

June 12, 1919, was Ladies Day in Victoria Park, organized by pro-strike veterans. J.S. Woodsworth spoke of the important role women played in the strike. "In the coming day, women would take their place side by side with men, not as dependants or inferiors, but as equals," he said. "Thus there would be better relationships based on fundamental love and affinity. This strike was part of the great movement for the emancipation of women."

Women were present in unusual situations supporting the strike. For example, one evening in June a speaker was harassed by agents of the Citizens' Committee of 1000.

One report said. "Some of these gentlemen had an unpleasant experience in St. John's Park where Comrade Bray was addressing a meeting. At the close of his speech

## 1919-2019 Centenary WGS Winnipeg General Strike

some half dozen of these spies said: 'We'll get you yet Bray,' and much to their chagrin and disappointment, some twenty women in the crowd immediately caught them by the arm and coat lapels, and invited them to 'come and get him now', but they beat a hasty and very shamefaced retreat in the high-powered cars in which they had arrived."

In the years leading up to the Winnipeg General Strike, in the city and in the countryside, women started a variety of organizations, often in conjunction with their church or ethnic group, that helped maintain the workers' social infrastructure. The Women's Christian Temperance Union, the Women's Institute, and the women's division of the Grain Growers' Association, and church missionary societies were started. The National Council of Women of Canada lobbied for a minimum wage for women workers in 1913.

These associations became important vehicles for both social and political change, as women began to organize for their right to vote, to be included in unions, and to take on broader roles in society.

The formation of voluntary agencies and the evolution of governmental social policy was largely facilitated by

women providing health and education for workers and their families. For upper and middle class women, the provision of support to children and destitute women was a charitable obligation, and they did help many cope with poverty and discrimination.

Their efforts in Winnipeg led to a number of social agencies opening on the basis of Christian values: YWCA – 1879, Christian Women's Union – 1883, Industrial Home for Women – 1891 and the Free Kindergarten – 1892.

In the fall of 1918 it was a large cadre of middle class women who were a major asset in responding to the influenza epidemic and minimizing its spread.

For six long weeks in the spring of 1919, women struck with other workers, fed and clothed those who needed help, provided moral support, were part of a large social communications network, and were largely responsible for creating the social support net that kept working families from complete destitution. They shared with each other, and collaborated in many ways to sustain the men on strike, thus enabling the strike to persist longer than anyone expected.

— Dennis Lewycky

Photo: Alberta Labour History Institute (ALHI)



Though the Central Strike Committee called for an 11:00 a.m. start to the strike, some 500 female telephone operators launched the strike at 7:00 a.m. on May 15, during a shift change. This photo is from Alberta.



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— Story photos: Jerry Dobrowsky

## Shevchenko Museum Unveils Exhibition



A wine-and-cheese reception on February 10 unveiled the exhibition at the Taras Shevchenko Museum.

On Sunday, February 10, the Taras Shevchenko Museum in Toronto hosted an opening reception for its new exhibition, titled *Love Letters from the Past: Courtship, Companionship and Family in the Ukrainian Canadian Community*.

This travelling exhibition was created by the Kule Centre for Ukrainian and Canadian Folklore of the University of Alberta.

Intentionally scheduled to coincide with the season surrounding Valentine's Day, this Toronto exhibit is on display until March 29.

After most guests had arrived, MC Larissa Stavroff welcomed everyone and proceeded to offer insight into the content and focus of the trilingual exhibit.

Ms. Stavroff informed the audience that they would be witnessing stories of how a



Larissa Stavroff was Master of Ceremonies.

love and courtship culture was evolving in the Ukrainian Canadian community in the early 1900s. This cultural phenomenon is showcased through actual letters, memoirs, family photographs, and various publications, including *How to Write Letters*, which was published in Winnipeg.

The authors and characters involved in the stories of romantic communication include Ukrainian men who had left their wives or fiancées in the "Old Country" so that they could build a new life in Canada, and earn enough money to reunite with them



Attendance was small, but those who were at the reception were deeply affected by the exhibition.

later in the new land.

Letters by eligible bachelors from the Ukrainian Canadian community who wrote back home in search of prospective wives in Ukraine are also featured.

Among those in search of love were young Ukrainian women who, in their dream of immigrating to Canada, would forward their photographs to family and friends, hoping to find a suitor in the New World.

Since most of this correspondence of affection, courtship, and companionship was communicated by mail, focus is placed on the role of

Canada Post as a significant institution, as well as on the first Ukrainian post master and the first Ukrainian post office, in Wostok, Alberta.

It was evident that the guests enjoyed the exhibition immensely, since their time spent upstairs in the exhibition's gallery, absorbing the details and emotion of the stories, was quite lengthy.

Their desire to reflect and share their reactions with other guests, while enjoying the refreshments downstairs, extended well into the early evening.

— B. Dobrowsky

## Winnipeg ULT To Be Accessible

On January 26, the National Committee of the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians accepted the \$1.3 million budget for the accessibility project at the Ukrainian Labour Temple in Winnipeg. The decision was not taken lightly, but in the end it was a vote for the future.

The project entails making the entrance of the Pritchard and McGregor hall accessible. After entering, a person will be able to use an elevator that will access both the main and lower levels of the building. Accessible washrooms will be built on both levels.

It will be the most significant change to the ULT since the work to build the lower level and remove the theatre

seating from the main auditorium.

The decision will greatly impact the future of the Ukrainian Labour Temple as a centre of community work. It will facilitate links between groups and organizations that share the AUUC's agenda of progress, inclusion and respect. The lack of accessibility was a barrier to organizations using the hall, since most need to pay attention to having a space that is accessible.

The "Herald" asked AUUC Winnipeg Branch President Glenn Michalchuk to comment on the decision.

Mr. Michalchuk replied, "This is a significant and far reaching decision, and we value greatly the support of

the National Committee and National Executive Committee to undertake this work.

"Accessibility has long been a dream of our Branch to make the hall useful to a much wider community, and our own members who have mobility restrictions. It was examined in the 1990s but constraints given to the architects required access through Ivan Franko Manor and the rear of the hall by the stage.

"A fresh approach made the present solution possible.

"The project has been vetted by both the Provincial and National Historic resources so we do not anticipate any issues in moving forward."

He noted the significance of making the ULT accessible. "This decision is important in preserving the hall, and it will be noticed immediately in terms of moving forward.

"It is disappointing to see

Manitoba Federation of Labour events commemorating the Winnipeg General Strike at the Labour Temple advising 'we regret that venue is not accessible – stairs are required to access venue and use facilities.'

"On two occasions the Social Planning Council of Winnipeg wanted to locate events at the Labour Temple but could not, due to lack of accessibility. The most recent was this year, as they hoped the project would be completed in time for them to have their 100th Anniversary celebration at the hall.

"Disappointments such as this will be a thing of the past.

"Thinking about it more broadly you can not hope to interest the young generation if you give them nothing to work with and be proud of. I see the issue of accessibility as having an impact on the

functioning of the Ivan Franko Museum and other aspects of AUUC work. The Labour Temple as an accessible space can consider developing the display of cultural and historic elements. "

About the cost of the project, Mr. Michalchuk said, "Making advances does not come without taking risks. The challenge for the AUUC is: does it have the vision to take this risk? The decision of the National Committee was that it does.

"The initiative to redevelop the Shevchenko Museum is indicative of the AUUC moving forward and creating a living legacy. There is no reason why this development of the Ukrainian Labour Temple can not be of the same importance to sustaining the AUUC.

"One cannot diminish the role of pride in our institutions."

## Plaque to be Replaced

The theft of the historic designation plaque from its stand outside the Ukrainian Labour Temple in Winnipeg was a blow, but will it soon be replaced.

A Parks Canada representative phoned AUUC Winnipeg Branch President Glenn Michalchuk with information that the plaque will be replaced on an expedited basis.

The other good news is that there will be no cost to the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians for the replacement plaque. According to Parks Canada, there is a backlog of plaques to be replaced, so it would seem that

they are an item targeted by thieves looking to make some money by selling them for scrap.

According to Parks

Canada, even though the plaques are made of bronze their monetary value as scrap is not significant.

It has been the decision of the AUUC Winnipeg Council to have the plaque again mounted in the outside loca-

tion, so that all visitors and tourists may see it.

Discussion will be held with Parks Canada to improve the security of the mounting and Council is considering having a camera installed.

The plaque had been in place since 2012 with no damage or vandalism.

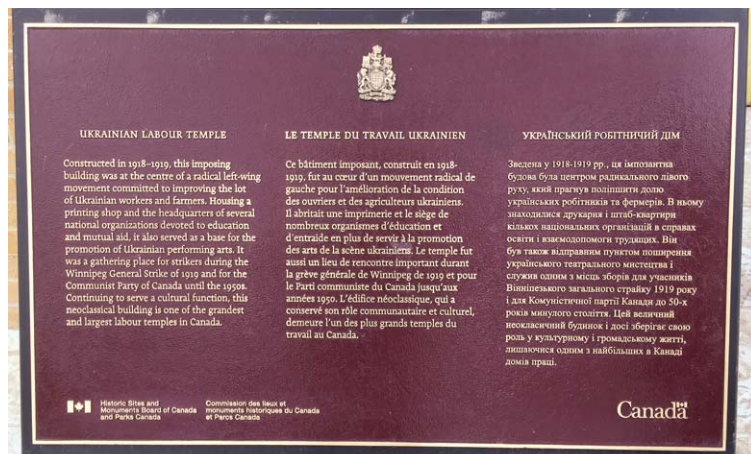
When the plaque was stolen it received considerable attention in the local news media, and a leaflet describing the item was delivered to scrap metal dealers, with a request that they be on the lookout for someone trying to sell it for scrap.

As a result, on February 7 the AUUC National Office in Winnipeg received a call from a local scrap metal dealer to

inform us that a person brought in pieces of what looked to be a plaque. They refused to purchase the pieces and called the AUUC.

Details provided by the dealer were forwarded to the police who have the theft as an ongoing investigation.

— Glenn Michalchuk



## Correction

The year 1989 in the first complete paragraph in column four on Page 2 in the February, 2019, issue should have been 1889.

We regret any confusion arising from the error.



# Regina Branch Celebrates 21 Years of Malanka.



The male dancers of the Poltava Ensemble performed “Zaporizhian Cossacks”.



Poltava’s “Hopak” also featured this leap by Landon Lavoy.



The Poltava Dancers presented “Tersky tanets”.



The “Tersky tanets” by the Poltava Dancers featured this high leap by Dan Hebert.

The 21st annual Malanka, hosted by the Regina Branch of the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians with support from the Poltava Ensemble of Song, Music and Dance, was held on January 19. Over 300 guests enjoyed an evening of good food, beverages, fine performances and plenty of dancing. By all measures the evening was a tremendous success that was enjoyed by all in attendance.

Sasha Lapchuk, President of AUUC Regina Branch, started the evening by bringing greetings on behalf of the Regina AUUC and the Poltava Ensemble.

The evening began with the guests enjoying cocktails and appetizers (pickled herring, Kiev garlic cheese, kutyua), followed by an incredible meal catered by Joe’s European Deli and Catering, with help from the AUUC *varenyky* crew, headed by Gerry Shmyr and Joanne Laslo.

All tables were adorned with helium-filled balloons. The evening’s activities were conducted by Masters of Ceremonies Ken Lozinsky and Dave Wilson.

The Poltava Ensemble of Song, Music and Dance presented a 45-minute program conducted by Dance Director Lisa Wanner and Orchestral Director Vlad Osatiuk. Also appearing from the Poltava School of Ukrainian Performing Arts were the Pre-Poltava and Lileya dancers, under the direction of Emerry Millette and Daniel Hebert.

In all some 80 performers graced the stage and delighted all in attendance.

The evening continued with door prizes, as well as the Malanka Raffle. After purchasing raffle tickets, one would place the ticket or tickets in the box in front of the theme basket that one would like to win. Basket themes included “For The Kids”, “For Her”, “For Your Next Trip”, and “For Your Furry Friend”. The raffle was extremely

**(Continued on Page 12.)**



They can go high or they can go low, as Dmitri Bohach demonstrates in the “Hopak” by the Poltava Dancers.



Brandyn Bidyk is another of the many dancers who can do impressive leaps when the Poltava Dancers perform the “Hopak”.



The Poltava female dancers presented “Obvyvaty”.



The work of volunteers at the bar was much appreciated.



## New Solidarity Brigade to Cuba

Canada has had a long history of friendship with Cuba and is one of the countries that never broke off diplomatic relations with the island after the triumph of the revolution on January 1, 1959. For its part, the progressive movement in Canada has been in solidarity with Cuba since Day One.

Among the solidarity initiatives has been the annual Ché Guevara Volunteer Work Brigade, now in its 27th year. It will take place this year from May 26 – June 6, and will be based in Havana and neighbouring Matanzas province, a centre of Afro-Cuban culture.

This brigade is for young and old, but usually has a large component of youth. Accommodations for most of the days are at a camp outside of Havana, where *brigadistas* share dorm-style rooms and washrooms.

Another brigade from Canada took place for the first time from November 28 to December 7. Called the Calixto Garcia Solidarity Brigade, it honours one of the great heroes from the era of Cuba's independence struggles against Spanish colonialism.

Calixto Garcia was the only Cuban to serve as a general in all three wars of independence from Spain from 1868 to 1898, and his heroic deeds are celebrated widely in Cuba, especially in Holguin province from where he came.

This brigade was based in the city of Holguin, and covered Santiago de Cuba and Granma provinces as well, all three in the eastern part of Cuba.

There were 23 *brigadistas* in this inaugural endeavour, ranging in age from 30 to 89,

with most participants in their 50s to 70s.

Most of the participants had been to Cuba at least several times before, but there were five for whom it was the first time. *Brigadistas* came from Winnipeg, Vancouver, Calgary, Toronto, and other areas of Ontario.

On this brigade, all accommodations were in hotels with private washrooms.

Seven brigadistas were from Winnipeg, and on Saturday, January 19, which was an exceptionally cold night, people gathered at the Ukrainian Labour Temple in that city to hear a report from the brigade and to have discussion about Cuba.

The evening included a presentation about the illegal and immoral U.S. blockade against Cuba, now in its sixth decade. The latest development is the Trump administration's plans to tighten the screws by a manoeuvre with provisions of the Helms-Burton Act (1996) which punishes companies and countries that have bilateral trade and economic investment in Cuba. This is of grave concern to Cuba and to all people in solidarity with Cuba.

Several of the *brigadistas* reported on their impressions of the brigade, and on several of the places that it visited.

These included a school for students with special needs, which greatly impressed all of us. This school truly helps its students with cognitive challenges reach their potential and become gainfully employed once they graduate.

In other "third-world" countries, these young people might be cast out into the street, but in Cuba, they are nurtured to their highest potential, a reflection of the posi-

tive impact of the Cuban Revolution on the needs of the people and of society as a whole.

One participant talked about the special role of the combatants from the Cuban Revolution, and on our two meetings with them. He told us that he spoke personally to two combatants after one of the meetings, and asked them what they thought was the greatest achievement of the Revolution. They replied that they had joined the revolutionary forces while still young teenagers, in order to overthrow Batista and establish a peaceful and safe country.

The combatants continue to play an important role in Cuban society, with one of their main activities being to educate the Cuban youth about life before the Revolution and the great changes that have taken place because of it.

There was information on the many museums and historic sites we visited, which included the magnificent cemetery in Santiago de Cuba where Fidel's ashes were buried two years ago.

All brigades include a volunteer component, and this brigade included two mornings of work on organic cooperative farms in the countryside, where we met the co-op farmers and worked with them, planting tomatoes and lettuce.

Two presenters commented on the awesome performances we attended put on by young people, who exhibit such tremendous confidence and talent.

Each day was full. Our visits included the Moncada Barracks, where the opening salvo of the revolution was launched in July, 1953. It included a visit to an avant-garde theatre troupe, a baseball game, an exchange with the staff and students of the Canadian Studies Program at the University of Holguin, a



Cuba brigadista Diane Syposz Paull planting lettuce seedlings.

tour of the Botanical Gardens and an artisanal paper-making factory.

We visited Birán, the birthplace of Fidel and Raul Castro, now a museum, and even a magnificent wax museum!

The overwhelming conclusion of the participants was that this brigade was extremely satisfying in every aspect, that we all learned a lot and had amazing opportunities to mix and mingle with the people everywhere we went.

On the Canadian side, there was a volunteer committee of three organizers, who worked with ICAP, the Cuban Institute for Friendship with the Peoples.

Plans are already under way for the next Calixto Garcia Solidarity Brigade which will take place in early December, 2019.

Participating in a solidarity brigade in Cuba is a unique opportunity to get to know the country, its history and people, and its struggle to build socialism without interference from the U.S., in a way that an ordinary tourist would not be able to experience.

For more information on the Calixto Garcia Solidarity Bri-

gade, please email calixto garciabrigade@gmail.com (one word). You can also check out the posts and pictures on the Facebook page Calixto Garcia Solidarity Brigade. In Winnipeg, you can call Diane Zack (204) 783-9380.

For more information on this year's May-June Ché Guevara Volunteer Work Brigade, which is a project of the Canadian Network on Cuba (CNC) and ICAP, please email chevolbrigade@gmail.com, or call the coordinator, Saleh Waziruddin, at 289 990-7683. You can read more about it on the CNC website, canadiannetworkoncuba.ca

— Diane Zack

(About the author: Diane Zack has worked with the Manitoba-Cuba Solidarity Committee since the mid-1990s. She was also active nationally on the executive of the Canadian Network on Cuba for four years as national co-chair and as co-chair of the Projects and Campaigns committee. She lives in Winnipeg, where she is a semiretired teacher, currently teaching EAL (ESL) to adult newcomers and refugees.)

## Is Capitalism Dying?

(Continued from Page 4.) commerce seller and the leading online platform for third-party sellers. It can determine what products can and can not sell on its platform, and it competes with any customer that encounters success.

Apple's iPhone and Google's Android completely control the mobile app market in a duopoly, and they determine whether businesses can reach their customers and on what terms. So far, these platforms appear to be benign dictators, but they are dictators nonetheless.

It was not always like this. Without almost any public debate, industries have now become much more concentrated than they were 30 and even 40 years ago. The fed-

eral government has done little to prevent this concentration, and in fact has done much to encourage it.

Economic and political power are becoming concentrated in the hands of distant monopolists.

The stronger companies become, the greater their stranglehold on regulators and legislators becomes via the political process. This is not the essence of capitalism.

Capitalism is a game where competitors play by rules on which everyone agrees. The government is the referee.

Left to their own devices, firms will use any available means to crush their rivals.

Today, the state, as referee, has not enforced rules that would increase competition,

and through regulatory capture has created rules that limit competition.

Workers have helped create vast wealth for corporations, yet wages barely kept up with the growth in productivity and profits. The reason for the large gap is clear. Economic power has shifted into the hands of companies. Income and wealth inequality have increased as companies have captured more and more of the economic pie.

Most workers own no shares and have barely benefited from record corporate profits.

When the left and right speak of capitalism today, they are telling stories about an imaginary state. The unbridled, competitive free markets that the right cherishes don't exist today. The left attacks the grotesque capitalism

we see today, as if that were the true manifestation of the essence of capitalism rather than the distorted version it has become.

After a few paragraphs in praise of *The Wealth of Nations* and the Declaration of Independence Mr. Tepper concludes, "Today we need a new revolution to cast off monopolies and restore free trade."

There are a few problems with Mr. Penner's analysis and his prescription.

The first, perhaps, is that capitalism at any stage of development worships the right of ownership. Monopolies can only be cast off if the monopolists are deprived of their assets.

Another problem is that "grow or die" is a law of capitalism. This means that the capitalism of which Mr.

Tepper dreams is the very condition which ends in oligopoly and then monopoly.

Accumulation is the measure of success.

As Mr. Tepper says, left to their own devices, firms will use any available means to crush their rivals. Their understanding of competitive freedom is precisely the freedom to do so (eat or be eaten).

Part of that process is to work with the referees where it is beneficial, but circumvent or corrupt the referees where necessary to succeed.

Capitalism is about capital: private ownership of those items which are required to produce commodities. Without the individual accumulation of ever more capital, the process is stagnant and does not increase standards of living. Monopoly is the result of competitive accumulation.



## Ukrainian Miscellany

### Ukrainian Presidential Elections

On February 8, it was reported that a record 44 candidates had entered the fray as presidential candidates in the Ukrainian election scheduled for March 31, with a runoff on April 21, if required.

Ukraine's President, Petro Poroshenko, announced his candidacy on January 29. One of Ukraine's richest men as a result of digging deep into public property in the early 1990s (like his oligarchic brethren), the 53-year-old confectionary magnate is running third in the field composed mostly of multimillionaires and billionaires — each of them historically as corrupt as the others.

Petro Poroshenko came to power in the 2014 elections, following President Viktor Yanukovich's ouster in a Western-orchestrated regime change. He has lost popular-

ity because of his failure to combat the corruption of which he was part, as well as the continuing war in Ukraine's east.

January polls had TV comedian Volodymyr Zelenskiy in the lead, with Yulia Tymoshenko in second place.

However, as the incumbent, President Poroshenko has a lot of power to shape the political agenda, and still has a chance.

He is resorting to the right-wing populism which is finding much success worldwide. His campaign motto, "Army, Language, Faith", was very evident throughout Ukraine through most of 2018.

President Poroshenko's greatest strength, however, may be the support of foreign financiers, who have found him a willing partner.

Furthermore, President

Poroshenko is a staunch ally against Russia, makes Ukraine's entry into the European Union a main priority, and is devoted to NATO.

Some of former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko's program points, such as cutting gas prices for households, run counter to demands of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and other foreign financial powers, who invested billions into Ukraine and expect a generous return on their investments.

Volodymyr Zelenskiy is not considered a threat.

As of January 5, the Central Election Commission had denied registration to 22 applicants, including Petro Symonenko, leader of the Communist Party of Ukraine, who was denied registration because the name and symbols of his party were outlawed in Ukraine by legislation passed in April, 2015.

To comply with European Union norms, the Communist Party of Ukraine is not banned.

### Energy and Ukraine

In mid-February, for the first time in 15 years, Ukraine exported its own natural gas to Europe. This immediately raised the question whether Ukraine could actually be energy independent.

The amount exported was 5,000 cubic metres, the minimum viable amount for a gas transfer. However, it was considered a test of Ukraine's ability to export gas.

Ukrainian energy companies pump natural gas into underground storage, and sell it on the Ukrainian energy market in winter. Now they may consider exporting it to Europe instead, if higher prices make Ukrainian gas exports more competitive.

Mostly, Ukraine has relied on Russia to heat its homes and business. Russia, on the other hand, has been using Ukraine as a gas conduit to Europe.

Of the 193 billion cubic metres of gas Russia sent west in 2017, around 40% went through Ukraine.

Ukraine has between 600 billion and 1 trillion cubic metres of gas reserves under the ground, as well as unexplored offshore reserves. The country's national production is 21 billion cubic metres annually, while national consumption is about 33 billion cubic metres a year.

Ukraine's untapped reserves could meet its energy needs for at least the next 20 years.

That estimate does not even take into account alternative, renewable energy sources, like solar panels.

A Ukrainian group of companies has launched a solar panel production plant, the largest in Ukraine to date, in Vinnytsia. The plant should be fully operational in early 2019.

The solar panels produced by the plant in a year can generate up to 200 megawatts of electricity, enough to provide 150,000 households with their annual electricity needs. By comparison, the total amount of energy coming from solar panels currently installed in Vinnytsia region is 250 megawatts.

Early in 2018, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development allocated €25.9 million for the construction of three solar power stations in Vinnytsia region.

In the past three years, more than 3,000 households in Ukraine have installed solar panels with the total capacity of 51 megawatts.

In January, 2019, Ukraine boosted transit shipments of natural gas through its gas transmission system (GTS) by 25.7% (or 1.555 billion cubic

metres or bcm) compared to the same month of 2018.

*Ukraine Business News* reported at the end of January, that "Ukraine cut its gas imports by one quarter last year, Naftogaz reports. Imports fell from 14.1 billion cubic metres in 2017 to 10.6 bcm. Domestic production ... increased last year by only 2.5%, to 21 bcm." The most likely causes for the import drop, according to the report, were increased energy efficiency and shifts to other energy sources.

Wind farms are another source of renewable energy.

On January 24, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) stated that it is arranging a syndicated loan of €50 million toward the construction of a 250 MW wind farm in the Kherson region of southern Ukraine.

The loan will be go to SyvashEnergyProm LLC, co-owned by renewable energy groups Total Eren of France and NBT of Norway, for the construction of the initial 133 MW phase. The farm is expected to begin power generation by the end of 2019.

Once the project is fully commissioned, it is expected to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 470,000 tonnes annually, and to produce over 850,000 MWh of renewable energy each year — enough to provide power to the Ukrainian municipality of Rivne, which has approximately 100,000 households.

The wind farm is the latest investment under the EBRD's €50 million Ukraine Sustainable Energy Lending Facility III (USELF III) framework approved by the Bank in July 2018. USELF III builds on two previous programmes co-financed by the EBRD and the Clean Technology Fund, which yielded 13 renewable energy projects in Ukraine with an aggregate installed capacity of 151 MW.

Speaking at the signing ceremony in Davos, EBRD President Suma Chakrabarti said, "We are delighted to be supporting the two world class (West European -Ed) developers who will build Ukraine's largest windfarm. This shows that Ukraine's commitment ... to energy sector reforms is increasing the investor confidence needed to achieve the country's energy transition."

*Ukraine Business News* reported that Maros Sefcovic, European Commission Vice-President for Energy, had given Russian and Ukrainian negotiators a proposal for a new contract with specific volumes, tariffs and invest-

**(Continued on Page 11.)**

### Religious Struggle in Ukraine

The *Ukrainian Canadian Herald* has warned several times that the formation of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church by severing it from the Russian Orthodox Church was in fact the establishment of a state religion, and that (President Poroshenko's assurances to the contrary notwithstanding) adherence to the new institution would become a measure of patriotism. Evidence is mounting that the looming threat is materializing.

President Poroshenko worked hard to take the Ukrainian Orthodox Church away from the Russian Patriarchate. On January 5, the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople officially granted this separation.

President Poroshenko immediately toured central and western Ukraine, touting change as Ukraine's great victory over Russia

The majority of parishes, around 12,000, remain under the Moscow Patriarchate. In fact, it is reported that fewer than 100 parishes have joined the new church, in spite of growing threats.

Once again meddling in church affairs, President Poroshenko is making it more difficult for people to exercise their supposed right (which the President repeatedly proclaimed) to stay with the old church. A new law requires the re-registration of all parishes aligned with the Moscow Patriarchate. This is clearly a measure intended to coerce believers to switch to the new Ukrainian church.

A January 20 report by

Mansur Mirovalev in *Al Jazeera* presents information about additional coercive measures.

In the report, Father Anatoly Kaplyuk describes how police and intelligence officers interrupted a service in his church in the northern Ukrainian town of Ovruch in early December.

"They entered the building that belongs to Moscow-affiliated Orthodox Church, one of Ukraine's largest religious groups, to look for 'materials inciting religious hatred', police said," according to the report.

"The officers looked everywhere — including the altar, an area no lay person is allowed to enter — and confiscated some booklets," Father Anatoly told *Al Jazeera*.

Father Anatoly was summoned for questioning at the Ovruch office of the SBU, Ukraine's main intelligence agency.

*Al Jazeera* reports that the SBU said that, "A dozen more pro-Russian priests throughout Ukraine have been questioned and had their churches or residencies searched as part of investigations into 'treason' and 'incitement of religious hatred'."

Several other priests posted videos of themselves saying that they will never sever their ties to the Russian Orthodox Church. They were soon blacklisted by *Mirotvorets* ("Peacemaker"), an online publication with ties to security services that outs "Ukraine's enemies".

Even the top hierarch of the

Russian Orthodox Church was not spared. Metropolitan Onufri has been attacked for his "pro-Kremlin" stand.

In early November, a Ukrainian TV network showed what it claimed to be the luxurious residence of Metropolitan Onufri. The broadcast showed several large houses, a helipad and a hangar-like structure that hides either a tennis court or a swimming pool.

Many opposition legislators have accused President Poroshenko of violating the cornerstone of any Western democracy: separation of church and state. They complained to the Constitutional Court in mid-December about his government's violation of "religious freedoms and peace among confessions" by urging Bartholomew, the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, to recognise the independent Ukrainian church.

There have already been conflicts between the two sects over church property. These will escalate as the new church, strives to strip assets from their owner.

The Church of the Kyiv Patriarchate broke away from Moscow in the early 1990s. Its clerics mostly form the new, Constantinople-recognised see after merging with another, smaller Orthodox sect.

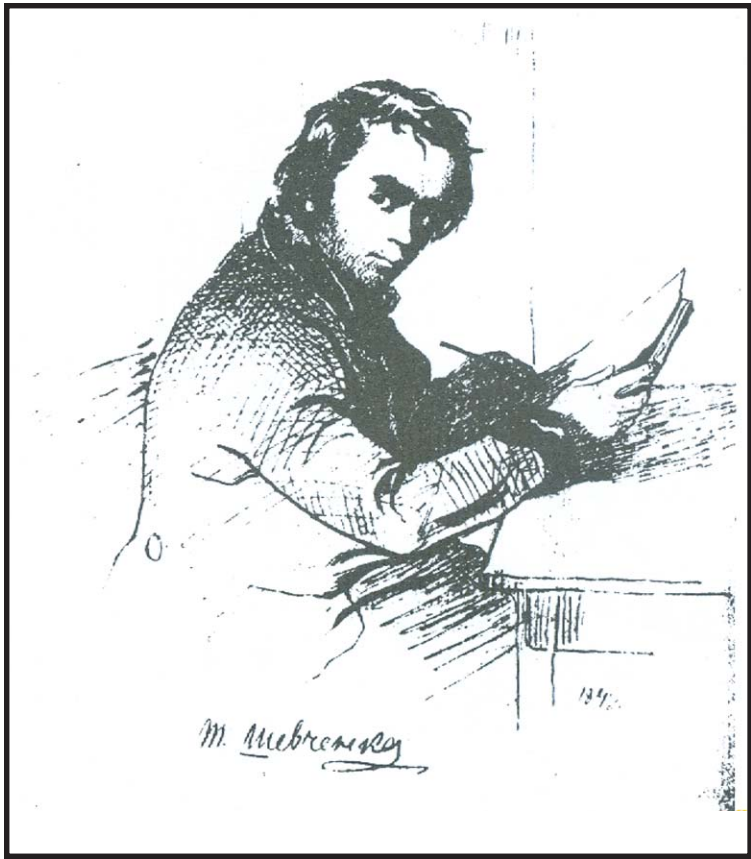
The pro-Ukrainian and Russia-affiliated churches share the doctrine of Greek Orthodoxy that split from Catholicism in 1054. They are equally opposed to same-sex marriages, abortions and birth control.



# Taras Shevchenko in St. Petersburg

Text of an address by Shevchenko Museum Board Member Lari Prokop on Ukrainian Pioneer Day, September 6, 1998, in Toronto

Taras Shevchenko was born on March ,1814, and died almost exactly 47 years later, on March , 1861. We print this article, without editing, as it appears in a publication of the Taras Shevchenko Museum.



Taras Shevchenko. Self-Portrait. 1843

Taras Shevchenko arrived in St. Petersburg from Vilnius, along with the rest of the servants of Paul Englehardt, in February of 1831. He was on the eve of his seventeenth birthday. It was here, in the Tsarist capital and the centre of the cultural life of the Russian Empire, that Shevchenko was to mature, first as an artist, and as a poet, writer and activist.

His master, still realising that the youth would not make a good house servant and wanting a "court painter", apprenticed young Taras in 1832 to the master painter V. Shyrayev, known to be both stern and arbitrary. Shyrayev was also a famous painter, decorator and art expert, who ran an enterprise engaged in painting the walls and ceilings of the homes of the St. Petersburg elite and public buildings.

As such, Shyrayev was in contact with and entertained the cream of Tsarist society and it is only logical to assume that the young apprentice Shevchenko also became exposed to many of the ideas then circulating in the Russian capital. Popular amongst the intelligentsia were ideas of reform, many borrowed from the ill-fated 1825 Decembrist uprising by young officers who had borrowed heavily from the philosophy of the French Revolution. In later life, a more politically mature Shevchenko referred to the

Decembrists as "the first Russian heralds of freedom". While in Vilnius, Taras also had the experience of having witnessed first hand the Polish uprising against Tsarist rule.

While a good part of Shevchenko's apprenticeship was spent mixing paints and delivering items to various of Shyrayev's projects across St. Petersburg, he also honed his own talents and learned much from the master painter. Although he was still officially a serf, his apprenticeship nonetheless allowed him a certain degree of personal freedom in the city. In his spare moments, normally in the evenings, he would wander the city making sketches, often in the Summer Gardens during the northern "white lights".

It was because of this habit that Shevchenko met a fellow Ukrainian and artist, Ivan Soshenko, in July of 1835. A friendship was formed and Soshenko took Shevchenko under his wing, teaching him some of the basics of painting and introducing the talented youth to some of the most enlightened and cultured elements of St. Petersburg society, including the Russian artist Karl Bryulov, the poet Zhukovsky (who had been a tutor to the Tsar's family), Ukrainian writer Hrebinka, the conference secretary of the Academy of Arts V. Hrihorovich and others.

Moving in this circle of the Russian intelligentsia,

Shevchenko won the hearts of this enlightened segment of society, which quickly recognized the young man's talents and realized that they could only be properly developed if he were a free man.

Accordingly, the artist Karl Bryulov, whose works were much in demand, painted a portrait of the poet Zhukovsky which was raffled off, raising the 2500 roubles necessary for Shevchenko to receive his certificate of freedom on April 22, 1838.

An interesting aspect of this story is that, on his arrest in 1847, Shevchenko was reproached for his "black ingratitude", as the rumour had circulated that the Tsar's family had bought all the raffle tickets and, as a result, had purchased the freedom of the serf who then went on to attack and ridicule them through his poetry. While it is true that the tickets were no doubt bought in the most part by members of the court, it was not through any altruism on their part, but to cheaply obtain a fine work of art. What was ingratitude for some, was perhaps more realistically an ironic form of nemesis.

With his freedom attained, in 1838 Shevchenko became an external student at the Academy of Arts, studying under Karl Bryulov. In January of 1839, he was accepted as a resident student of the Association for the Encouragement of Artists and at the annual examinations at the Academy was awarded a silver medal for a landscape. The following year, he again won a silver medal for his first oil painting *The Beggar Boy Giving Bread to a Dog*.

As his artistic talent developed, Shevchenko continued to move in the circles of the progressive intelligentsia and also broadened his world view. He took courses in zoology, physics and philosophy, studied the French language and avidly read literature — Homer, Goethe, Schiller, Sir Walter Scott, Dickens, Shakespeare, Defoe, Mickiewicz, Pushkin, Gogol and many others. In art, he became a critical realist and applied his approach to portraiture, etching and illustrating.

However, it is for his written work that Shevchenko is best remembered. According to his own memoirs, he first began to write verse during his visits to the Summer Gardens in 1837. However, he had become so immersed in this that, by 1840, his first collection of poetry appeared — the

*Kobzar*, containing but eight verses, with a forward in verse form, the now famous *Dumy moyi*.

The *Kobzar* met with mixed reaction. Chauvinistic elements of society scoffed at his efforts and suggested Shevchenko cease writing in the Ukrainian language, calling him a "peasants' poet", an epithet which never bothered the poet himself.

The more enlightened, though, greeted Shevchenko's poetry for its lyricism, deep feeling and love of his native land and people. In Ukraine, Shevchenko's poetry became an almost overnight sensation.

The appearance of the *Kobzar*, aside from being a turning point in Shevchenko's life, was also a milestone for Ukrainian language and culture, often denigratingly referred to as "Little Russian", giving it a legitimacy which had to that point been denied or ridiculed. The appearance of Ivan Kotlyarevsky's *Aeneida* in the early 19th Century was regarded as the true beginning of Ukrainian literature; the appearance of the *Kobzar* and subsequent works by Shevchenko rounded out the process.

It should be noted, however, that Shevchenko was not exclusively Ukrainian in his work. A few poems, his drama *Nazar Stodolya* and his prose were written in Russian. However, the bulk of his work was in the Ukrainian language. And his themes were overwhelmingly based on Ukrainian history, tradition and conditions of serfdom, the fate of common people.

This latter point, as well as the obvious despise (*sic*) he feels for the Tsarist system and his ridicule of its aristocracy, has led some critics to view Shevchenko as a "nationalist", as anti-Russian. And there is no doubt that Shevchenko's poetry, as it develops, does increasingly call on the Ukrainian people to overthrow their rulers. What should be noted, however, is that Shevchenko's heroes include the Czech Jan Hus (*The Heretic*) and the oppressed peoples of the Caucasus (in the poem of the same name), and that he attacks not only Russian masters (*The Dream*), but Ukrainian masters as well, (*To the Dead, the Living and the Yet Unborn*). For Shevchenko, the enemy is always the oppressor, regardless of ethnicity, a view reinforced by his 1843 visit to Ukraine. During this visit, already as an adult,

Shevchenko came face to face with the cruel realities of the economic, social and national oppression of the Tsarist regime.

Further adding credence to this international aspect of Shevchenko's political attitudes is the fact of his involvement, in 1846-47, in the Kyrylo-Mefody Society, an underground anti-serfdom grouping with Pan-Slavist tendencies.

Following his visit to Ukraine, Shevchenko returned to St. Petersburg to finish his studies and to continue writing and publishing poetry, as well as to produce a series of etchings entitled *Pictorial Ukraine*. He graduated from the Academy of Arts in 1845 and almost immediately returned to Ukraine.

In Kiev, Shevchenko first made contact with the Kyrylo-Mefody Society and quickly became one of the leaders of its radical faction. While some members of the Society saw reform as the solution to the ills of Tsarist society; the radical faction saw rebellion and popular uprising as the sole means of overthrowing their masters.

During this period, Shevchenko was hired by the Archeological Commission to travel through Kiev, Poltava and Volyn provinces to record in sketches and paintings significant cultural sites.

In 1847, the members of the Kyrylo-Mefody Society were betrayed by a police informer and Shevchenko was arrested on April 5 and transported to St. Petersburg for disposition by the Tsarist authorities. The more liberal, or reformist, members of the Society apologized for their actions and received very lenient sentences. Shevchenko refused to repent for his actions, which included reading subversive and "openly unlawful" verses, some of which ridiculed the Tsar's family. In his defence, Shevchenko denounced Tsarist repression in Ukraine and throughout the Empire.

Shevchenko received a sentence of exile as a rank and file soldier to Orenburg in the East. He was to be kept under strict scrutiny so that "from him wouldn't come, in any form, any outrageous or libellous works". To this order, the Tsar personally added, "He is to be under the most strict surveillance, with prohibition to write and to paint".

It is interesting to note that Shevchenko's colleague in the

(Continued on Page 11.)



## Who, What, When, Where

Regina — The **Poltava Ensemble** will hold the fundraiser **Vinyasa and Varenky** at the **Ukrainian Cultural Centre**, 1809 Toronto Street, on Saturday, **March 30**. An **all-levels yoga class** led by Jill Bullock at **7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.** will be followed by **perogies** and a **cash bar**. Register now. Admission: **\$20.00**. For further details, email [poltavaensemble@gmail.com](mailto:poltavaensemble@gmail.com).

\* \* \*

Toronto — The **Taras Shevchenko Museum** will display the exhibition **“Love Letters from the Past”** at the **Taras Shevchenko Museum**, 1614 Bloor Street West, to **March 29, 2019**. For more information, call **416-534-8662**.

\* \* \*

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

## Not a Safe Haven

(Continued on Page 11.)  
ing, arbitrary an unaccountable.

The U.S. has now put into force the Migrant Protection Protocols, under which many asylum-seekers will be forced back into Mexico to wait out the processing of their claims. The average processing time is close to two years and

Mexico is notoriously perilous for many of those who will be returned, particularly Central Americans.

These forcible returns violate the most essential right enshrined in international refugee law, the protection against *refoulement* to danger.

It echoes the Canada/US. agreement, only this time it is the United States essentially declaring Mexico to be safe. The U.S. faces a human rights crisis at the border.

## Energy and Ukraine

(Continued from Page 9.)  
ment levels and asked both sides to return to talks in May.

After Russia-Ukraine-EU gas talks in Brussels, he said that “A new Russia gas contract with Ukraine should be for more than 10 years, with commercially viable volumes to attract a European company with high reputation.”

“Ten European companies and one US company are interested in operating the pipeline. None want to buy it.”

The existing 10-year contract is due to expire at the end of 2019. Ukrainian negotiators speculate that Russia’s

strategy is to drag talks out as long as possible, as Ukraine’s presidential elections and European Commission elections could result in additional allies for Russia.

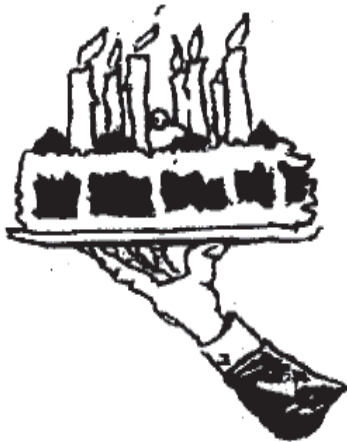
In addition, construction of Nord Stream 2 would give Gazprom a stronger negotiating position, totally removing the need for Ukrainian transits.

Without a contract, there will be no transit of gas through Ukraine. While Ukraine can meet its gas needs from other sources, it would lose income of about \$3 billion a year in transit charges.

## Taras Shevchenko

(Continued from Page 10.)  
radical wing of the Society, M. Hulak, who also refused to repent, received a three year jail sentence. Shevchenko’s sentence, if Tsar Nicholas I had not died ten years later, would have been for life. His treatment by the Tsarist regime is perhaps the greatest possible tribute to Shevchenko’s dedication and effectiveness in the cause of freedom.

## Happy Birthday, Friends!



The **Edmonton AUUC Senior Citizens’ Club** wishes a happy birthday to the celebrants of March:

Lucy Antoniw  
Clarence Capowski

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

The **Toronto Senior Citizens Club** extends best birthday wishes to March celebrant:

Alexandra Tomaszewski

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

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

Margaret Hallstrom

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

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

Margaret Card  
Bill Lukan  
Wanda Lukan

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

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### REGINA BRANCH

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Phone: (306) 522-1188 Web site: [www.poltava.ca](http://www.poltava.ca)

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E-mail: [auucwinnipeg@gmail.com](mailto:auucwinnipeg@gmail.com)

### OTTAWA BRANCH

c/o Robert Seychuk  
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Phone: (613) 228-0990

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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.



# Regina Branch Celebrates 21 Years of Malanka.



The Lileya Dancers (above and below) performed “Zakarpattia tanets”. Their costumes were purchased as part of the Poltava Costume Enhancement Project through the AUUC Internal Grant Committee.



(Continued from Page 7.) popular last year and proved to be a hit again this year.

Of course, no evening in Regina would be complete without a dance, and at this Malanka it was to the music of “Wonderland”. The music had young and old on the dance floor all night.

Later in the evening, the traditional “Kolomeyka” brought the crowd out to participate in, and witness, the in-

satiable energy of the younger (and some more experienced) dancers as they showed off their best moves.

All assembled counted down, and then rang in, the New Year with colourful hats and noisemakers.

The AUUC Regina Branch is grateful to all the volunteers and sponsors who facilitated an enjoyable evening, and in particular the Malanka Committee: Cindy Greschner,

Sasha and Wanda Lapchuk, Shawn and Jennifer Swicheniuk, Zoya Shmyr, Erin Stepenhoff, Dave Wilson, Dion Tchorzewski, Lynne Lapchuk, Jennifer Wilson, Renee Boyd, Kris Wanner and Noah Evanchuk.

— Sasha Lapchuk

## The Wet’suwet’en Protests

(Continued from Page 2.) dergo a federal environmental assessment. However, that process was cancelled in 2013, when new regulations changed the types of projects required to be assessed by the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency. The National Energy Board has undertaken a process to determine whether the project may fall under its jurisdiction. If so, Coastal GasLink would have to submit a separate application for project approval.

### What are the Wet’suwet’en concerns?

While the Wet’suwet’en First Nation has supported the pipeline, some hereditary leaders and members remain opposed about the threat they say the pipeline poses to their traditional territory. The hereditary chiefs say the elected First Nations Band Council does not have jurisdiction over all the traditional territories and unanimously supported a decision to block Coastal Gaslink from entering their territory.

### What are the environmental concerns?

The proposed pipeline would cross more than 1,000 waterways, including waterways home to at-risk fish species, according to B.C.’s Environmental Assessment Office. Coastal GasLink determined that 51 water crossings were at high risk for negative impacts to fish and fish habitat. The assessment notes the pipeline construction would also pose a risk to wetlands and other habitats.

### Will the pipeline create jobs?

Construction of the pipeline is expected to create between 2,000 and 2,500 jobs.



The Pre-Poltava Dancers awed the audience with Kubanoshka.



The band Wonderland provided the dance music.



Poltava Orchestra Conductor Vlad Osatiuk is shown conversing with musicians Tyne Hagey and Eli Guliov.

*Happy International Women’s Day!*



The Pre-Poltava Dancers presented “Kubanushka”. Their costumes were purchased as part of the Poltava Costume Enhancement Project through the AUUC Internal Grant Committee.

*Welcome to the only  
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