

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 1

MAY 2003

On July 16th, 1990 the Ukrainian Parliament adopted the Declaration of Sovereignty which declared that Parliament recognized the need to build the Ukrainian state based on the Rule of Law. On August 24, 1991 the Ukrainian Parliament adopted the Declaration of Independence, which the citizens of Ukraine endorsed in the referendum of December 1st, 1991. Also in 1991, Canadians celebrated the Centennial of Ukrainian group immigration to Canada. To mark the Centennial, organizations planned programs and projects to celebrate this milestone in Canada's history.

The Chair of Ukrainian Studies Foundation of Toronto decided to mark the Centennial by establishing the Canada-Ukraine Parliamentary Program for undergraduate university students from Ukraine. The Canada-Ukraine Parliamentary Program gives Ukrainian students an

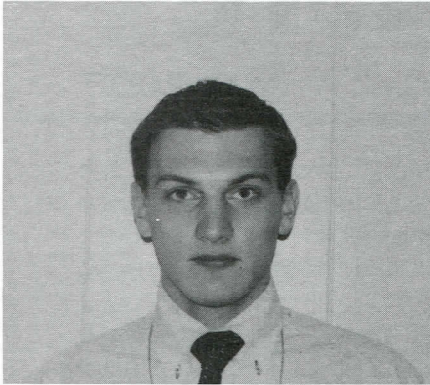
opportunity to work and study in the Canadian Parliament, and gain experience from which generations of Canadian, American and West European students have benefited.

On the basis of academic excellence, knowledge of the English or French and Ukrainian languages, and an interest in the parliamentary system of government, undergraduate university students from Ukraine can apply for a CUPP scholarship. It is hoped that CUPP will contribute to the education of future leaders of Ukraine. CUPP is a Parliamentary Democracy and Comparative Political Studies Internship Semester in the Canadian House of Commons. The Internship Semester lasts three months and takes place in the spring of each year in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.



Canada - Ukraine Parliamentary Program is sponsored by the Chair of Ukrainian Studies Foundation
620 Spadina Avenue Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5S 2H4 tel: (416) 234-9111, (416) 234-9114
www.katedra.org

Newsletter



Name: **Andriy Bilozir**

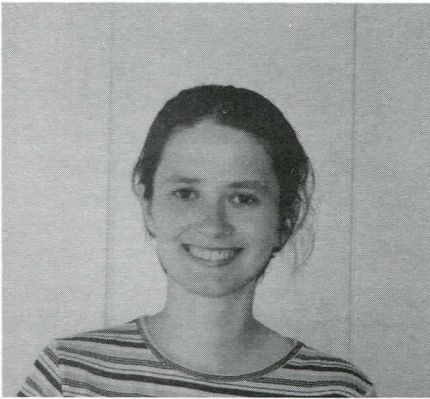
Place of Birth: Lviv, Ukraine

Place of Study: University of Kyiv

Major: International Private Law

Expectations: I hope

- to get an overview of the legislative system of Canada;
- to analyse the usage of legislative Canadian mechanisms with Ukrainian legislative mechanisms;
- to get a new knowledge for my bachelor research;
- to meet new people and understand their mentality.



Name: **Polina DYAKOVA**

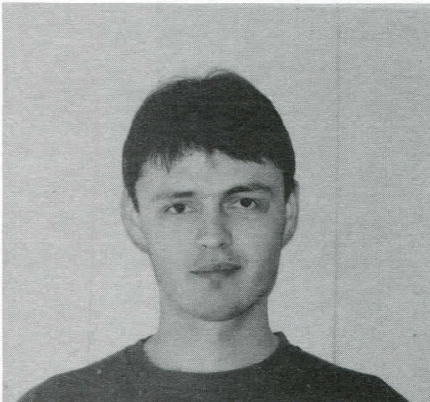
Place of Birth: Donetsk, Ukraine

Place of Study: International Christian University (affiliated with University of Vienna)

Major: Management and Information Systems

Expectations:

- to observe the functioning of a democratic parliament;
- to get experience of working in a political institution;
- to get acquainted with Canadian life and culture;
- to meet people who care about Ukraine and its future and are determined to contribute to it;
- to represent my native country and educate Canadians about Ukrainian culture.



Name: **Roman Ivashkiv**

Place of Birth: Stryi, Lviv Region, Ukraine

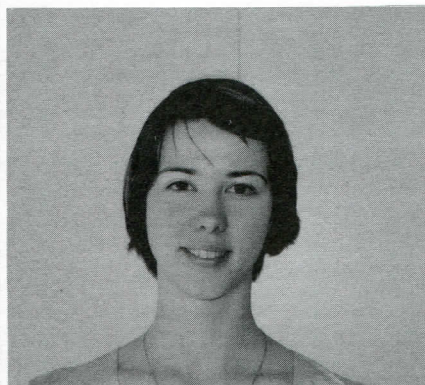
Place of Study: Ivan Franko National University of Lviv

Major: English and Translation Studies

Expectations:

- learn about the Canadian and Ukrainian parliamentary systems;
- enrich my knowledge of political science and other fields;
- pick up some political and economic terminology;
- establish new friendships and contacts;
- meet interesting people and make lots of friends;
- visit many cool places in Ottawa;
- find a scholarship in a Canadian school to continue my studies and get a master's degree;
- spend two superb months and have a lot of fun.

Newsletter



Name: **Olexandra Khaibullina**

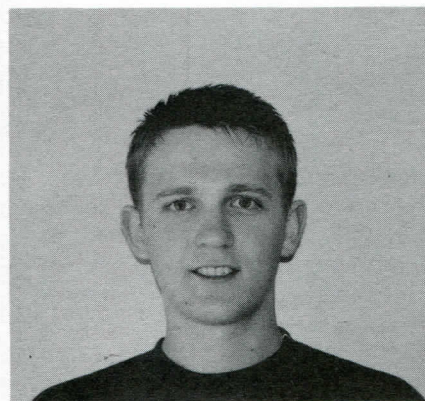
Place of Birth: Sebastopol, Ukraine

Place of Study: Crimean Business Institute

Major: International Law

Expectations: I hope

- to get experience in the area of administration;
- to improve my English;
- to get to know Canadian culture;
- to make friends with Canadians;
- to compare the life in Canada and Ukraine;
- to tell Canadians about Ukraine;
- to learn the political system of Canada.



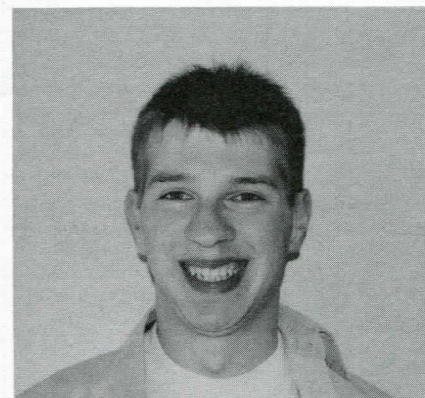
Name: **Oleh Krykavsky**

Place of Birth: Mykolaiv, Lviv Region, Ukraine

Place of Study: National University of Ostroh Academy

Major: Law

Expectations: During the program I hope to gain experience of working among people who formulate the future of Canada. I also hope to bring back with me, the experience of foreign communication techniques, which is what I believe to be one of the most prominent features of the modern world. I also enjoy every day living here, and am coming to understand the way we should go about creating the same political system, and society in Ukraine.



Name: **Antin Kushnir**

Place of Birth: Lviv, Ukraine

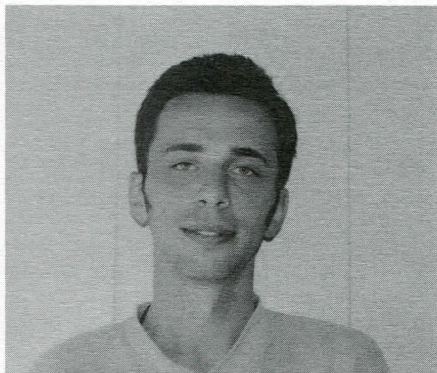
Place of Study: Danylo Halytsky Lviv National Medical University

Major: Paediatric Studies

Expectations: I strongly believe that my participation in the CUPP will give me an opportunity:

- to study and compare the national health care system in Canada with the Ukrainian one;
- to learn more about Primary Medical aid in a democracy;
- to see how the volunteer system normally works and borrow and transplant this experience to Ukraine.

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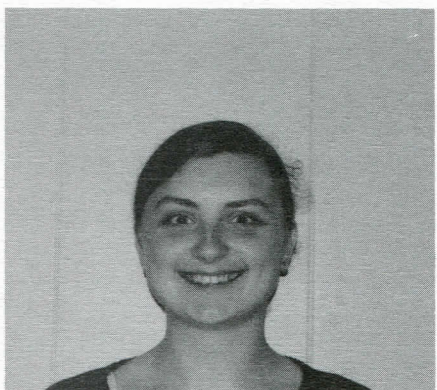
Name: **Nazar Kuzma**

Place of Birth: Lviv, Ukraine

Place of Study: Ivan Franko Lviv National University

Major: Geography and Environmental Studies

Expectations: I believe that my participation in the Canada-Ukraine Parliamentary Program will give me the opportunity to learn the political system of Canada, practice English in an English-speaking society and be immersed in Canadian culture and life. I also hope to get acquainted with environmental policy of Canada and its national parks system.



Name: **Natalia Kyyak**

Place of Birth: Ivano-Frankivsk, Ukraine

Place of Study: University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy

Major: Sociology and Economics

Expectations: This year I had an internship at Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine and now I'll have a chance to learn more about Canadian Parliament. In the future I'd like to work in some state institution and have a career connected with Ukrainian politics. I expect that both experiences will help me to accomplish my plans. I want:

- to experience the work of the Canadian Parliament;
- to improve my English;
- to get acquainted with the life of the Ukrainian Diaspora in Canada.



Name: **Olexandra Liuta**

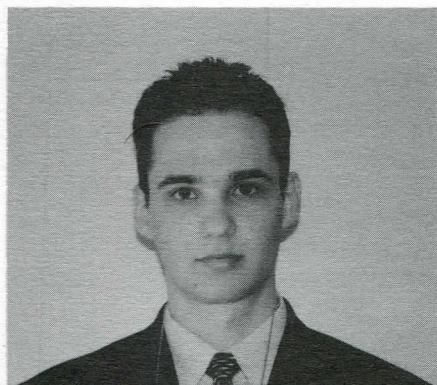
Place of Birth: Tysmenytsia, Ivano-Frankivsk Region, Ukraine

Place of Study: Vasyl Stefanyk Precarpathian University, Ivano-Frankivsk

Major: Foreign Languages

Expectations: I want to improve my English and while staying in the Canadian Parliament I want to get to know more about Canadian politics. Furthermore, I would like to compare the work of the Canadian and Ukrainian parliaments. I hope this will be a great practice for me and maybe in the future I'll put it into practice in Ukraine.

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Name: **Olexiy MALYI**

Place of Birth: Sebastopol, Ukraine

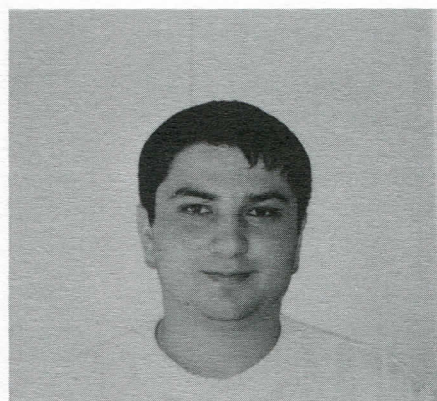
Place of Study: Yaroslav the Wise National Law Academy of Ukraine, Kharkiv

Major: Law

Expectations: I hope that the experience I gain during the CUPP program may help me in my future work as a lawyer at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine. I also believe it is a good opportunity for me to perfect my knowledge of the English language. Furthermore, I would like to learn more about:

- Canadians (their life, culture and traditions);
- Ukrainians (what circumstances help them to adopt the Canadian society);
- Compare the legal system of Canada (which is based on the Anglo-American legal system) and the Ukrainian one (that is based on the Continental legal system);

I believe that the knowledge gained in Canada will be useful for my work in Ukraine.



Name: **Muhammed Menzatov**

Place of Birth: Samarkand, Uzbekistan

Place of Study: National Aviation University, Kyiv

Major: Aerospace Engineering

Expectations: I believe that the Canada-Ukraine Parliamentary Program is a perfect chance for us to prepare and improve ourselves for the future. That is why I hope to gain as much as possible from our experience, during CUPP. From writing articles for the newsletter to volunteer work, I believe everything will be useful for me and the entire Ukrainian nation.



Name: **Tetiana Nedashkovska**

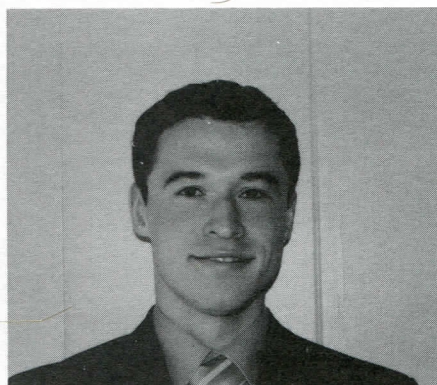
Place of Birth: Mykolaiv, Ukraine

Place of Study: Petro Mohyla Humanities University in Mykolaiv

Major: Environment Protection

Expectations: Divided into direct and indirect. The first ones are closely connected with my internship in the Canadian parliament. First of all, I want to get more information about ecological communities in Canada, their duties, rights and ways they deal with environmental problems. Moreover, I hope to make links not only with governmental ecological agencies, but also with non-governmental public organizations. Of course, if I manage to fulfil everything above mentioned, I will improve my language skills, get acquainted with cultural traditions and customs (one of them we have already experienced - the Tulip Festival) at the same time through intensive communication.

Newsletter



Name: **Yuriy Obriza**

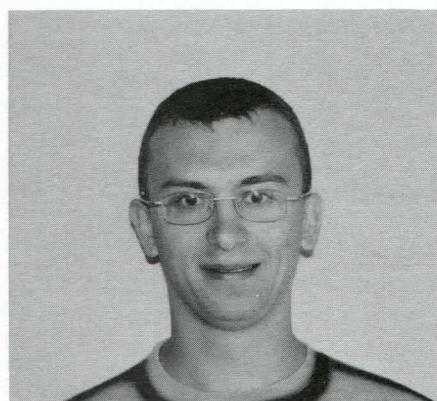
Place of Birth: Lviv, Ukraine

Place of Study: National University "Lvivska Politehnika", Lviv Institute of Computer Science and Technology.

Major: Computer Graphics and Design

Expectations: I truly expect from the CUPP:

- to become one of the stepping stones in my career;
- to gain a valuable experience while working in a parliamentary community;
- to see, smell and taste the dishes cooked at the kitchen of Canadian politics;
- to meet Avril Lavigne ;)



Name: **Andriy Prokhorov**

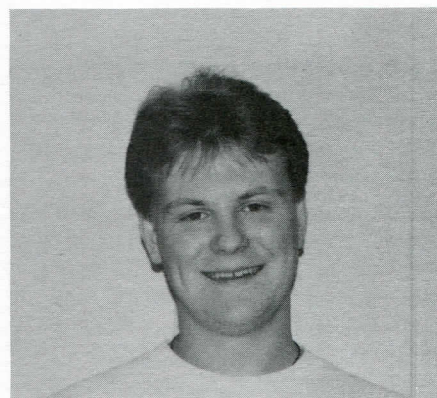
Place of Birth: Slavuta, Khmelnytsky Region, Ukraine

Place of Study: National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy

Major: Political Science

Expectations:

- to familiarize myself with the political system of Canada generally and with the Canadian foreign policy particularly as it is the sphere of my professional interest;
- to improve my English, namely my speaking skills;
- to acquire the experience of intercultural communication;
- to obtain information about educational opportunities in Canada;
- to make friends.



Name: **Andriy Romaniuk**

Place of Birth: Lviv, Ukraine

Place of Study: Ivan Franko University of Lviv

Major: International Relations; Law

Expectations:

- Experience for my future career;
- New knowledge in English;
- New feelings and emotions;
- New friends;
- New country and culture impressions.

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Nom: **Elina CHICHKINA**

Lieu de naissance: Kirovograd, Ukraine

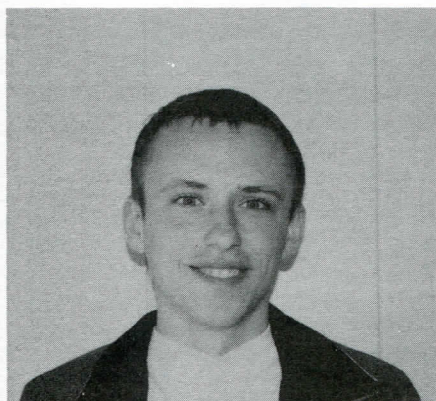
Lieu des études: L'Institut des relations internationales de l'Université Taras Chevtchenko à Kyiv

Major: International Law

Expectations: Premièrement, c'est une occasion formidable de m'exprimer de prendre connaissance avec des gens intéressants, de communiquer avec eux, de voir et de savoir beaucoup des choses très intéressants, faire le stage au parlement canadien. C'est une possibilité pour moi de faire connaissance avec le travail intérieur de l'organ législatif.

Deuxièmement, je voudrais prendre connaissance avec une autre culture, un autre pays différent de l'Ukraine, de savoir comment les gens vivent au Canada, quelles sont leurs préférences et leur point de vue sur les événements les choses différents. Et enfin, je voudrais que les gens au Canada sachent plus de culture ukrainienne, et surtout de l'Ukraine comme le pays méritant à être reconnu dans le monde.

Puis, c'est la pratique linguistique de deux langues : français et anglais. J'espère beaucoup de perfectionner mon français et augmenter le niveau de mon anglais.



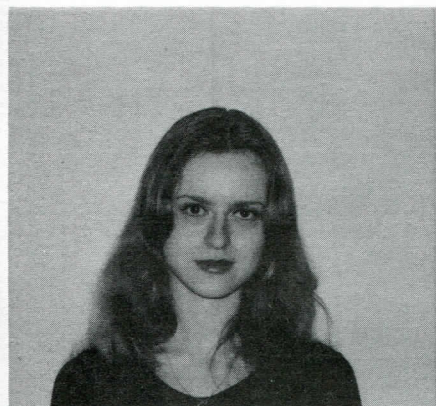
Name: **Olexandr Skulsky**

Place of Birth: Torez, Donetsk Region, Ukraine

Place of Study: Donetsk National University

Major: Economics and Law

Expectations: Firstly, I hope to improve my language skills; secondly, to get some knowledge in my specialization for comparative researches. Thirdly, I'd like to make new friends, cultural impressions.



Name: **Olena Skvirska**

Place of Birth: Luhansk, Ukraine

Place of Study: Luhansk Taras Shevchenko Pedagogical University

Major: Foreign Languages

Expectations: My first interest in participating in CUPP was prompted by the opportunity to experience a new culture, traditions and another society. To read is not enough: As a result, we get stereotypes which may dominate over reality and do not reflect our own thoughts. It often happens that when we see a place with our own eyes we perceive it in a quite different way than when we read about it. So, it's better once to see than 100 times to hear.

The next reason is English. As I hope to be a teacher in the future, I want to improve my English and to be the best in my profession.

And, of course, as we work in the Parliament, we will have a chance to see how the Canadian political system works, see the best aspects of it and realize what our Ukrainian system lacks and make our contribution to its development.

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Name: **Rustem Umerov**

Place of Birth: Samarkand, Uzbekistan

Place of Study: National Academy of Management, Kyiv

Major: Economy and Law

Expectations: Diversified and positive internship, full of rich and useful experience that could be put into practice upon my return to Ukraine.



Name: **Yulia Zabyelina**

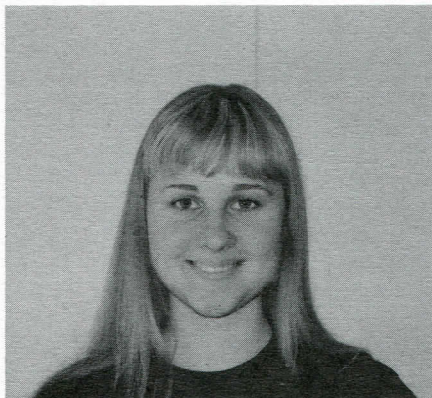
Place of Birth: Luhansk, Ukraine

Place of Study: Luhansk Taras Shevchenko National Pedagogical University

Major: Foreign Languages

Expectations: I hope to have the opportunity to further develop myself. This fulfils, to my mind, the most vital job of all. The problem is the contemporary Ukrainian society and the question of personal progress. These issues occupy much of my interest. For me the CUPP is like a wide-open door leading to the light, making me testify, memorize, perceive and share the best. I expect cooperation and interaction, which will allow for an understanding among people and countries. This in turn will further permit Globalisation to occur, a world system which is a guarantee of world peace. To crown it all, the CUPP is the program that gives me such an incredible jump-start to my career and self-perfection, placing the future prosperity of the country in the hands of the next generation.

Summing up, CUPP means for me both having a great and unforgettable time, as well as bringing benefit to society. It's a nice combination of subjective and objective factors, isn't it?



Name: **Anna Taranenko**, Ukrainian Coordinator

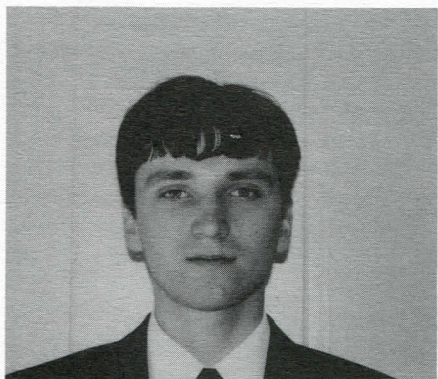
Place of Birth: Severodonetsk, Luhansk Region, Ukraine

Place of Study: Luhansk Taras Shevchenko Pedagogical University

Major: Foreign Languages and Literature

Expectations: I pride myself immensely on participating in Canada-Ukraine Parliamentary Program 2003 and contributing to the formation of new Ukrainian society leaders.

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Name: **Roman Tashleetsky**, Ukrainian Coordinator

Place of Birth: Rivne, Ukraine

Place of Study: Lecya Ukrainka University of Volyn, Lutsk

Major: Romance and Germanic Philology

Expectations: The CUPP is a group of talented and ambitious young people and I hope to benefit from joining their company. As a coordinator I'm eager to share with participants of the program the knowledge I obtained the previous year in Canada. I also believe this program will be even more fruitful in relation to establishing links with prominent Canadians and Ukrainians to ensure our future cooperation in favour of our countries.



Name: **Alexandra Zalucky**, Canadian Coordinator

Place of Birth: Toronto, Canada

Place of Study: University of Toronto

Major: Double Major in Political Science & Literature

Expectations: My main focus for the program is to ensure that the students get as much as possible out of their experience here in Canada. Not merely from a political perspective, but also culturally and socially, since these factors of a society are all interdependent. I believe we have all been given the opportunity of a lifetime, and I hope its positive effects will continue indelibly.



Name: **Halyna Zalucky**, Canadian Coordinator

Place of Birth: Toronto, Canada

Place of Study: University of Toronto

Major: Political Science Minor: History and Literature

Expectations: It is my expectation that the program will open the doors to opportunities that will lead to the successful futures the students all deserve.

Newsletter

LA POLITIQUE EXTÉRIEURE
DE L'UKRAINE

Mr. Yushchenko with Walt Lastewka, M.P., and senator Jerry Grafstein

WE SHALL HELP YOU TO SUCCEED!

by Oleh Krykavskyy, CUPP'03

National University of Ostroh Academy

My MP: Dan McTeague

On May 14th former Prime Minister of Ukraine Victor Yushchenko delivered a public lecture at the University of Ottawa. Twenty-five CUPP Interns attended the meeting. I would like to share with you some impressions of his speech.

Yushchenko's visit to Canada's capital raised several questions. First of all I wondered, why am I seeing Victor Yushchenko across the ocean and not in my homeland, where it was one of my wishes to do so? The answer sprang to mind- that it is the policy of the regime in power not to facilitate or make easier public meetings of the leader of the democratic opposition with the public.

Secondly, and I mentioned this to Victor Yushchenko during a brief exchange after the meeting, I wondered why at my University we only see or are invited to meetings with Leonoid Kuchma and never with spokesmen for the opposition? I wondered where is the political freedom, exchange of ideas, platforms of various parties, the diversity and democratic practices, guaranteed by our Constitution?

I agree with Victor Yushchenko that we still have a totalitarian regime in power in Ukraine. It is truly so, because we are not able to freely demonstrate our disagreement of the regime's actions. I know this from my experience as an official observer during the 2002 Parliamentary elections. And I observed how the right to a free vote can be limited or interfered with, by the regime in power.

And am convinced, that I do not want the rule of this regime to continue into the future. I do not want to surrender my homeland, to this regime. And I am persuaded that Victor Yushchenko is the person Ukraine needs. And neither he, nor we, should lose the chance to elect a truly democratic government in Ukraine. Mr. Yushchenko, be assured that we will help you to succeed. ■

by Elina Shyshkina, CUPP'03

University of Kyiv

My MP: Eleni Bakopanos

Le fil conducteur de cette partie de l'intervention de Victor Yushchenko consiste à ce que l'Ukraine doit enfin se définir avec son axe de politique extérieure et prendre les décisions, qu'on exige d'elle. On a cité une formidable expression sur ce thème que l'Ukraine est considérée comme un métronome qui hésite entre l'Est et l'Ouest. Et cette position porte préjudice à l'Ukraine. Il est nécessaire d'accepter les règles et commencer à vivre selon ces dernières. Il est important de «sentir l'Europe dans soi-même, mais pas soi-même en Europe», comme a fait remarquer M. Yushchenko.

Je suis d'accord. L'Ukraine a besoin de définir sa position et faire les réformes démocratiques nécessaires pour être un pays européen non seulement du point de vue géographique, mais aussi du point de vue politique.

Dans son intervention M. Yushchenko a touché les questions des relations bilatérales non seulement entre l'Ukraine et l'Union Européenne, mais aussi entre l'Ukraine et les États-Unis, ainsi que entre l'Ukraine et la Russie.

La Russie. Nous devons avoir les relations avec la Russie comme un partenaire en plein droit.

Les États-Unis dans le contexte de guerre en Irak. La fraction parlementaire « Nasha Ukraina » s'est prononcée pour le départ de notre bataillon radiochimique et biologique au Koweït, puisque sa position se base sur ce que cela n'entraîne pas l'Ukraine dans cette guerre, mais cela aidera à défendre la population civile en cas de l'attaque chimique.

Alors, qu'est-ce qu'on peut dire sur l'intervention de M. Yushchenko? Il s'est montré comme un vrai leader et l'homme en opposition, certaines de ces expressions et comparaisons étaient si justes et actuelles pour l'Ukraine, assez ouvertes. Toute l'intervention avait l'esprit courageux. On ne peut pas dire le même concernant ses interventions et ses interviews en Ukraine. Chez nous, on l'appelle comme l'homme de politique de compromis, qui n'est pas capable de se décider avec qui il est, ou avec le Président et son entourage ou bien avec l'opposition. Peut-être c'est la transparence et la sincérité de société canadienne qui a fait beaucoup d'influence sur lui? ■

Newsletter

UKRAINIAN DEMOCRACY IN CANADA

by Tetiana Nedashkovska, CUPP'03

Petro Mohyla Humanities University in Mykolaiv

My MP: Benoit Serre

"We don't play on rules we live on them"

Javier Solana

Canada is a country with transparent democracy where the rights of every citizen are ensured, freethinking and free speech are not only possible but also welcome, interaction between the government and the opposition actually exists, and internal and external policy is clearly and firmly defined. What can we say in the context of Ukraine? What can we say about its internal situation and its image on the international arena?

The leader of the major Ukrainian Parliamentary fraction "Nasha Ukraina", tried to answer some of the above-mentioned questions, at the meeting with the Ukrainian Diaspora, under the headline "External policy of Ukraine" conducted on May 14. At the beginning Mr. Yushchenko posed a rhetorical question, "what is taking place in Ukraine?" He described Ukrainian domestic policy in words such as: governmental corruption, lack of freedom of speech, "constant fight not to live but to die" between the government and the opposition, inaccessibility, unfrankness, turbidity. And even this list is not complete. In his report Mr. Yushchenko accentuated the domestic policy of Ukraine as the main reason for all the current problems in our country. The part of his report dealing with domestic policy he divided into two subparts: confrontation between the government and the opposition in the Ukrainian Parliament - Verhovna Rada, and elections.

Parliament. According to Mr. Yushchenko the Ukrainian Parliament is not a president-oriented branch, but quite the opposite, and a healthy opposition has been formed to act as a counterweight to the decaying president-oriented forces. Unfortunately, confrontation is in transition and total war is almost here. The government wastes resources on referendums, and introduces insane proposals as amendments in the Constitution of Ukraine. As well, Victor Yushchenko italicized the possible amalgamation of "Nasha Ukraina" and all opposition forces, in order to oppose the codification of those absurd proposals, into law.

Elections. Mr. Yushchenko emphasized the hope of "Nasha Ukraina" to unite all opposition forces to support an independent candidate in the Presidential elections in 2004. Concerning the next Presidential elections, it was pointed out that, compared with previous elections in Ukraine, the government will try to falsify the results, by any means, in order to win. Mr. Yushchenko quoted Stalin, who once said that the outcome of elections is determined not by those who cast the vote, but by those who count the vote. Unfortunately, this expression describes the elections in Ukraine where the falsification prevails and we seem powerless to prevent this. As the leader of the largest Parliamentary fraction in the Ukrainian Parliament, he underlined that "32000 polling stations need to be provided with independent observers" next autumn. ■

NOT THE WORD, BUT THE DEED

by Nataliya Kyyak, CUPP'03

National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, Kyiv

My MP: Allan Rock

This is a slogan of the most popular parliamentary block in Ukraine "Our Ukraine" ("Nasha Ukraina"). Last year, during the day of elections to the Parliament of Ukraine (Verkhovna Rada) I was one of the observers for "Our Ukraine". And of course it was a great honour for me and for my colleagues to meet Mr. Yushchenko, though not in the Ukrainian Parliament, but in the Canadian Parliament.

For me, the most significant moment came when 24 CUPP interns had our own meeting with Mr. Yushchenko (almost like parliamentary question period), had a chance to ask questions and to take photos with the former Prime Minister of Ukraine. Although our meeting lasted only about fifteen minutes, Mr. Yushchenko answered a number of questions.

One such important question was, about the steps that Ukraine needs to take today, to improve the standard of living in the country. The essence of his answer was that "The only and the most important thing we must do is to provide for democratic elections in the country".

Everybody understands that this means the next Presidential elections that will take place in autumn of 2004. And I think that one of the goals of the former Prime Minister's visit to Canada was to discuss the help of Canada and its support for free and democratic elections in Ukraine, to take place next autumn. I really believe that this statesman can improve the situation in Ukraine and I expect that Mr. Yushchenko will become the next President of Ukraine. ■



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VICTOR YUSHCHENKO LECTURE ON THE BUILDING OF THE SOCIETY UKRAINIANS DESERVE

by Yuliya Zabyelina, CUPP'03

Luhansk Taras Shevchenko National Pedagogical
University

My MP: Janko Peric

*"Canada's our partner
and we have colossal historical ties. One million people here
are of Ukrainian decent. Ukrainian political problems have
to be solved by Ukrainians, but it's important that we enlist
the influence of international political partners."*

Victor Yushchenko
(From an interview to The National Post)

Former Prime Minister of Ukraine, past governor of the National Bank, and the Leader of the "Nasha Ukraina" (Our Ukraine) parliamentary faction, which is the official opposition with 25 per cent of the popular vote in the last election, Victor Yushchenko, conducted a public lecture at the University of Ottawa on May 14, 2003. During his well-attended speech, he set out an ambitious plan for Ukraine's future foreign and domestic policy. He outlined the steps the opposition needed to take to build a land of ever-widening opportunity that would lead to a healthy economy and a better society. Yushchenko spoke of the challenges of defining Ukrainians as a nation, and Ukraine as a sovereign state. He raised questions about the current political, economic and cultural climate touching on the issues of: who we are and who we are not; the things we stand for and the things we oppose; and, what beneficial role we can play on the world stage as a democratic and

sovereign European state that is not dependent economically and ideologically on Russia. Yushchenko strongly believes that the time for Ukraine has come and his visit commences a new era in Ukrainian history, which promises greater prosperity and more opportunity for the unity of all Ukrainians both at home and abroad.

The lecture provided a summary for members of the Ukrainian community in Canada about the overall situation in the country. Yushchenko underscored that he sees Ukrainian society as having a strong national government which serves Ukraine and which will take the opportunities during this era of increased globalization to create new jobs and new business opportunities that will result in a higher standard of living for all. The purpose of the visit reinforced to the Canadian government that Ukraine is looking forward to maintaining positive relations with the country that was the first to support Ukraine after it gained its independence in 1991. By establishing and maintaining good ties with countries like Canada, Ukraine will further its goal of enhancing its image as an open country with much to offer the global village. He advocates using these positive ties to help encourage and attract more foreign investment, to strengthen cities and communities, and to improve the health care system in Ukraine.

In today's global economy Ukraine's success will depend on how well and how quickly it can resolve challenges associated with corruption and an independent media. Yushchenko arrives at the conclusion that with strong partnerships at the governmental level, with non-governmental and cultural organizations, and with individual Canadians, his national innovation strategy will lead to a prosperous Ukraine as a European country, underscoring the word "European." In closing, Yushchenko called for continued support to improve democracy, justice and social stability in Ukraine. ■



КАНАДА – УКРАЇНА

Прошло більше двох років, як я поїхав із рідної домівки до Київського аеропорту, щоб розпочати свою подорож до Канади, і як залишив Торонтський аеропорт, вертаючи додому. Тепер, повернувшись до звичайного складу життя, до повсякденних проблем, здається, що вже все розповів не один раз, хоча насправді це далеко не все, бо кожного дня пригадуєш щось нове, якусь дрібничку (не цікаву іншим, але для тебе найдорожчу в цю мить). Саме тепер, оглядаючись на те, що оточувало тебе упродовж двох місяців і стало таким звичайним, особливо хочеться поділитися враженнями та висловити подяку долі та людям, завдяки яким ця подія у моєму житті стала можливою...

Перш за все вразила країна своєю красою та природою. Вона виявилась саме такою, якою я її собі уявляв: простір, пагорби, ліси, дзеркальні озера, швидкі гірські річки, спокій. Взагалі відчуваєшся дуже дивно, коли зустрічаєш у повсякденному житті назви, особливості

культури й політики іншої країни, про які розповідали ще в школі. Тоді це було щось дуже далеке й незрозуміле, зараз – майже рідне.

Друге – це ставлення до людини. У Канаді відчуваєш величезну зацікавленість до тебе, з тобою бажають спілкуватися. Відразу пригадуєш очі дітей. Нас запросили до школи в Оттаві провести урок і розповісти дітям про свій край. Спочатку діти уважно вивчали тебе, а потім ще довго не хотіли відпускати.

Та не тільки діти починали засипати тебе питаннями, дізнавшись, що ти з України: продавці у магазинах, випадкові співбесідники, вже не кажучи про людей, з якими довелося працювати у Парламенті та виборчому офісі, а також їхніх знайомих та рідних. Але найяскравіше запам'яталася одна зустріч. Це трапилосядесь за день або два до відльоту. Був гарний сонячний день, і я вирішив піти у парк у Халлі, що розташований навпроти Міністерства закордонних справ, яке знаходиться на іншому березі річки Оттави. Я так захопився своєю подорожжю (міністерство вже було далеко позаду,

як і не одна година, проведена на відкритому повітрі), що коли вертався, то сонця вже не було, а вітер ставав дедалі неприємнішим.

Вирішивши відпочити (поперед було ще півтори години), я сів на лавку. Раптом біля мене присів дідусь і почав щось розповідати французькою, звертаючись до мене. Я відповів, що не розумію, а він вибачився і продовжив англійською (йшлося про погоду). Потім ми розговорилися, і я розповів, хто я такий, і що роблю у Канаді (зокрема, у цьому парку). Ще півгодини жвавої бесіди, і я вже почав тремтіти від холоду. Зауваживши це, він запропонував провести мене додому. А під кінець нашої зустрічі, звертаючись більше до себе, ніж до мене, він зауважив, що навіть і не уявляв, що зустріне молодого гостя з України. Це прозвучало так, ніби він дякував за це долі. Так, відчуваєш саме таке ставлення – як до гостя, бажаного гостя, на якого довго чекали.

Праця в Парламенті. Про Парламент вже багато писали, і що би я не сказав, - то обов'язково повторю когось. Сказати,

що це одна з
найкрасивіших споруд,
яку я бачив, що
найбільша, що він більш
схожий на музей і
галерею одночасно, ніж
на діючу установу, і що
люди, з якими
спілкуєшся, офіси, зала
засідань, бібліотека та
інше на межі нереального
– це все одно, що не
сказати нічого. З
певністю скажу тільки,
що в Парламент я ходив,
як на свято, і кожного
дня, проходячи повз його
будівлю, не втомлювався
розглядати цю пам’ятку
архітектури і знаходити у
ній щось нове.

Побачивши
Оттаву, дуже закортілося
побачити і решту Канади.
І завдяки організаторам
програми це стало
можливим: Торонто,
Монреаль, Ніагара
назавжди залишаться у
моїй пам’яті.

Подорожуючи
країною, не можна не
зауважити: майже на
кожному будинку
державний прапор, на
кожній величезній
споруді, яка є державною
установою – напис
„Канада” поряд із
прапором. Канадці дуже
люблять свою країну,
пишаються своєю
державою. І дивлячись на
це, увесь час постає
питання: а чому в Україні
такого немає?

Зараз Україна
налагоджує стосунки з
іноземними країнами, і у
багатьох її мешканців
з’являється можливість
відвідувати ці країни. Там
вони бачать ставлення
громадян до своєї
батьківщини, і у них (я
відчув це на собі) постає
питання: а чому ми нічого
не робимо для розвитку і
покращення становища у
нашій країні?

Друзі, які
повернулися із-за
кордону, скаржуться, що
їм теж бракує
національної свідомості,
яка допомагає
закордоном, і брак якої
там особливо
відчувається.

Може, вже настав
час шанувати свою
країну, пишатися своїм
походженням та ще й
іншим демонструвати
своє ставлення до
Батьківщини.

Дякувати Богу, є
люди, які відкривають
нам очі на стан речей та
допомагають у розвитку, і
велика їм за це шана.

Андрій Бабак,
Ізмаїльський
педагогічний
університет,
Ізмаїл, Україна

Andrew Babak
Izmail Pedagogical
Institute
CUPP ‘00
My MP: Nelson Riis



"Former Governor General Ray Hnatyshyn at 1999 CUPP Reunion in Kyiv together with Irene Hordienko, Katrusia Kohut, Pawlo Dorozynsky, Yaroslava Marusyk, Ihor Markuts, Julia Stefanishyn, Yaroslav Hordievich, Ivan Loun, Bohdan Lizohub, Roman Didenko, Olha Nychay, Kyrylo Shevchenko and Ihor Bardyn"

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