



# NEWSLETTER

PROGRAMME PARLEMENTAIRE CANADA-UKRAINE PARLIAMENTARY PROGRAM  
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## TELL ME WHAT YOU WANT, WHAT YOU REALLY REALLY WANT...

Participation in CUPP allows us to meet Canadian students, members of Parliament, members of the Provincial Parliament, candidates in the elections and ordinary Canadians. During those meetings, people often ask questions such as "How do you like Canada?" and "Would you like to live in Canada?"

Canada is an amazing country. It has wonderful people, beautiful scenery and a rich economy. This is not just my opinion but is the opinion of the United Nations which has considered Canada to be the best country in the world to live in, for the fourth year in a row.

But I love Ukraine. I like its people and its traditions. I like the mountains in the west, the forests in the north, the steppes in the east and the seas in the south. Of course we have problems at the present time. It takes time to change a society. It is impossible to rebuild a state in five years. Yet we have achieved a lot,

in a peaceful way since 1991. Nations of the world have accepted the fact that Ukraine is now an independent state, and that it stands for democracy. It is striving to bring in reforms in its economic and social life. There is an amazing opportunity for us students to take part in this process. There is huge potential for development and I believe that someday Ukraine will be as good a country to live in as Canada or any other Western state. So the answer is that yes, I love Canada and I am returning home to do as much as I can in order to make true my prediction that someday soon Ukraine will be as good a country as Canada to live in and we'll both be No. 1.

*Natalie Mylenko  
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Management 4th Year  
My MPP: Mario Sergio  
My Team: Arctic*



*CUPP Students with the Mayor of Toronto Ms. Barbara Hall*

## LET THE FUTURE BEGIN



This optimistic statement was the motto for all PC candidates during the last federal election. I was a keen observer of the PC campaign in Ottawa West Nepean and adopted the motto for myself as well. This opportunity to observe the 1997 federal elections was a unique privilege for CUPP students.

Election campaigns are a time of passionate speeches, partisan confrontations, endless arguments and inflammatory statements. During the campaign, the governing party is bombarded with accusations, allegations of wrong-doing and its failures

are highlighted by its opponents. The governing party defends itself in order to hold on to power and asks the voters for understanding and a bit more time to fulfil its mandate. Election time is also a time of interesting events and meetings organized by each of the parties. I had an opportunity to participate in one such event with the PC Leader, Jean Charest. I joined the PC bus campaign and crisscrossed a good part of Ontario with other students from many Canadian universities. Jean Charest, the youngest leader in this campaign, spoke passionately about Canadian unity and responded to all

questions asked of him by Canadians, along the bus tour. At the conclusion of his speeches, we cheered loudly for the PC leader in order to boost his image as a rising star on the political stage.

The bus tour was only one of the experiences during the election campaign. I was also able to observe and participate in the campaign of Ottawa-West PC candidate Margret Kopala. During this campaign, observing the telephone canvas, the lawn sign campaign, the distribution of campaign literature, I realized that campaigning in a multicultural riding is hard work. The task of

campaigning becomes even more burdensome when you are running against a strong incumbent who has represented the riding during the past two elections. In spite of this, Margret Kopala's campaign workers worked unselfishly and almost till exhaustion day and night until election day.

The outcome of the June 2nd election was unpredictable as many people remained undecided until voting day. Concerned about important issues such as unemployment, tax cuts and health care, most voters went through process of reflection and assessment about which party will best carry out its promises. Although the PC's addressed all of the important issues in their campaign program, they faced several challenges during the campaign. The most important one was the ghost of the last PC government, that of Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, which haunted the PC candidates in this election. No matter how inviting and sincere Jean Charest's promises were, they could not placate some people's fears and

dislike of Brian Mulroney's government. This fear increased when the press reported that Jean Charest considered that he had a son-to-father relationship with Brian Mulroney.

The PC's are the party that Ontarians have been voting in provincial elections for much of this century. With this reality, unfortunately the success of the PC's in Atlantic Canada and Jean Charest's popularity in Quebec were not enough to produce a Tory victory in Ontario. I believe that the PC's must re-think their ties with the Mulroney government and work on erasing some negative stereotypes. It appears that the PC's offer of "hope for

the future" was not convincing enough. Hopefully, in the next election, the PC's will be able to convince Canadians that their platform for a strong, united and prosperous Canada is the one that the country needs, and which in fact will let the future begin. This slogan may be the appropriate one in the year 2001 when, in the new millennium, the future can really begin.

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My MPP: David Turnbull  
My Team: St. Laurent*



*Team Charest*

## STANDING UP FOR YOU, OR WHAT CANADIAN ELECTIONS ARE ALL ABOUT

As a microcosm of Canada, the federal riding of Pickering-Ajax-Uxbridge in the Greater Toronto Area became an interesting political battle ground leading up to the June 2nd election. Sitting MP Dan McTeague faced a strong challenge from the PC and Reform candidates in his bid for re-election. As a student of law, I would suggest that the election process is the cornerstone of democracy, and in observing the election process one can judge the level of that society's development as a civil and democratic country. And I can say that all in all, what I observed was a real democracy in action. The chance to observe or take part in a campaign, is equal to years of studying the electoral process from books. I am therefore very

happy for myself and for my colleagues in CUPP '97 because we were fortunate enough to participate in this instructive exercise.

At the very beginning of the campaign, upon entering the campaign headquarters on

Kings Road, I could feel the electricity in the air, the operation of the campaign machine and the everyday activities of candidate Dan McTeague or Dan as we called him. His enthusiasm and rich humour cheered everyone up in the campaign, even at moments when everyone was completely tired. Accompanied by his assistants and volunteers, Glen Bradbury, Luch Durante,



*Dan! It's done!*

Frank, Mark, Matt, Bern, Sindy and many other terrific people, Dan was running not only for re-election, but for convincing victory over his competitors. And I was very glad to be, if only for a short period of time, a member of this campaign team.

Standing up for you, the title for this article, is the motto of Dan McTeague's, of which he is proud. At one time, Dan went against his own party, defending the interests of his constituents. He voluntarily gave up his pension and introduced a number of private members' bills, two of which became law.

The campaign was very competitive with sign wars, public debates, vigorous canvasses and many other activities. About 40,000 people were contacted and more than 15,000 doors were knocked on during the personal canvass. A very interesting moment in the campaign was the visit to the riding of PC Leader, Jean Charest. It was interesting to observe the reaction to the visit by both the Liberals and

Reform Parties. In order to describe the campaign in detail, I would have to write a novel and maybe one day I will, but for the present, what I can say is that this was an outstanding experience for me. I will remember the

campaign for a very long time. June 2nd turned out to be a late night and a fantastic victory party. Dan McTeague and many, many of his friends celebrated Dan's victory in the election where he received 53% of all votes.

At present, I am working in the offices of my MP Dan McTeague in the House of Commons. This is the continuation of my experiences of last year as a member of CUPP '96 and yet there are some new and interesting things I have learned. It was very exciting for me to meet the staff of my MP from last year, to meet some old friends and to feel something of a *deja vu* walking through the halls of parliament.

Another interesting event for me was the visit of Ukrainian Prime Minister Pavlo Lazorenko. My colleague, Roman Didenko (CUPP '96) and I met our Prime Minister at Ottawa Airport and attended the press conference in the National Press Club.

We had an opportunity to speak with the Prime Minister and to ask him questions during the press conference.

At these and other events in Ottawa, I met with representatives of the Ukrainian-Canadian community, some of whom I met last year. Almost all now know about the CUPP Program. What is interesting is that the CUPP Program is



L-R: Dan McTeague, Boris Kormich, Mrs. & Mr. McTeague, Glen Bradbury

much better known in Canada than in Ukraine. This is the result of the hard work of our Program Director Ihor Bardyn and his group of volunteers. He created the Program and has been running it for more than 7 years now and I am grateful for the opportunity given to me. I applaud the initiative of this outstanding program which I and many of my colleagues consider to be the best kind of aid that Canada can give to Ukraine.

But on the other hand, there is the unfortunate fact that CUPP Alumni, after returning to Ukraine, seem to melt back into the society and have done little to preserve and develop the knowledge and information which they have

gained from the CUPP experience in Canada. And so I am more and more convinced that the creation of an association of CUPP Alumni is very important as it will help us to become a more effective force back in Ukraine. I have heard discussions about this for sometime, but I truly believe that this is the year that we will do it.

*Boris Kormich  
University of Odesa,  
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My MPs:  
Clifford Lincoln ('96)  
Dan McTeague ('97)*

## A WEEK OF ELECTION CAMPAIGNING IN SASKATOON



*Phone Canvassing*

After spending almost three weeks of our CUPP internship in Toronto and in Ottawa, I was one of the lucky students who travelled westward to the province of Saskatchewan. Lucky, because I had an opportunity to see and experience a different part of Canada. It is not easy to describe my westward journey in one sentence so here goes my narrative.

On May 24th our group of five students left Ottawa for Winnipeg on Greyhound Airlines. On arriving in Winnipeg, we switched to a Greyhound bus and began a 12 hour journey overnight to Saskatoon. We arrived in Saskatoon the next day and this is where the next chapter of my stay in Canada began. It was a truly exciting and eventful chapter.

Our group was billeted in the

Mohyla Institute in Saskatoon. Shortly after our arrival at the institute, all five of us were taken to three candidates offices. Two of us were assigned to observe the campaign of the NDP Party and its representative Chris Axworthy. Two others were taken to the campaign of Reform Party candidate Elwyn Hermanson. My partner, Cirilo Shevchenko from Hortivka, and I were sent to the campaign office of a young PC candidate, Richard Gabruch. Since you're reviewing this carefully, the extra student came from Calgary, where five other students were sent earlier.

It was clear from the beginning that our candidate was aware that he had an up-hill battle in this campaign. This can be explained by two reasons: this was his very first political campaign and secondly, his party was associated

with unfavourable stories and scandals as a result of the provincial PC party's rule some years ago.

During the election campaign I noticed a specific feature of voting in Canada. Many electors do not necessarily vote for the candidate, but for the party which the candidate represents. In other words, eventually the winner is not necessarily the candidate who deserves the victory in his riding but the candidate who represents the most popular party.

Richard Gabruch campaigned on the principle that he was the best candidate and did not count on his party to elect him. His campaign literature was printed like a newspaper and detailed his resume, family photos and a list of achievements in sports, education and community service. I liked this idea very much because I was used to the practice that Ukrainians back home usually vote for candidates with extraordinary accomplishments and a bright future. But then I realized that this approach was too naive for a campaign in which five parties were represented.

Mr. Gabruch comes from a Ukrainian family with a rather original surname. I had an opportunity to observe that Ukrainians did not vanish in Canada even through many generations. There were seven children in the Gabruch family, Richard being the youngest, and it is not therefore a surprise that the name Gabruch speaks to many electors in the Saskatoon-Rosetown-Biggar Riding.

My observation and participation in the campaign was made up of various activities. On the first day my colleague and I were busy dropping campaign literature. Next morning we spent putting up signs along the roads. The next three days of the campaign were dedicated to telephone canvassing. Each activity had a purpose and was useful and informative. During the campaign, we met Canadians face to face, at the doors and visited the affluent and not so affluent areas of Saskatoon. I was surprised by the number of Ukrainian surnames which I found on the voter's list as well as in the telephone book.

According to campaign strategy, our candidate made an effort to meet people in public places and to do door-to-door canvassing as much as he could both in the city and in the countryside as well as in the rural areas. We accompanied the candidate when he visited a local secondary school as well as on his visits to churches as well as Ukrainian community centres. The most memorable day was Thursday, June 30th. Mr. Gabruch took us to a Mennonite colony. It is a visit I will not soon forget. The originality, cleanliness and orderliness of the colony impressed me greatly. On the way back from the Mennonite colony, we visited several farms.

During our week in Saskatoon I met almost all members of the Gabruch family. They all pitched in to

give their brother a hand in his campaign.

Election day was the most exciting, especially when the election results began to come in. By 7:00 p.m. the campaign office was filled with campaign workers, friends and relatives who came to follow the results of the election. Unfortunately, the results did not even meet the expectations which Richard had for third place and in the end he placed fourth.

The election procedures in Canada do not differ that much from that in Ukraine, however there is one big difference, namely that Canadians go to sleep knowing the results, whereas in Ukraine the results are not known for days and weeks.

Living in Saskatoon after several weeks in Toronto and Ottawa, I had the feeling that I had come to a Swiss resort. In Saskatoon there was another lifestyle, that of a small city with a population of 200,000 people with lots of green space, the great unpopulated

prairies, farms and a true western spirit. Had I not visited Saskatchewan, I would have had a very limited knowledge about the size of Canada.

I can't help to mention my visits to the Ukrainian Museum and to the Museum of Western Development. As a result of the hospitality and helpfulness of Wendy who is the director of the Mohyla Institute, we had a chance to experience the night life in Saskatoon.

I am left with many vivid and strong impressions of Western Canada. I dare to say that the time spent in Saskatoon makes up the most romantic page of my CUPP '97 experience. My stay in Saskatoon was informative, pleasant and educational.

*Halyna Pastushuk  
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L-R: Halyna Pastushuk, Richard Gabruch, Cirilo Shevchenko

## SOME INITIAL OBSERVATIONS

The moment our airplane landed at Toronto Airport, I began to experience another culture, very different from the European one which I left behind. Everything seemed to be big here, the cars, the buildings and electronic advertising boards. The people seemed to be conservative, possibly because of the lengthy ties with Great Britain.

In Germany or Austria or Holland, I never saw a bicycle rider with a helmet. It's something new for me to see a policewoman riding a bicycle and wearing a helmet. People are different here. But they do not seem to be as stern as in Germany or not as stylish as in Austria.

The capitalist systems of Canada and Europe are somewhat different. Capitalism here is not so strict, and it has adopted some of the better aspects of socialism. The health system is free here and education is very cheap. Canadians pay taxes on every item they purchase and in return they receive social services.

But the downside of this scenario is that in return the government takes away a little bit of freedom from you. In Europe, it is more or less the same as here.

Canada is a beautiful country. Even in the downtown areas you see little parks and parkettes with so many squirrels that it's hard to believe that you are in the centre of a city and not in the wilderness.

What I like best about Canada is the safety and yet the diversity of the city and its citizens. There are many



*First Days in Ottawa*

ethnocultural groups living together but there is no "melting pot" pressure to assimilate as in the U.S.A. Canadians say they have a mosaic. They are left to develop their own culture if they wish to do so, yet there are no problems between ethnic groups as they seem to be united. They call themselves Canadians.

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How to apply to CUPP:

Please write or fax for a CUPP application to Chair of Ukrainian Studies Foundation

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