

THE CANADA-UKRAINE PARLIAMENTARY PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

JUNE 1995

Prime Minister Chretien Meets With Ukrainian Interns

Prime Minister Jean Chretien met the fourteen Ukrainian interns participating in the 5th Canada-Ukraine Parliamentary Program. The meeting took place in the House of Commons following question period on May the 29th. Ukraine's Ambassador to Canada, Victor Batiuk, also attended the meeting.



The Ukrainian interns posed a number of questions to the Prime Minister, among them whether Canada will invite Ukraine to join the G-7 countries. Mr. Chretien replied that he would not do so as countries such as Brazil and India are more advanced economically and should join ahead of Ukraine. To the question of whether he will visit Ukraine soon, the Prime Minister replied that he would like to as President Kuchma has invited him, but because he has been travelling a lot recently, he must remain in Canada to deal with the business at hand.

The Prime Minister asked the interns about the CUPP and stated that, "this is a good opportunity for Ukrainian students to learn about the Canadian Parliament and its system of government".

Alexandra Bardyn
Canadian Coordinator



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be sent to Alexandra Bardyn
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**Some Musings About
Nothing**

By: Gene Palenka

We are in Canada! So many interesting and new things for us to see and learn everyday. I want to share my thoughts and emotions about everything I see but it is almost impossible to choose specifically what to write about. I want to write about everything but when you try to write about everything, you wind up writing about nothing. Ok, let's talk about nothing!

Before coming to Canada, it was very difficult to visualize what it would be like. I thought about Canada, tried to draw a picture of Canada in my mind, but all I visualized was a large land mass surrounded by three oceans. Now I am here and what do I see! First of all people. Many different people. People of different nations and cultures, with different views and mannerisms.

People here live in very peaceful and rather quiet cities. Especially Ottawa. It is a green, friendly and open city. If someone has a problem, he or she tries to solve this problem on their own although people around you are glad to help out. Here people know how to find compromises between their own interests and the interests of others. Many people enjoy sports and many sports facilities are free. Individuals holding top positions are not difficult to

approach and they are casual and easy to speak with. They do not try to set themselves above other people. Everybody does his or her job and they try to be as good at it as they can be. At the same time, people look very relaxed, almost as if they were doing nothing, and yet they achieve the right results from their work. It surprised me that people do not look tired after work.



**Alex Soshenko & Gene Palenka
at 24 Sussex**

When I think of a capital of a country, it brings to mind government buildings and opera theaters. Ottawa is different. People do not appear to go to the opera and ballet here and unfortunately, they do not appear to listen to classical music. Nevertheless, they know how to enjoy themselves and they know how to spend their weekends. Almost all Canadians I have spoken with love their country and think it is the best place to live in the

world. If Ukraine did not exist, maybe they would be right.

**Canada Through The Eyes
Of A Ukrainian**

By: Alexandra Zvarych



Before my trip to Canada I thought that this country was both very similar to, and very different from, the United States (which I have visited twice). It did not fail in my expectations. Canada and America have a lot in common because they share the same continent. But, nevertheless, there are quite a few things that distinguish one from the other.

When I first saw Canada (to be more accurate, downtown Toronto) I was amazed how clean it was compared to Philadelphia, certainly New York or even some districts in Kiev (I am originally from Kiev). The traffic was not very heavy either. Life did not seem to be as hectic as in other cities. My first impression of Canada remains the same.

I was pleasantly surprised to see how Canadians honour soldiers who gave their lives in World War II for the sake of peace

and justice, not only in Canada but also in some European countries. In my opinion, this is the right thing to do. It's a pity that some people in Ukraine do not think the same way.

Another thing that I like about Canada and Canadians is that Canadians know how to work and how to rest. I am not afraid to make such a statement because it is well known that Canada is one of the most highly developed countries. Certainly, people who work hard know how to enjoy themselves.

On the whole, Canadians are peaceful people. They love and preserve their country, environment (this is why they are concerned with recycling) and cultural heritage. They respect views and, consequently, the rights of others. They are not afraid to accept people of other nations into their big multicultural family which lives in harmony.

The Reformers say: "Never take 'No' for an answer."

By: Dmytro Hladkov



Since the beginning of May as part of the Canada-Ukraine

Parliamentary Program, I have been working with Preston Manning, leader of the Reform Party of Canada. Most of my time I spend working in the Research and Communications Office, which is responsible for communicating the ideas of the party to the public and provides the materials for the Reform caucus.

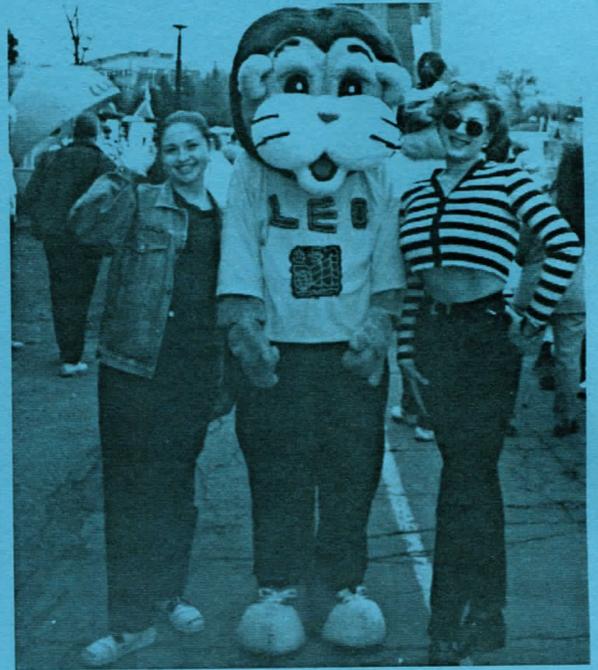
It is Thursday evening, Patrick Muttart, Outreach Coordinator, is working on the Reform Week bulletin - a weekly issue on the events in the parliament and the Reform party. The key issue is yesterday's filibuster in the Committee on Bill C-85 - An Act Respecting Employment Equity, the attempt of reverse discrimination of race-sex-based quotas for employers. The Reformers are opposing this bill and filibustering is a possibility using the regulations to delay the legislation and to attract public attention to this issue, and to frustrate the Liberals. "We are here, in the Communications, to help our party to bring the message to ordinary people. You have to tailor informational materials to your market, that is a rule, - says Patrick - our materials are distributed all across the country so people will judge the work of the party on the basis of what they see, that is why we must work very professionally."

The Research and Communications office forms the background of the Reform Party, a strong background, based on the principles, that helped the

Reformers become the third party in Canada in 8 years. These people are here not because they want to get a pay-check for their work; for them it is a chance to influence the development of the country, to fight for ideas they believe in. US intern Teresa Conley, from Grove City College, remarks: "People here are very involved, dedicated to their work. It is not the style of work from 9 to 5 which you see often in America, they really believe in what they are doing."

My principles of work in Communications, Danielle Nadeau states, are "never take no for an answer and have a bottomless well of patience for people". What you see in the office is research skills and willingness to help others do their job. They are the team; the team working hard to listen to people, to help Reform caucus to work effectively and to bring the party's message to the people. Paul Fitzgerald, Communications, : "We are the party which is actively listening to the average person. The average person has a lot of common sense. We are listening to them, instead of just telling them what we ourselves plan to do."

Working here you see what it means - to live in the information society, where information means political power and success. Issues arise during the day, but in two days only a few people will remember them. If daily morning meetings



The Kiwanis Duck Race



Danna Tryfonyuk and Natalia Hostylo in Niagara Falls

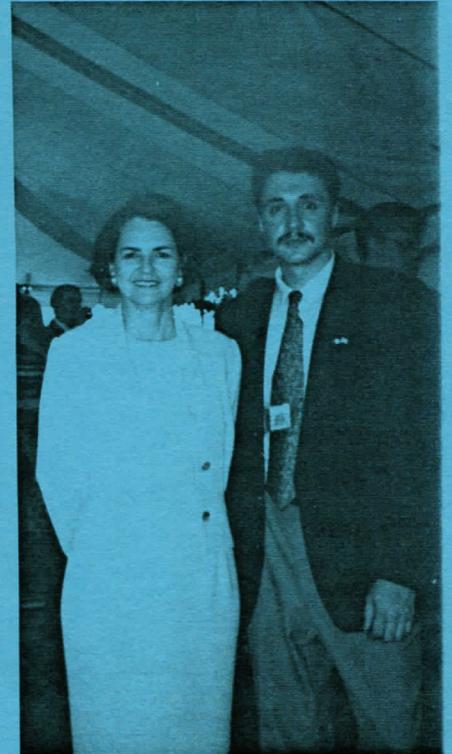
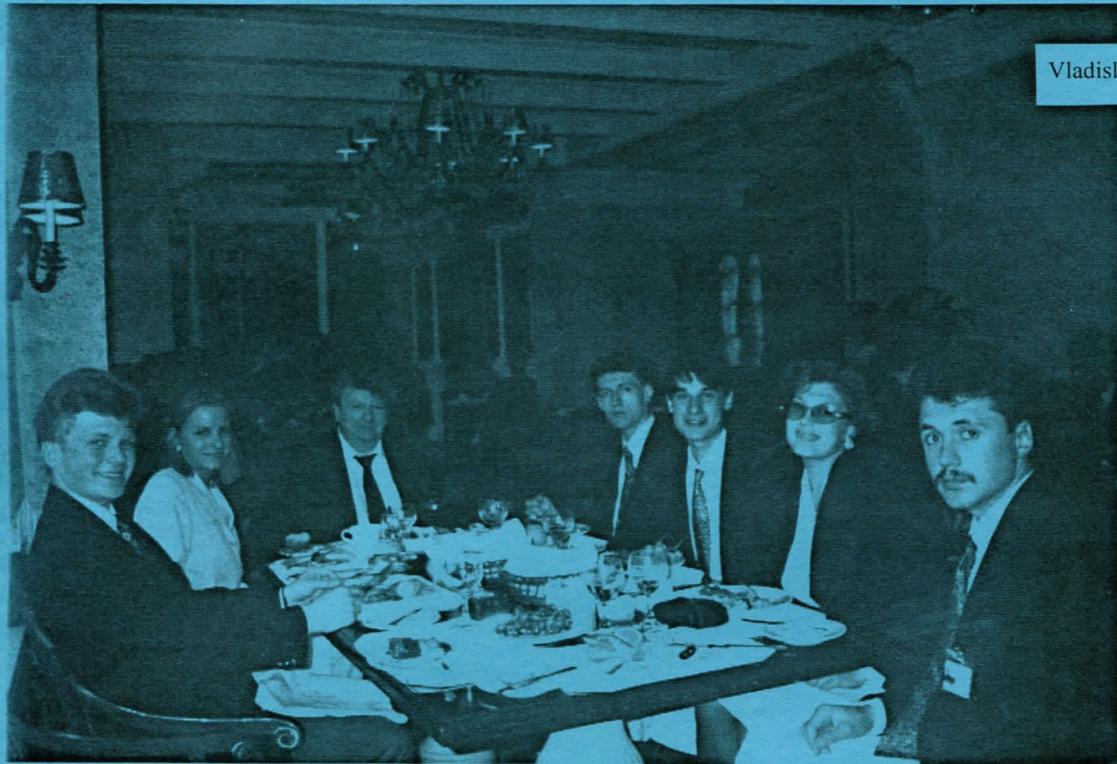


Andrew Khomenko portaging on a weekend camping trip with the Hill staff

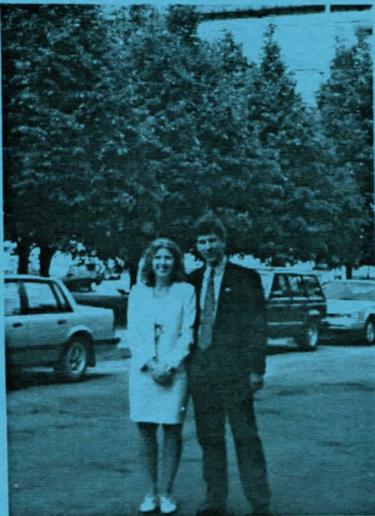


"LIFE BEYOND THE HILL"

Vladislav Vasukhno at the Prime Minister's garden party



Dining at the Chateau Laurier with Ihor Bardyn, the President of the Chair of Ukrainian Studies Foundation and Director of the Canada-Ukraine Parliamentary Program



Tamara Romas and Gene Palenka



Meeting with Raymond Hnatyshyn at Gowling, Strathy and Henderson

bring too many hot issues - wait until tomorrow. But also, what is a surprise, is the professionalism in dealing with this information and openness to these new ideas. Natalie Stirling, Researcher and Special Activities Coordinator, is one of the team of professionals. For Natalie, initiative is not just a slogan, she is articulating prospective research topics and looking for specific non-traditional approaches to them. Now she is working on the fisheries and Pension Plan issues. It is not easy work. "I'll work on the week-end to finish Pension Plan material, but that's okay, we need to get the job done."

A weekly meeting of the Research staff is considered to be routine, but not here. Here it's a different atmosphere: it is the creative atmosphere for sharing ideas, helping each other to understand the issues in detail, and possibly getting different points of view on them. Natalie is reporting on what was done on the Pension Plan. There is also a new issue arising on the diversion of highway funds to a Minister's riding.

The approach of the Reform Party Research and Communications office is best expressed by Darrel R. Reid, Director of Research: *"Managing this office, we use the analogy of a hockey team: we have different players, superstars and role players, but we play together to win the game."*

Ma journée de travail au bureau de Maria Minna

Tout est facile avec de la patience...

J'ai commencé mon travail au bureau de Maria Minna le 5 mai. Et il faut dire, que je suis très satisfaite des rencontres avec les employés que travaillent ici. Je trouve l'atmosphère très professionnelle dans ce bureau. Chaque journée de Maria et de ses assistants est très chargée. Le travail commence à 9 heures ou à 9 heures du soir. Alors, je voudrais d'écrire une journée.

Le matin à 9 heures nous commençons par la leçon de français. Après cela nous allons au comité des ressources humaines. Puis, à midi il y a une réunion avec une compagnie pour discuter le problème des pharmaciens. Tous les jours, à 14 heures, nous assistons à la période de questions orales, et ensuite nous retournons au comité. Ma journée se termine avec le comité mais la journée de Maria se poursuit. Il y a un vote, puis une réception annuelle pour la région Atlantique. Je peux dire, que ce travail est très intéressant pour moi et j'espère que cette expérience me sera utile pour l'avenir.



Natalia Hostylo with Warren Mucci in Maria Minna's office

Fresh Impressions Of Multiculturalism And The Quebec Issue

By: Olexiy Soshenko



We have been in Canada for about a month. This is not quite enough time to grasp and comprehend all the problems and concerns Canadians have. That is why my observations and conclusions may not be very profound, but first impressions are often most interesting and valuable, especially if the observations are made from the perspective of a foreigner, whose country recently self-destructed.

Quebec's separation is the most hotly debated issue in Canada. It is also very interesting for people from other countries, as many western states are undergoing the process of closer cooperation, while others appear to be headed for separation. The more I became familiar with the problem, I begin to understand how complicated and controversial the subject is, but still...

The French speaking population was one of the two founding nations in Canada. They lost the war 200 years ago and suffered discrimination for a while. It appears that today, some Quebec politicians are using these sentiments in order to promote their own political ambitions, but many people just do not care about the politics or the politicians. They care about jobs and their future, and that is why they are sometimes following these politicians who promise improvements in a sovereign Quebec. No one can be sure, whether there will be any improvement, but the economic reality and experience of the collapse of the Soviet Union, indicates the opposite.

Through the newly independent states of the former Soviet Union face economic and political hurdles, the breakup of the Soviet empire and creation of independent states were, without doubt, revolutionary and beneficial events, as they have put an end to the totalitarian empire which exploited intellectual, human and natural resources of the former Soviet Republics.

In Canada, the situation is different. Each province has many powers and jurisdiction over key areas, evidently more powers and jurisdiction than any province, state or country in any other federal state in the world. Quebec, for instance has its own language, civil law system (which is unique in North America), its own

Charter of Rights, financial and educational systems.

When you visit Quebec, you come in contact with a different culture, more European, and the difference is fascinating (I wish I could speak French). It almost feels like a separate country, but that does not necessarily mean that Quebec should separate.

In Toronto we live on Spadina Avenue, near the largest China town in the world. I felt like I was in China, when I found myself among Chinese architecture, the Chinese language, hot food and so many Chinese people. In Toronto, we also heard Scottish music and saw men in traditional Scottish kilts. I very much enjoy Latin American and Italian food. The exhibits in the Museum of Civilization and the respect for aboriginal culture and people, impressed me enormously. I cannot but mention the Canadian Ukrainian Diaspora, thanks to which I am here. It is the largest and the most united Ukrainian diaspora in the world. I was astonished to find out, that many Canadians of Ukrainian origin have preserved the Ukrainian language, culture and traditions.

All of this is a beautiful and wonderful Canada! All Canadians should cherish their country. To destroy something is much easier than to build or to create. United you succeed, divided you fail.

My Office and My American Friends

By: Yura Chizhmar

I work in Warren Allmand's office, who is Chairman of the Justice Committee and has been re-elected to Parliament nine times since 1965.

On my first day at work I arrived at 9:00 a.m. and was introduced to the staff. They gave me a brief explanation of my duties and I quickly realized that Mr. Allmand's office is one of the busiest in Parliament. I have had an opportunity to compare my work with other parliamentary interns.

Every day we receive an incredible amount of correspondence from constituents, prisoners, minorities and groups. When they ask for help, we try to help. Sometimes they just want to tell Mr. Allmand that he is doing a good job as an M.P. We respond to many of the letters. Some letters require a great deal of research to be answered properly. Researching is only part of my daily work.

Mr. Allmand has two permanent assistants, Craig and Laurel. He also has an administrative assistant named Diane and four interns, Cory, Matthew, Daniel and myself. We get along well and I appreciate the help they give me.

I am especially good friends with two interns from the United States, Matthew and Daniel. They both are

from Michigan, however they did not know one another before they arrived in Ottawa.

Matthew is 22 years old and studies at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. His area of study is international politics and he will graduate in August. Next fall he will begin law school. Matthew likes to play American football, baseball, and enjoys hunting. In his spare time, he also restores cars and motorcycles.

Daniel is a 25 year old law student at the Detroit College of Law. He is in his final year of law school. When Daniel is not studying law, he enjoys American football, fishing and camping.

I have a lot of fun working with them. They teach me English, American slang and how to stay out of trouble. Matthew has taught me how to use the computer. Daniel and I have discussions about the American and Ukrainian law systems.

We live in the same residence at the University of Ottawa and we have an opportunity to visit each other after work. They show me how Americans spend their free time. I learn about their interests and habits.

I asked Matt and Dan to teach the rest of the Ukrainian interns to play baseball. We have organized teams and are getting better. Soon, I believe, we will be able to defeat the Americans.



The December Newsletter will be our last issue. Since we are still in Canada, we do not want to say our final farewell but we do want to say that we thoroughly enjoyed our internship in the Canadian Parliament, meeting Canadians in Toronto, Edmonton, Niagara Falls, Oshawa, Montreal and Algonquin Park. For now, we wish to say to our senior coordinator, Alexandra Bardyn, whose discipline we did not always follow but whose party habits we thoroughly enjoyed, Thanks Alex! By the end of the program, we will know that #1 dress is for meeting with the Prime Minister and not for close encounters in Hull.

We have met many friends and have had many pictures taken. We would enjoy hearing from you and to receive your photographs. We'd like to include them in the December Newsletter--so write! Please send them to us to: Yura, Dmytro and Andriy, c/o Alexandra Bardyn, Suite 200, 3029 Bloor Street West, Toronto, Ontario M8X 1C5.



Olexiy Soshenko advising P.M. on Quebec issue

(Far right) With Erast Huculak on Medical Pharmacies H.Q. tour

