

NEWS



LETTER

PROGRAMME PARLEMENTAIRE

CANADA-UKRAINE

PARLIAMENTARY PROGRAM

CUPP in Action...

- The Program was established in 1991 to coincide with the proclamation of Independence of Ukraine and the celebration of the Ukrainian Canadian Centennial;

- CUPP is an internship program in the Canadian Parliament for Ukrainian university students;

- CUPP applicants are chosen on the basis of academic excellence, recommendations from their universities, written examinations in English or French and Ukrainian, as well as personal interviews conducted in Kyiv;

- From the beginning of the program in 1991, CUPP has attracted excellent students who, after returning to Ukraine, have completed their studies or have continued their education in Ukraine or abroad;

- **Taras Malishevsky** from the University of Dnipropetrovsk returned to Ukraine where he enrolled in the Institute of Public Administration and Local Government with the Cabinet of Ministers from which he graduated and is now working for the Department of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine;

- **Vadim Samoilenko** and **Hlib Krivenko** both returned to Ukraine and graduated from the National Law Academy. They received scholarships and are now doing graduate work at the University of Chicago and University of Connecticut Law Schools;

- **Tamara Kolesnikova** returned



to complete her degree at the University of Chernivtsi and received a scholarship to do an M.A. in Political Science at Oklahoma State University. She will graduate this summer.

- **Nazar Bobitsky** completed his studies at the University of Lviv and received a scholarship to do graduate work in International Affairs at the University of Amsterdam. Nazar has been assisted with a scholarship from the Szafraniuk family scholarship, the Dopomoha-Ukraini Fund. Nazar was also selected as the best student in the 1993 CUPP Program;

- **Evhen Palenka** graduated from the University in Kharkiv and received

an Edmund Muskie Scholarship to continue his studies at Oklahoma State University. He is working on his M.A. in Financial Economics;

- **Lesia Zvorych**, graduate of Kyiv Economic University, completed her degree and received a Muskie Scholarship to continue her studies at Boston University;

- **Oleksiy Soshenko** returned to Ukraine to complete his Law Degree at the National Law Academy. He has been chosen as the first recipient of the Walter Surma Tamopolsky Award at the University of Saskatchewan.

To be continued by the CUPP '96 interns, shown above...

MPs and Senators Participating in CUPP'96

The Hon. Stephane Dion (Quebec) **The Hon. Lawrence MacAulay** (Prince Edward Island) **Senator Raynell Andreychuk** (Saskatchewan) **Jean Augustine** (Ontario) **Chris Axworthy** (Saskatchewan) **Eleni Bakopanos** (Quebec) **Garry Breitkreuz** (Saskatchewan) **Shaughnessy Cohen** (Ontario) **Bernie Collins** (Saskatchewan) **John Cummins** (British Columbia) **Nick Discepola** (Quebec) **John English** (Ontario) **Ron Fewchuk** (Manitoba) **Jack Frazer** (British Columbia) **Mac Harb** (Ontario) **Sharon Hayes** (British Columbia) **Bonnie Hickey** (Newfoundland) **David Iftody** (Manitoba) **Walt Lastewka** (Ontario) **Clifford Lincoln** (Quebec) **John Loney** (Alberta) **Preston Manning** (Alberta) **Dan McTeague** (Ontario) **Maria Minna** (Ontario) **Robert D. Nault** (Ontario) **Dr. Rey Pagtakhan** (Manitoba) **Jean Payne** (Newfoundland) **Julian Reed** (Ontario) **John Solomon** (Saskatchewan) **Andrew Telegdi** (Ontario)



The Chronicles of our internship continued...

The time has come for us to face a new challenge - work in the Canadian Parliament. After having said "good bye, Toronto", we travelled by bus to Ottawa. On our way we stopped off at Oshawa to view the robotics assembly line at General Motors where an automobile was assembled without the touch of human hands. We settled in Thompson Residence of the University of Ottawa, which was to be our home for the next two months. Our dreams of seeing Parliament Hill with our own eyes, and not only on a post-card were finally realized. Concealing our butterflies we set off for Parliament Hill to meet our MPs and their office staff. Each of us was assigned to his or her own MP. For some of us, we had to wait to meet our MP to return from his or her constituency. In our offices we were greeted with warm smiles, and a helpful hand as well as questions about Ukraine and the Canada-Ukraine Parliamentary Program. Our daily schedule was full of new experience and challenges.

We noticed that Ottawa was "the flower capital of North America" while attending the Canadian Tulip Festival, during which the city turned into a beautiful colorful tulip display. We visited Major's Hill Park and were treated to spectacular concerts and performances. We saw the annual flotilla parade on the Rideau Canal, which was one of the highlights of festival. Also we were extremely impressed with the sound and light show "The Reflections of

Canada" at which we observed Canadian patriotism.

It's worth mentioning that we are not the only interns in the Parliament. The USA has sent its university students to do internship here as well. To share our experience and impressions we arranged an American-Ukrainian dinner which turned out to be a real success. It became evident that youth is basically the same everywhere, whether in Europe or in America. So, it didn't take much time to get to know each other, and to find mutual interests and understanding.

Question Period is an important part of our daily schedule. Everyday at 2 p.m. one can see Ukrainian interns sitting on the benches of the Members' Gallery, listening to the profound and sometimes not so profound debates between the government and the opposition.

Our office life is multifaceted and rewarding. Our office duties include everything from the "solemn ceremony" of opening the correspondence to the creation of web-site on the Internet for our MPs. It's no wonder that with each day of work and study in the Canadian Parliament, we learn more about the parliamentary system of government, Canadians and ourselves.

(to be continued)



What's CUPP got to do (with it)?

On our arrival in Ottawa we were met by cool and rainy weather, and our first impressions of the city were that it was smaller and less interesting than Toronto.

On our first day of work in the Parliament, everyone was anxious to meet their staff and start working. For many of us, it would be the first experience in communicating with

individuals of a different culture. The most commonly asked questions among us, for the first few days of work were: "How was your office? What did you do? Did you like it?"

After arriving at my MP's office and meeting the staff, and as soon as they realized that I could not only smile and say "Hello, how are you?" they began to treat me as good friend instead of an abstract "foreign student". "We are driven. We are going to mentally run you to the ground," said my legislative assistant. "You don't have to work hard at it " I answered, " because I'm almost there myself". This was the very beginning of my work here and so I understood that everything would work out O.K. These were my kind of people.

I spent the first few weeks getting used to the work, learning more about computers and checking whether my English courses were helpful. What was most interesting for me during those first few weeks was meeting new people. First of all, I had a good chance to learn new aspects of the latest communication techniques and to talk to new friends at the Conflict Resolution Course at Saint Paul University. The course itself taught me some theoretical basics of conflict resolution and provided me with great practice of debating and public speaking. Thanks to my staff, I met a number of professional people on Parliament Hill.

Another very good lesson for me was the opportunity to share some

thoughts and discussions with the other Ukrainian students involved in the 1996 CUPP Program. I found it interesting to observe how my fellow students adapted themselves to their new surrounding, how they used their time and how the atmosphere in their MPs offices influenced their ideas and work. One piece of advice which I could share with my friends is respect other people's views, and try to be fair in your assessments.

I would like to stress that I have come to appreciate more and more this opportunity of working in Parliament, accessing the information from the Parliamentary Library and from the Internet. Both have been of great help for my research and acquisition of knowledge. Finally, I should say that we have very much warmed up to Ottawa and to the people of Ottawa, much in the same fashion as the weather has grown warmer and more pleasant.

Serhiy Filipov
5th year Economics, University of Chernivtsi,
My MP: Dan McTeague

TPN or How to Survive The Alligator River

1. "Cool", Yuri Rudiuk
2. "Helpful", Ostap Loun
3. "Exciting", Serhiy Filipov
4. "Unexpected", Denis Pisarevsky
5. "Supercolorfragilisticexpealadotious", Dmytro Miroshnichenko

This were the replies of my fellow interns when asked about their impressions of the three day long course at St.Paul University, which seven of us attended recently, thanks to CUPP's sponsor, the Chair of Ukrainian Studies Foundation. After reading this cheerful comments, the reader might want to know a little bit more about the course, which prompted the comments. So, welcome to the Alligator river!

The purpose is to float downstream on the Alligator River within three days. There is a raft on which there are 20 others beside you. One of them is the instructor whose name is Brian and you hope he will take care of any conflicts and problems. No way! Brian is only there to tell you what is going to happen next and just maybe to give you some advice on how to cope with these situations. That's all! You have to react as you think you should, according to your previous experience or as your instincts dictate. Here is one more hurdle: only six individuals in the group are fellow interns. All the rest are people from other countries including Singapore, Somalia and Germany. Thus, you have a small "melting pot" of nations in your raft, which is going to give you the opportunity of discovering differences between peoples of several nations.

But enough! The raft has already begun its journey. Fortunately, the first day route is not very difficult and you have time to get acquainted with your fellow travelers. As it turns out, there are all kinds of people in your raft. There are natural born troublemakers, students, artists, nurses, and even a child. Amazing, but your group speaks more than 15 languages. As the evening approaches, the conversations take on a more serious tone. For example, what is "honour", and who can be considered "honourable". You learn you have much in common with the others.

The second day is something special. You land in Alligator Town which is a sparsely populated place situated on both banks of the river. Not a big town, Alligator Town is the habitat of huge conflicts. It seems that everyone has something against everyone else. However, the adversaries are clever



Roman and Brian at the Third Party Neutral Workshop.

enough to want to solve their conflicts. So, they ask you to be a mediator since you are a foreigner and therefore you are neutral. But, here is the biggest frustration and challenge you are going to have to meet: the challenge of acting as mediator. Sometimes you think these people will just stand up and beat you up, then they will proceed to kill each other (at that moment you notice Brian is chuckling to himself). It is also very difficult not to take sides. You notice that conflicts seem to be endless and that they have a tendency to snowball.

On the third day, you face additional conflicts to be resolved, before you finally leave Alligator Town for your ultimate destination. Yet, you are getting so involved that you don't really notice the time pass. And just like that, three days have gone by.

To be serious, I must say that life will never be the same once you've taken the TPN course on Conflict Resolution at St.Paul University. Behind the above-described role playing, were no less intensive discussions within the group, and suppressed impressions, feelings and ideas. We were given the information about the roots of conflicts, methods of solving them and special skills of the third-party neutral. We practiced some of these skills. No doubt, the course was beneficial for us as young

Ukrainian students who are the future of Ukraine and who will someday face similar or new conflicts in our home country in the process of building a democratic society. My conclusion is that while conflicts are inevitable, they are solvable. Thanks Brian!

Roman Didenko
4th year History, Luhansk Pedagogical Institute
My MP: Honourable
Lawrence A. MacAulay
My team: Arctic

Would you care what's on at the Art Gallery when your shoes are wet?

(Or why is the weather lousy, when you are in a foreign country on your first Scavenger Hunt)

For sure you would... if you were on the scavenger hunt as one of four teams of Ukrainian interns, scouting around a rainy, windy and cold Ottawa. As a member of Team Pacific, I wished the hunt was taking place in Vancouver or Victoria.

The assignments were challenging and fun. Each of us covered about 5 to 7 kms. looking for special places which were on list, learning prices of items and asking for things with a Maple Leaf on it.

I noticed that people were very friendly and ready to help. For example, for a shorter way to the museum or gallery, or sometimes they would even give you a ride to the place you were on a scavenger hunt.

It rained throughout the day, but within minutes of starting the hunt, we didn't really care whether we were wet or not. With a map of Ottawa in hand and the scavenger list in our hands (we could have used a compass), we charged forward. You've been told that the rules of fair play apply, but sometimes you're tempted to go directly to a pay phone and call the Gallery and ask what exhibit is on this week, instead of going to the gallery in person.

That evening, we were dead tired from all the walking and our legs felt like stone, but we enjoyed ourselves and learned a lot about our home away from home during the scavenger hunt.

Yuri Rudiuk
2nd year Law, Lviv University
My MP: John Loney
My Team: Pacific

Observations about the Quebec referendum.

I do not want to suggest that my conclusions about the referendum are the correct ones, but I do want to make some observations about the topic and about the problem which preoccupies Canada's political life.

The first thing I have observed, is the weak and ambiguous position of the Federal government, on the topic of separation. Even though the separatists lost the referendum, the Federal government has done very little to prevent the same thing from happening again, in the near future.

The second point I wish to make is that Federal government, having gained a good deal of experience as a result of the last referendum, has not set out a clear set of rules governing future referendums. First of all there should be certainly about the percentage of the "Yes" votes required to separate. Than, I would suggest that the referendum as the ultimate and final decision, should be binding on everyone from Quebec government to the members of parliament, to the Bloc Quebecois. For example in Ukraine and in other countries of Europe, referendums on the similar topics may be organized once every five years and this seems logical, because even in parliament a Bill, that has failed can not be re-introduced the next day.

part-time coordinator.

Finally I must say that I do not think that the process of concessions been made by the Federal government is a solution. There will come a time when it will be no more concessions to make and then, with the cupboards bare, the Federal government will be in a very weak position. I am sure that the Quebecers did express their will on October 30th of last year and what they said, was that they wanted to remain in Canada. I am proud that my Member of Parliament Clifford Lincoln was one such Quebecer, who worked to convince others to remain in Canada.

So, the Canadian government supported by the will of its citizens, may and should take steps to keep Quebec within the Canadian Federation in order to fulfill the will of its citizens. I believe

that the best way, is to announce the moratorium on referendums and limit them to once every 5 to 10 years.

Only by firming up its position can the Federal government save the country. The ball is in the Federal government's court.

Boris Kormich
University of Odesa, Faculty of Law
My MP: Clifford Lincoln
My Team: Arctic

Odyssey of CUPP Alumni

(Luhansk; National Law Academy, Kharkiv; Parliament Hill; Harvard University, Boston; National Law Academy, Kharkiv; University of Chicago)

Thanks for the CUPP Newsletter. They helped to refresh my memories about the wonderful days I spent in Canada, and to learn about the life paths of the people I made friends with during the 1993 Program. It is a pleasure to see so many familiar faces and to know that the Program has grown in both number of students and scope of their activities on Parliament Hill. I believe that my knowledge of what CUPP Alumni can do with this unique experience, will be of interest and help to future participants of the Program. So, I decided to briefly describe my experience in this letter.

I see three major benefits that Ukrainian students can derive from the Canada-Ukraine Parliamentary Program. First, this is an invaluable opportunity to be part of a totally different social and business culture. One can observe from the inside the workings of the highly efficient mechanism of Canadian legislative,

executive and judicial bodies, the basic principles underlying the system of government, organization of office work, relation among people in the workplace and outside - all this had a great impact on me and totally changed my views of

Western Society. I clearly realized the path Ukraine should follow to build a modern democratic state, and where my place in this process lies.

Second, a spring in the Canadian parliament provides ample possibilities for intellectual and professional development. The resources one finds in the Parliamentary libraries, offices of MP's and the computer networks are stunning compared to what is available currently to an ordinary Ukraine student. I was able to satisfy my practical as well as scholarly interests and developed substantial research projects which later were highly praised by the professors and students of my Law Academy in Ukraine. It was immensely interesting to learn of the everyday life of Canadians, especially Canadian-Ukrainians and to share our culture and ideas.

Third, one could substantially improve one's English language skills. I consider English to be one of the main pillars of the bridge between Ukraine and the world. Only through communications in English can the necessary knowledge and experience be channeled into our country, and the best possibility to master the language is to spend time living entirely in an English speaking environment. In this respect I made a major breakthrough during my spring in Canada and this has laid the foundation for my future successes in a number of fields. Also, the CUPP Program helped me to reconsider my life and professional objectives. I understood the great value of knowledge that I could get abroad and the impotence of a western education for my career in my country. Therefore, after completion of CUPP in

1993 I participated in several competitions and was awarded the 1994 Harvard University, Ukrainian Studies Scholarship established by the Ukrainian National Association and the Education Fund of the Ukrainian American Professionals and Business Persons Association.

(to be continued)

Vadim V. Samoilenko
CUPP '93 Alumni
University of Chicago Law School



Alexandra Zvarych,
Boston University,
Economics, Graduate student
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Tamara Romas
McGill University,
Industrial Relations,
2nd year, Coordinator.

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