



NEWSLETTER

PROGRAMME PARLEMENTAIRE CANADA-UKRAINE - PARLIAMENTARY PROGRAM
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CUPP. What is Behind These Four Formal Letters ?

A decade, no a millennium, is drawing to a close. And there are milestones, achievements and new expectations to be considered. It has been eight years since the first Ukrainian university students arrived in Ottawa to begin their internship in the Canadian Parliament. Over 150 future Ukrainian politicians, diplomats, ministers, and cultural leaders have experienced parliamentary democracy, first hand. It has been seven years since the proclamation of Ukrainian independence. And over one hundred years of the Ukrainian diaspora's life in Canada.

It all began in 1991 when the independence of Ukraine was at last proclaimed. But it didn't happen all at once, or did it? We didn't go to bed, to sleep, in the USSR and woke up in an independent Ukraine? But in fact we did. The past was buried and a new life began. This new life was born with expectations and yearnings with which we have lived for, for many decades, dreaming and hoping, and finally it did arrive. Not my generation, of course, but some of us exercised, for the first time, their right to vote in an independent country. Some were still studying at school. There were those who signed the petition of the Ukrainian Helsinki group. There were those abroad, whose parents left Ukraine a long time ago and were brought up to be bilingual. Through fate, their second language, could be German or French or Spanish. In many cases it is English.

Our past existence and fate was, to co-exist separate and apart. But the future appears to be a path of co-existence and sharing a common culture. So we started to work for the future and we opened a new chapter in our life studies.

CUPP is part of this journey, this work in progress. Many people have made great efforts to create CUPP, to improve it, to allow a new generation



of Ukrainians with ideas and opportunities, to personally experience and effective democracy. I hope we have been good students.

But CUPP wasn't just an experiment in an internship in an effective democratic model. The sojourn in Canada was also an experience in a way of life, completely different from the political and cultural milieu at home. It was an incredible morale builder for returning to our homeland, equipped with what we had learned in the Canadian Parliament. One writer has said that Soviet power was not a regime - it was a way of life. Having had this soviet way

of life grafted into our hearts, it is not easy to begin to think differently, but I think we have managed to break that mindset and to begin thinking for ourselves. What we should never stop to work at, is with and on ourselves. Change begins with each and every one of us.

But CUPP was also a real challenge. It's an experience to move in with a new roommate and most of us did not know each other before we came to Canada. For most of us this was our first time abroad.

Now I have more than 30 new friends from all over Ukraine. I will

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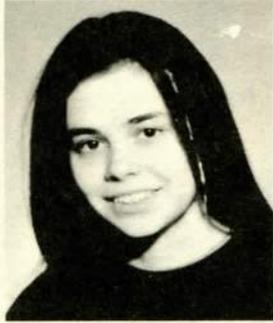
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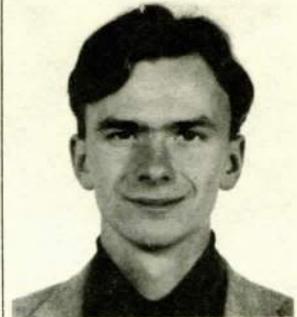




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CUPP. WHAT IS BEHIND THESE FOUR FORMAL LETTERS?

probably never become a Prime Minister or President, will never represent Ukraine in the United Nations nor receive the Nobel Prize. Most likely I will never write a best seller or the new Civil Code. But my experience in CUPP was both a political and a professional one. It was also a deeply personal experience as well. It helped me to learn about my fellow Ukrainian students and it helped me to better understand myself. Often it is more important to be yourself, to be a person than to be a lucky politician. The opposite may also be appropriate depending on what you are looking for in life.

We are all looking to the future. Our future, the future of the world and the future of Ukraine in it. The world is small and is becoming smaller. Not just because today it takes 10 hours to fly from Lviv to Toronto or a minute to dial a number in Ottawa, and in a few seconds have someone, thousands kilometers away, in Kyiv, answer the telephone. We are living on one planet and it doesn't matter whether you work in an office of an MP from Vancouver or vote for the future member of the Ukrainian Parliament in Zaporizhia. Or whether your occupation is in painting an icon or raising the next generation or simply dreaming. It all lies in the future. Probably, sometime ago, people only dreamt of an independent Ukraine. Of creating new opportunities for a new generation in an independent country, and some may have dreamt of being CUPP participants.

Now all of it has come true

Olga Dmytrenko

University of Kyiv CUPP '98
MP: Bernard Bigras (Quebec)

MY REFLECTIONS ON CONFLICT RESOLUTION

It was last day of Conflict Resolution. After all the lectures were given, all the role-plays were performed. It was time to say good-byes to our instructors. Everyone was thankful for all the knowledge that was gained and was excited about the many possible future applications.

What did we learn during Conflict Resolution? The first day of Conflict Resolution helped us identify the many conflicts which existed in Ukraine. We looked at the causes and possible consequences of those conflicts.

This activity gave us a real opportunity to communicate with other participants about our hopes and common concerns. As a group of 34 participants, it was not always possible to talk to each person. This organized activity gave us an excellent opportunity to have meaningful conversations, because in small group discussions everyone had the opportunity to express their opinions and be heard. One soon discovered that other participants had similar points of view and one could see evidence of new found trust and cooperation. During one of the Conflict Resolution sessions, I learned that small group discussions were used to gather participants around a positively centered activities. Due to its effectiveness, it was widely used in conflict mediation sessions.

During the three days of Conflict Resolution, we studied and practiced the main principles of mediation and the role of the Third-Party Neutral. One of most important principles we learned was called, "process and not content". As a Third-Party Neutral, participants were encouraged to focus on the process of mediation rather than the problem being mediated. This principle appeared simple, but its application was complex. With practice, the participants gradually learned this important principle.

Though the Conflict Resolution sessions had a slow start beginning with an explanation of the main mediation

principles, it quickly moved to practical exercises. Most participant found these practical exercises both fascinating and stimulating. We were engaged into brainstorming, role-playing, discussion and continuous group and self evaluation. These exercises demanded full participation and creativity of all participants.

With each exercise, we had to play diverse roles, everything from being a mayor of a town to being a boat captain. We argued our points of view and we practiced mediating solutions that were acceptable to all parties involved. Sometimes our role was to remain silent and observe the discussion of other participants. Most participants enjoyed these role-plays. This was evident when discussion about them continued hours after the actual activity.

The finale lecture by Vern Redekop about the deep-rooted conflicts was an excellent conclusion to a week of Conflict Resolution. Vern described many causes and effects of deep-rooted conflicts. He did not present solutions, instead, he gave us the tools to recognize and to begin the resolution process. Listening to his speech, I realized that conflicts existed at many levels: from the minor conflicts between family members to major world conflicts between superpowers. However, all these conflicts had very similar roots.

Leaving St. Paul University, I really appreciated the important things we had learned. Ukraine is currently facing many challenges because there are many unresolved conflicts. Many people in our country lack security, recognition and connectedness. Reflecting on these experiences, I hope that we will all be able to apply our newly acquired knowledge. Working together, I am sure that we can create positive solutions to the many challenges facing Ukraine.

Eugene Voloshchenko,

Luhansk Pedagogical
University



CANADA RECEIVES STUDENTS FROM UKRAINE

As one of thirty-four Ukrainian university students, chosen for the 8th Canada-Ukraine Parliamentary Program, I would like to share with my colleagues and friends some impressions about CUPP'98 and the possibilities it offers.

When applying for CUPP I had to complete a lengthy application, and to chose a topic of interest, which I could research in Canada. In Ukraine, in addition to my school work, I worked in a private law office doing practical chores. Looking forward to my trip to Canada, I chose contract

law and investment law to research. Both are areas which need to be improved in Ukraine, as without a functioning and well defined legal and economic framework and climate, neither foreign nor local investors will invest or work in the existing system.

With full access to the House of Commons parliamentary library, I was able to read and study important legislation such as the Multilateral Agreement on Investment(MAI), the North American Free Trade Agreement(NAFTA), and the

Investment Canada Canada Act.

As well I wanted to learn as much as possible about Canada, and how such a large and diverse country is governed and managed. In the House of Commons

I worked in the office of Inky Mark, of the Reform Party who represents the riding of Dauphin-Swan River, Manitoba. His riding has a significant number of Ukrainians, and the National Ukrainian Festival takes place in Dauphin each summer. The Festival attracts tourists from across North America an even Ukrainian Groups perform there.

I attended sessions of Question Period, Standing Committee Meetings, and other parliamentary Sessions and political scrums.

I had the opportunity to work directly with my MP, and to observe how he divides his time between preparation for his parliamentary work and his constituency work. He took time to work with the Ukrainian constituents, and spoke out in Parliament about the tragic Famine of 1932-33, imposed by the existing government on Ukraine.

But CUPP is not all work. We had the opportunity to meet with Prime Minister Jean Chretien at his

home, with former Governor-General Roman Hnatyshyn, and representatives of the Atlantic Council of Canada(NATO), the Ambassadors of Germany and Ukraine, representatives of the Embassies of Japan, the U.K. and USA., Ukrainian Credit Union, the Royal Bank of Canada,

and the former Premier of Ontario Bob Rae. Mr. Rae was a most interesting and informative speaker, and in addition to being a lawyer he is also a university professor.

CUPP'98 exceeded my expectations and I would like to thank everyone who contributed to the organization of it, especially the Director Ihor Bardyn and his volunteers Oleh Hordienko, Wasyl Kereliuk, James Ha, and all others. Thanks to my MP, Inky Mark and his staff. I and many of my fellow CUPP'98 interns now recognize the main goal of the Canada-Ukraine

Parliamentary Program: to create an educated group of leaders for Ukraine.

Thanks CANADA!

Andriy Strouk
University of Lviv, Faculty
of Law,
My MP: Inky Mark

ABOUT CANADA



At the outset I would like to thank the CUPP Director, co-ordinators and volunteers who made CUPP'98 such a memorable experience. Your benevolence and desire to do good for Ukrainian students is amazing and very appreciated. CUPP'98 gave us an excellent opportunity to grow and mature in our knowledge, our outlook on life, to gain experience, and generate new ideas. CUPP gave us added incentive to study and work to change our world. It helped us gain new confidence and to believe in our future.

What I liked best about Canada is the freedom which one experiences everywhere; in everyday life, and in the interaction among people.

I grew up in the former Soviet Union. It was therefore important for me to see and experience life on the outside. I have been to several European countries, but never had the opportunity to live and study there. In Canada I had an opportunity, during my intern-

ships in the Ontario and Canadian Parliaments, to become acquainted with the precepts of a Parliamentary Democracy and to do research in one of the best libraries in the world.

I like Canadian patriotism and pride of Canadians in their country. We Ukrainians have much to learn from Canadians in this regard.

I like the fact that so much in Canada is based on sound and constructive principles. Most often the good rather than the bad is stressed here. This generates optimism which is contagious. You can see it in peoples faces. There probably is not a person in Canada, or so it seems to me, who won't smile, who won't share a funny story or joke, or who would not be friendly and helpful to you. My Canadian experience has given me the incentive to travel and to meet with many people and get to know other cultures and societies. I very much appreciate the man-

ner in which the importance and respect for every individual is stressed and respected in Canada, no matter whether a person is handicapped or an elite athlete.

I like the Canadian manner and environment, and the way it is maintained in the country.

These past two months in Canada, working in the Ontario Legislature and the House of Commons, living at Leblanc Residence of the University of Ottawa, and working with and among Canadians have been an experience of a lifetime.

Thank you Canada! Maybe someday, I will be able to repay at least in a small way your generosity and kindness. See you soon, Eh!

Anna Kossiv

University of Lviv, 5th year
Foreign Languages
My MP: Peter Milliken
My MPP: Gerard Kennedy
My Team: Atlantic



Ukrainian culture, language, national self-consciousness and historical memory have been subject to so much damage for so long, that we must apply enormous effort to revive them.

Leonid Krawchuk
President of Ukraine
(1991-1995)

The Ukrainian Constitution, which was adopted in 1996, declared Ukrainian as an official language in Ukraine. "Ukrainian state provides development and functioning of the Ukrainian language in all spheres of the public life on the territory of Ukraine.

Thus the first step on the long journey of the Ukrainian language and towards historical justice, was taken after more than 80 years of russification of Ukraine.

It isn't hard to overestimate the role of Ukrainian diaspora in the West in preserving Ukrainian culture and especially language during the years of Soviet Rule.

But even now, the situation with Ukrainian language in Ukraine, is far from being adequately settled. That is why this is not the time, for Ukrainians in Ukraine and overseas to lay down their arms.

The Ukrainian language is not the only one of the means of communication among people. It is the very heart and soul of the Ukrainian national identity, self-consciousness and culture. Only a person fluent in Ukrainian can identify himself or herself with the Ukrainian nation. In modern nation-states, it is common for only one language to be treated as the national or standard, taught in schools, used in the public sphere.

The status of the Ukrainian language as the official language

in Ukraine is problematic. As the result of the russification policy of succeeding Soviet governments, the Russian language is used by the half of Ukraine's population. Although Ukrainians outnumber Russians ethnically (73% vs. 22%), Ukrainians are in linguistic minority (43% vs. 57%). Unfortunately, the Ukrainian government cannot pay the required attention to deal with this linguistic deficiency now. Hopefully, Ukrainians overseas, having preserved Ukrainian culture once, will help to bring it back to the people of Ukraine yet a second time, in order to become *bezbatchenky* in Taras Shevchenko's words. Today, in the Ukrainian parliament, there are voices raised against "Ukrainization". That is against the process of the introduction of the Ukrainian language in all spheres of public life in Ukraine. But this process is not so much about Ukrainization of Ukraine as de-russification of Ukraine, and attempt to bring back to the people the culture and language which was so violently taken from them by the Soviet authorities in Moscow.

Ukrainians in Ukraine are less nationally conscious than those in the diaspora. The diaspora can share its persistence in the struggle for a Ukrainian national identity with the population of Ukraine.

I hope, that we, Ukrainians of Ukraine and of other countries, will be able to preserve the Ukrainian language and that our successors will inherit it in its full beauty and purity.

Andrew Astapov
Faculty of Law
University of Zaporizhia

МАГІЧНЕ КОЛО КИЇВ-ТОРОНТО-ОТТАВА-ТОРОНТО-КИЇВ

Сьогодні вже другий День мого перебування вдома, на українській землі. Зустріч з рідними, друзями і просто сусідами, які питаються: "Ну як вона - Канада?"

І згадуючи останні десять тижнів на розум приходить фраза: "О це магічне коло - життя" і сотні думок, спогадів одночасно.

Прокинулась сьогодні у чудовому настрої-приснились Оттава, Палата Громад, Оттавський Університет та наш повний шуму гуртожиток, La Blanc Residence.

Зараз вже трудно усвідомити, що ще три місяці тому я й гадки не мала про щас, тепер вже рідних учасників КУПП-99, про Інститут Св. Володимира, де ми почували себе як вдома, про пана Керелюка та пані Ганну сповнених любов'ю та турботою до кожного з нас, не знала українську громаду в Торонто, не знала й не бачила багато чого іншого.

Час пролетів дуже швидко і кожен з нас напевно шкодує про щось не зроблене, дуже важливе з точки зору теперішньої, пост-канадської свідомості, про щось, чому не приділив особливої уваги раніше. Це ще раз свідчить про те, що ця програма є успішною і необхідною і всі ми намагалися проявити себе з найкращого боку, бо саме ми представляли нашу країну в Канаді, саме по нас складала свою думку про Україну канадійці.

Надовго запам'ятаються мені ці насичені подіями дні на канадській землі, робота в офісі спочатку в Провінційному Парламенті, а пізніше і в Палаті Громад, години проведені в бібліотеці в пошуках інформації для дослідження "Страхова промисловість в Канаді", засідання Question Period, вечірка на честь одноріччя з дня перемоги у виборах Ліберальної Партії - "Liberal Mania"...

Неможливо перерахувати всі офіційні зустрічі, на яких ми були присутні. Розкажу лише про найяскравіші з них: незапланована зустріч з Прем'єр-Міністром Жаном Кретьєном, зустріч з сенатором Регіною Андрійчук, з бувшим генерал-губернатором Реймондом Джоном Гіатишиним, з священником Черевським, з послом України в Канаді паном Володимиром Фуркало, зустрічі з представниками British High Commission.

SOME AFTERTHOUGHTS OF CUPP'98

Our internship in the Parliament of Canada has ended. But from April until July, I had the opportunity to observe life in the country where "a bad day is better than a good day in any other country of the world". This was the first expression which I recalled, upon my return to Ukraine and reread My CUPP'98 application.

Canada surpassed my most optimistic expectations, and the Canada-Ukraine Parliamentary Program turned out to be the best and fondest starting point of my adult life.

My stay in Canada left me with many impressions. I was enchanted with the beauty of the nature, by the contrasts in architecture and ethnocultural diversity of the 3 cities I visited (Ottawa, Montreal and Toronto), and of



course by Canadians and their attitude towards their homeland and their attitude towards us.

I observed the "quiet patriotism" of Canadians, about which I heard from CUPP Alumni, before coming to Canada. And it is fascinating how much I have taken to heart this positive attribute, and how much my attitude towards my homeland and its future has changed. After comparing notes and impressions with other CUPP'98 Alumni, I realize that I am not the only one to be affected in this way. We are all a part of great changes and we share simi-

which have given us inspiration and renewed determination for positive changes in Ukraine. CUPP has inspired me to continue my education, to learn more about issues which I could not have imagined I'd be interested in before participating in CUPP'98.

The task before us is not to lose faith in ourselves, now that we are back in Ukraine, and dispersed throughout this largest of European countries.

The empty benches of the House of Commons remind me that our stay in Canada is coming to an end.

On our final night in Canada we sat in the Ontario Legislature to hear each of our names called to receive our CUPP Certificates. And I remember how united and confident we felt during those closing ceremonies, how

new bonds were forged among the 34 Ukrainians from every region of our country.

Each time I think about CUPP'98 I want to applaud Canada, Ihor Bardyn and the generous donors to the CUPP program who made our trip to Canada possible.

Thanks to every Canadian for the unforgettable memories which will remain with me forever.

Antonina Tereshchenko

Luhansk Pedagogical University
Foreign Languages, 5th year
My MP.: Michelle DOCKRILL
(Nova Scotia)

Atlantic Council, відвідування Royal Bank, Української Кредитової Спільки, посольств Німеччини та України в Канаді.

Окремо треба сказати про наше "позапарламентське" життя, про чергування в cooking team, яке допомогло нам краще пізнати одне одного і проявити свої кулінарні здібності, про репетиції хору КУПП-98, про наші щотижневі так звані "Education Activity Day", під час яких ми дізнавались щось нове з життя та устрою цієї держави.

А ось приходить weekend і ми всією групою пливемо на пароплаві на острів біля Торонто, або мчимо на велосипедах через Parkway Sector до озера, чи відпрацьовуємо Voluntary Work, пізніше вирушаємо в подорож до надзвичайного зовсім не схожого на Оттаву чи торонто Монреалю з його заплутаними вуличками та площами, який несподівано нагадав мені Київ, а далі повертаємось втомлені, але задоволені з Couch Trip, і знов понеділок, знов зранку в офіс, працювати.

Невже все це позаду?

Невже вже два дні, як літак компанії "Air France" вирушив з аеропорту в місті Торонто за рейсом Торонто-Париж-Київ? Зараз вже й не віриться, що стільки подій промайнуло за такий короткий час, але з нами залишаються досвід і вірні друзі, з'являються досвід та нові ідеї та наміри.

Мені дуже запам'яталися слова директора програми, пана Ігоря Бардина, звернені до всіх учасників КУПП-98 під час офіційної церемонії закриття програми та урочистої видачі сертифікатів: "Для когось ця програма була початком для когось продовженням його діяльності, але для всіх вас-це крок вперед".

Отож, будемо рухатись в одному вірному напрямку-вперед!

Досягнень, я вірю буде багато і ще не раз зможуть бути гордими за нас Фундація Українознавчих Студій, директор програми Ігор Бардин, українська діаспора в Канаді та всі добровольці, що працювали на КУПП-98, без яких ця програма була б неможливою.

Щиро від всього серця дякую всім Вам за цю можливість-пізнати світ своїми очима.

Оксана Слободянюк
CUPP-99

My MPP: Doug Rollins
My MP: Andrew Telegdy



CUPP99 IN BUDAPEST

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CUPP '98 Students meeting with Prime Minister Jean Chretien and M.P. Lou Sekora.



CUPP '99 Students in Toronto at St. Vladimir Institute (May 1999)

Political analysis of Leonid Kuchma's speech on the eve of the 50th anniversary of NATO

In his speech on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, Ukrainian President, Leonid Kuchma, underlined some very important points. First, Mr. Kuchma has a strong conviction that NATO is 'not only a defense alliance, but also a guarantor of democracy and the most important instrument for security and stability in the Euro-Atlantic region.' This is very important as the Ukraine continues to become more politically-independent by developing closer ties with western democracies. Kuchma also highly praises NATO's peacekeeping efforts and made sure to emphasize the Ukraine's contribution.

The fact that Ukraine's president thinks like he does is very significant. I commend him for his political bravery, because there are many controversies raging, especially in Russia, concerning NATO's influence on the world. Therefore, that's a feather in his cap that he maintains such a strong and progressive political conviction.

While full of praise for some of NATO's policies, Kuchma is still able to see the limits of co-operation with NATO. Even though he talks a lot about various partnership programs, Kuchma does not mention a word regarding the possibility of joining NATO. Another very significant fact is that if Ukraine were to become a member of NATO, it would mean the direct contact between the former cold war blocks-- the Warsaw Pact and NATO, and nobody knows what would happen then. So now Ukraine plays a rather special role of political buffer between those two former foes.

I would describe Mr. Kuchma's speech as a very well thought out and diplomatic. Understanding the current political situation in the world, he tries to present Ukraine to the rest of the world as a democratic and friendly European country. That's what I really appreciate in his speech. While I don't entirely agree with Mr. Kuchma's policies and strategies for Ukraine, he did present a good speech with quite a few crucial points which, if implemented, may bring about many changes in the political life of Ukraine.

Roman Zhovtulya
Lutsk Technical University
Team Atlantic
My M.P.: John Williams (St. Albert, Alberta)
Vasyl Kerehliuk Scholarship Recipient

Україна - Канада: ~~Мости наводять студенти~~

24 серпня 1991 р. Верховна Рада проголосила незалежність України, яку підтвердили наші співвітчизники на референдумі першого грудня. Цей переломний в історії рік співпав зі святкуванням у Канаді століття української еміграції. Від-святкувати ці події канадці вирішили створенням нових програм та проєктів.

Фундація кафедри українознавчих студій подала ідею відзначити столітній ювілей започаткування Парламентської програми «Канада-Україна», яка розрахована на студентів університетів

України.

Нещодавно завершилася восьма щорічна Парламентська програма, в якій цього року брали участь 34 студенти з університетів різних регіонів України. Це вже втретє луганські студенти їдуть стажуватися в канадському парламенті. Кількість учасників з Луганська збільшується кожного року. П'ять студентів Луганського державного педагогічного університету мали нагоду здобути досвід у галузі державного управління, роботи законодавчої влади, вдосконалити своє знання англійської та французької мов, познайомитися з культурою іншої країни.

Парламентська програма «Канада-Україна» покликана виховувати українську еліту. Учасники ППКУ попередніх років, серед них були теж наші студенти, не лише успішно завершили програму, а й були нагороджені престижними стипендіями.

Хотілося б відзначити, що саме стажисти з ЛДПУ приємно вразили організаторів, членів канадського парламенту та інших учасників гарним володінням англійською мовою, своїм щирим ставленням та відданістю програмі. Ми брали участь у багатьох політичних зустрічах, наше стажування відбувалося у різних офісах, але ми працю-

вали, як одна команда, підтримуючи один одного.

Два місяці програми пролетіли дуже швидко. Наприкінці програми я отримала почесну нагороду: стипендію імені родини Мазуренко, щоб працювати в програмі наступного року як її координатор. Усі учасники програми отримали сертифікати, що підтверджують стажування. А наша делегація - це й особисту подяку від директора програми пана Ігоря Бардина.