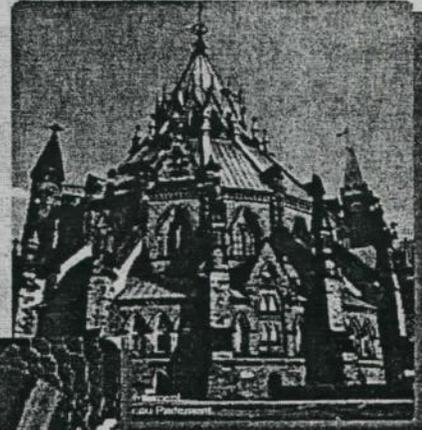


NEWSLETTER

# CANADA-UKRAINE PARLIAMENTARY PROGRAM

2001 Spring Edition



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### HISTORY OF CUPP

On July 16<sup>th</sup>, 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 Law. On August 24<sup>th</sup>, 1991 the Ukrainian Parliament adopted the Declaration of Independence endorsed in the referendum of December 1<sup>st</sup>, 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 2001 Group with Program Director Ihor W. Bardyn (far right) and Father Roman Galadza (center) in Toronto.*

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### CUPP Family is Growing

Sixteen undergraduate university students and four Ukrainian coordinators (last year's CUPP alumni) came to Canada this year to work on Parliament Hill as interns. Each Ukrainian intern worked in the office of an MP who had kindly agreed to host a summer student.

The interns worked with their respective MP's for two months and returned to Ukraine afterwards to promote democratic reforms in their own country. It is believed that the experience that they gained during their stay in Canada will become valuable and useful in their pursuit of political or other careers.

This is the 11<sup>th</sup> year of Canada-Ukraine Parliamentary Program and the family of CUPP is constantly growing. The group of 2001 consisted of 16 open-minded and goal oriented young people from all over Ukraine. The Chair of Ukrainian Studies Foundation conducted the selection process in a way, so that most of the regions of Ukraine would be represented. Many of the interns came from Western Ukraine, especially from L'viv. The rest were from Kyiv, Luhans'k, Odesa, Crimea, Dnipropetrov'sk, Donetsk and Poltava.

Prior to their arrival in Ottawa, CUPP 2001 group had an orientation session in Toronto where they met with the Ukrainian community in Canada. The group stayed at St. Vladimir Institute for a week where they were able to get acquainted with prominent Canadian Ukrainians.

All of the Ukrainian interns are very happy to receive this unique opportunity which The Chair of Ukrainian Studies Foundation had granted them. They are all convinced that this Program has to continue and the family of CUPP has to grow.



**"Democracy is the worst system of government except for the others"**

*Winston Churchill*

"I wish my father were alive to see the accomplishments of the Ukrainian community in Canada", said Ramon Hnatyshyn, May 25, 2001, at the annual meeting with the CUPP participants.

While looking through the window of "Gowlings Lafleur Henderson", Ramon Hnatyshyn reminisces about his past. The architecture of Rideau Hall brings him back to the most compelling time of serving as Governor General for 5 years. Parliament Hill reminds him of the active political life during his 14 years in the House of Commons. He stands up and approaches the opposite window pointing to the West. He suddenly plunges into the sweet memories of his childhood in the prairies of Saskatchewan. Then downloading several Ukrainian sites, he relishes the beauty of the historic Bukovyna area, which gave birth to his father in 1907.

A two-month old Ivan (John) was brought by his mother to Canada, where they joined their father Michael who left beforehand to land one of those homesteads on the vast territories of Canada. His grandparents moved to Canada along with the first wave of immigration from Eastern Europe. Ramon Hnatyshyn recalls his father's decision of obtaining education with great reverence. He to a large extent attributes his personal career success to his father, who graduated from Law School and started practicing law in 1932 to eventually become the first Ukrainian-born and first senator from Saskatoon. Ramon Hnatyshyn regrets his father passing away too early to see the achievements of his talented

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offspring.

On May 25, 2001 participants of the Canada-Ukraine Parliamentary Program had an opportunity to meet an extremely fascinating and interesting personality of the Right Honourable Ramon John Hnatyshyn, P.C, C.C, C.M.M, C.D., Q.C. He was very kind to set aside one hour and a half out of his busy schedule to answer the questions that followed after an introductory speech.

**Vasyl Myroshnychenko:** To what extent have you been involved in forming Canada's policy towards Ukraine while being the Governor General?

**Ramon Hnatyshyn:** I believe that the fact that Canada was the first Western country to recognize Ukraine was not accidental. And the reason for that is that Canada recognized the contribution of the Ukrainian community to the Canadian heritage far before Ukraine proclaimed its independence. Though the position of the Governor General is quite symbolic, I had a chance to meet with the Prime Minister formally at least every three weeks. As well I had meetings with the deputy External Minister, so I should admit that I was consulted by them in many cases on the issue of Ukraine.

**Olha Babych:** What is the most important feature for the Ukrainian leader?

**Ramon Hnatyshyn:** President Kuchma now has to make a tough decision who to face: East or West. A Ukrainian leader has to learn to make decisions in the process of institution building, which will provide the confidence for investment. He has to understand that the rule of law is essential for making a difference.

**Vasyl Myroshnychenko:** The influential magazine "The Economist" has published an article earlier this year about the crisis of the Ukrainian Diaspora provoked by their disappointment with Ukraine's lack of

reform and current precarious political and economic situation. Can you confirm this? Does the same feeling prevail in the prominent Ukrainian-Canadian circles?

**Ramon Hnatyshyn:** I think that there is still a great interest after some serious disappointment. It is true that many attempts of investment in Ukraine have failed. However, there is still an influential group of people working on that but not as many as before. Ukraine's emergence as an independent state was a dream that came true. There was a big influx of people who came to visit their relatives in the early 90's. They could not see them for so long. I guess that now people are more realistic. If people see a tangible way in Ukraine's improvement and building of infrastructure, they'll surely come back.

**Ulyana Khromyak:** Could you please name the outstanding Ukrainian-Canadians on Parliament Hill?

**Ramon Hnatyshyn:** During my term in the House of Commons there were about 20 Ukrainian MP's. Now I can mention just a few: Walter Lastewka, M.P., and Senator Andreychuk. The list is diminishing.

**Alex Sabadosh:** Mr. Hnatyshyn, I have more of a geopolitical question. Even after the collapse of the Iron Curtain there are still some tensions between Russia and the West. Since V. Putin came to power, the economy started rolling, and Russia is no longer taking any loans from the IMF or World Bank, but instead is paying off its debts. Do you think there might be another polarization of the world, and what would be the role of Ukraine in this case?

**Ramon Hnatyshyn:** As far as I know Russia is still taking loans from the World Bank. President Putin said he wishes to make the economy more transparent. In fact, I had a meeting with him not long ago. Russia's economy is moving upward, which

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is a good thing and indeed Ukraine experienced something like a 6% growth last year. As I already mentioned Ukraine will play the key role in this region. Today it is dependent on Russia (energy system, investments). Now the main question for Ukraine to answer is 'Does it want to be really independent, like Poland for example'?

By Vasyl Myroschnyenko

### **Canada: a Country of Tolerance, Cohabitation, and Openness**

According to the UN Annual Reports, Canada is recognized to be 'the most desired country to live in'. Every year more and more immigrants come to this country from all over the world. Why Canada? Why not the USA, France or Germany. Some of us may base our explanation to this phenomenon on the economic indicators in Canada as well as the number of social welfare programs fostered in this country, while the others will be convinced that it is all due to the balanced political system. As a matter of fact, countries like the USA, France or Germany also have very good accomplishments in the areas of economy, political systems and social policy. There is one more factor which makes Canada more attractive to the immigrants than any other country - its cultural policy. Canada's concept of *multiculturalism* makes it a unique society with no analogues in the rest of the world.

The fact that a significant part of Canada's population are Francophone forced the government to come up with a system which would accommodate both founding nations: those who identified themselves with the British origin and those who were of French descent. This is how the concept of *multiculturalism* was first introduced. It was decided that every ethnic group has a right to preserve and develop their indigenous culture. The traditional European

"*nation-state*" concept was substituted with the concept of *cohabitation* of the ethnicities. It has proved to be even more viable than the American *melting pot* concept. The main distinguishing feature of *multiculturalism* is the fact that it offers every citizen a chance to develop his or her heritage and culture instead of 'melting' into a new nation and renouncing who he or she originally was. Canada has become the first country to figure out that this concept would conquer the world. In the era of globalization, when time and distance are no longer real obstacles, where information has become the main product in the market, where military force is not omnipotent anymore, the only thing that really matters is cultural identity.

Let us investigate more of this topic. We have to go deeper and define what lies beneath. How is it possible to have all these ethnic groups living together in the same cities, and thus contributing to each other's well being instead of fighting?

Why is it so difficult to avoid ethnic conflicts in the Balkans, Russia, Israel, India and Pakistan? The major reason why these ethnic conflicts arise is absence of tolerance and communication. What a Ukrainian student sees in Canada right away is the degree of trust, tolerance and communication between individuals and between groups of individuals. The most striking thing which can be observed here in Canada is the fact that even people with strong opposing political views respect each other's position and realize that all that they do must result in a benefit for average citizens. Do we see this in Ukraine?

I think we cannot speak about democracy in any society unless there is a tolerance among the individual citizens as well as the groups of people. The concept of *multiculturalism* would be impossible without trust and tolerance. Tolerance also enables people to have open discussions

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within the society, thus creating a transparent political environment. Canada is a unique example of an open society where the politicians are accessible for discussions and are willing to communicate with their voters.

Communication is impossible without tolerance. Why do we have so many ethnic conflicts in the world? The answer is pretty simple - because there is a lack of communication and tolerance between ethnic groups.

Canada can be viewed as a role model for multicultural and multiethnic countries, including Ukraine. Ukrainians have a lot to learn from Canada, starting from the very simple everyday acceptance of others.

By Oleksandr Sabadosh



**"You have limited time before the world forgets about you"**

*The Honourable  
Senator Raynell  
Andreychuk*

It is difficult to think of a statement which one could adopt as one's life philosophy. And, it is difficult to think of a better statement to reflect the life and the work of Ms. Raynell Andreychuk - the Honourable Senator, a respected lawyer, a committed citizen and a beautiful woman. It is these words, which teach you the right way to live and work, and to inspire real deeds at the same time. And it is these words which seem to give an insight into the life philosophy of Ms. Raynell Andreychuk, but apparently appear to be too plain to be able to reveal all the richness and

brightness of her brisk energy and versatile interests and activities...

The meeting with the Honourable Senator Raynell Andreychuk took place on June 14, 2001 in one of the rooms in the Central Block of the Parliament of Canada. It was quite hot outside, but I am sure that it was not only due to the technical appliances installed in the room that I felt so comfortable and enjoyed the meeting so much. The contents of what the Senator spoke about as well as her manner of speaking enriched by her vivid experience of legal and political career could not have left indifferent the Ukrainian students who had come from different parts of Ukraine to know more about Canada, its people and the way they live and work. And of course it could not help appealing to my interest, as my major is legal studies.

During the meeting, the Honourable Senator R. Andreychuk told us a little about her family and career. It was interesting to find out that coming from a family of Ukrainian origin, Ms. Raynell Andreychuk spoke Ukrainian from her birth and went to school to learn English. The Senator told us that she had always wanted to visit Ukraine, and had already been there several times. Of no less interest was what the Senator told about her work as the Canadian High Commissioner to Kenya and Uganda, the Ambassador of Canada to Somalia and Portugal and as the Permanent Representative to several institutions within the United Nations Organization. Ms. R. Andreychuk also spoke about the way the Parliament works and the role the Senate plays in its work. It was quite interesting to open slightly the cover over the peculiarities of the work of the Parliament of Canada and the way they are perceived by the Senators.

The Honourable Senator Raynell Andreychuk told us some words about the project she participated in. It was astonishing to find out how broad her interests and

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concerns were. In particular, she took an active part in health, education, women, and judges projects.

There were several things, which I opened for myself during that meeting and which came to my mind afterwards when I recalled the meeting. The funniest thing about these things is the fact that they seem to be quite simple and lie on the surface, but at the same time it is such meetings, that make you really "feel" them, pass them through your heart and make them your life principles. The mere thing that it was the life philosophy and the experience of Ms. Raynell Andreychuk that spoke through her words during that meeting made me admire her even greater.

"Speak out, fight back, risk," - these were the words the Honourable Senator Raynell Andreychuk told us when asked about advice for our future activities. Life never gives one anything without a good reason. It is necessary to work hard if you want to achieve something. And it is never an easy thing to do. You should often fight against yourself and the conditions around you, but if you really want something, risk and apply all your efforts and energy to pursue the goal, you will achieve it.

During the meeting, we spoke about the future of Ukraine. In fact our country has a lot of problems now. At the same time, as it comes from the words of Ms. Raynell Andreychuk, it is not the time to talk about the problems in Ukraine, but merely the time to work, so that they could be solved. It is our task, the task of all Ukrainians, to make our country better and provide a better life for ourselves.

It was at the meeting with the Honourable Senator Raynell Andreychuk that I realized how important the interest for one's work is. The life of Ms. Andreychuk and the words she used when speaking about it were quite expressive in reflecting her

deep concern about the things she did and continues to do at the moment. No matter to what she devotes her time it comes out a success as long as it appeals to her interest. It seems to totally overwhelm her.

It was the meeting with the Honourable Senator Raynell Andreychuk that inspired me even more for the further work in the direction I had chosen, and I am very grateful to her for that.

By Olga Babych

### **The Value Of One. The Power of Many ...**

In the very first year of the new millennium, the United Nations has declared 2001 to be *the International Year of Volunteers*. This year 77 nations around the world have participated in a global celebration of volunteers. It recognizes and honours the enormous contribution that volunteers have made to the social and economic fabric of the society. The year 2001 provides a backdrop against which volunteerism and the voluntary sector will be acknowledged, facilitated and promoted. This year represents people with the unique opportunity to reach a new understanding of this important recognition in their lives.

*What is volunteering* Volunteering is the most fundamental act of citizenship and philanthropy in the society. It requires time, energy and skills of one's own free will without any monetary benefit. It is an extension of being a good neighbour, transforming a collection of houses into a community, as people become involved in the improvement of their surroundings and choose to help others. By caring and contributing to change, volunteers decrease suffering and disparity, and at the same time they gain skills, self-esteem and change their lives. People work to improve the lives of their neighbours and, in return, enhance their own. Individuals who volunteer come from all walks of life - from the unemployed to

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the professional. All age groups are represented and they are from different diverse cultures, abilities and backgrounds.

**Canadian volunteering.** In typical Canadian fashion, they hardly ever talk about it... but it is something that many Canadians regularly practice. They are widely involved in their community, whether through giving or volunteering in structured ways or by providing support to individuals and communities on their own.

There are over 7.5 million volunteers in Canada and 175,000 not-for-profit organizations. The contribution of volunteers is estimated at \$16 billion annually or 8% of Canada's gross domestic product. They contribute 1.1 billion hours of their time yearly - the equivalent of 578,000

full-time jobs.

Canadians know that the strength of the country depends on helping each other. Some people call it volunteering and many have other words for what they do. Helping out. Doing what's right. Giving their time. Giving back. Having fun...

*This is what they say...* " We read and coach, walk and drive, visit and cook, run, protest and feed. We write and paint, organize and coordinate, speak chair and give... We are parents, friends, seniors, children, teenagers, and people who work for a living and people who don't. We are from everywhere. We are Canadian.

Through volunteering we connect - to each other, to what matters within us, to our vision of what we want this country to



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# CUPP 2001 Photo Album



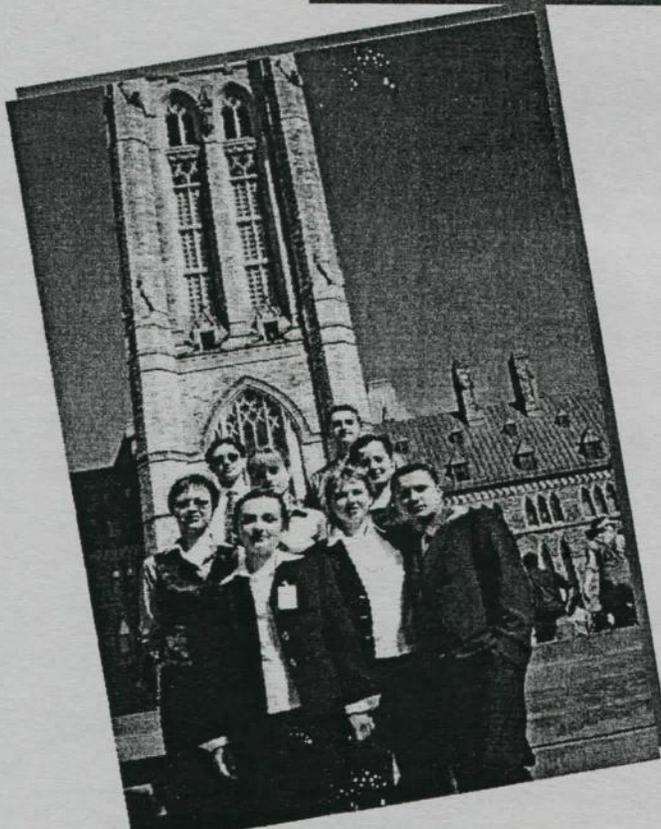
CUPPers meet the Ukrainian community in Toronto at Wine & Cheese reception, following the lecture by Dr. Grabovych



Niagara Falls — favourite place in Canada of CUPP 2001 group



They say that first time is always special. First day in Parliament was more than special for us



Do we look official?

# Having FUN!!!



We believe we can fly!!!



Hey, Vasy! Looks like you're in trouble, buddy!



Join us!!!



ROLLING, ROLLING, ROLLING!!!



~~Do we look like we're having fun?~~



"Maids of the Mist"

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be. We find friends and experience and satisfaction and fulfillment and each other.

Volunteering gives our lives meaning - often more meaning than what we do to put bread on the table. When we put our hearts and minds to it, we find there is nothing we can't do. WE CAN CHANGE THE WORLD..."

Unfortunately, this involvement is unknown to Ukraine. Despite its low visibility it is one of the ways in which we can enrich our society and is a key ingredient in national character.

*CUPP's 2001 experience in volunteering.* CUPP 2001 participants decided not to stay aside from this movement and joined volunteering in Canada. Actually, it was part of our Program and everybody seemed to be very happy and excited.

The first lecture was given by Alex Hordienko who described in general terms 'What is volunteering?' and 'Why is it so important?' Some of us in St. Vladimir's Institute had already decided what kind of volunteering we would like to do.

As soon as our group arrived in Ottawa, we looked forward to begin volunteering. At last there came Sunday afternoon, May 27th, and with our coordinator we went to Gatineau Park. Carrying white bags and walking along the highways we picked up garbage. It seemed that other volunteers were quicker than us and so at the end we got two full bags. Good start!!! Despite the hot weather we enjoyed ourselves and finished the day playing volleyball and having fun!

Another weekend of volunteering approached. Oselia, is the Ukrainian camp which is situated about 50 kilometres away from Ottawa near the picturesque Gatineau hills. A beautiful lake and fresh air reminded me of the Ukrainian Carpathian mountains.

We were told that we would have a BBQ after we had finished our work. It promised to be very delicious and in a few hours the girls cleaned up the cottages ( dancing with the broom to the rhythms of Ukrainian songs) and the boys picked up the branches and helped with the digging near the houses. This day was special for all of us because in the afternoon we went canoeing. Although our coordinator worried about us drowning, everybody survived and safely came back.

At Oselia we were lucky to meet very interesting people. Among them there was Father Mykytyuk who took care of us the next Sunday. Natalie, Alex, Vasyl and I went to *Church*. After a nice mass the League of Ukrainian Women celebrated its anniversary. While speaking with them we found out that they are also involved in the volunteer movement. Their contribution in support of the women in Ukraine is impressive. This afternoon we were grateful to them for inviting us to dinner as we also had a chance to volunteer in the kitchen. We were surprised how skillful our boys were in serving the dishes. By the way, waiters among us - not bad...

YES! We enjoyed VOLUNTEERING. Most of us realized it during the *Children's Festival*. We spent the whole weekend in the Museum of Science and Technology, working in the tents with the artists, playing with children and just having fun. Especially, we enjoyed being painted - everyone looked so mysterious...

I think that it is only the beginning of our volunteer work experience in Canada as it was a great lesson for everybody. We have met different people who spent their lives volunteering and feeling satisfied and helpful. For example, Mr. Bill Mates - the Regional Field Officer of the Duke of Edinburgh's Association in Canada spoke to us about how volunteering can change a person's life and how it changed his own life.

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Sharing this world we are part of it and you never know who might be the next person you are going to help...

### **A Matter of Betrayal, or Two Sides - One Goal**

Like in any domain of our society life, there exist several prejudices about politics and politicians and here are some of them which I believe are part and parcel of people's mind-set. As far as I understand, people tend to think that politicians of different affiliation treat each other as if they were enemies who cannot stand each other. Another prejudice is that those who get "there" (into politics) must have either good connections or are of a privileged background. I assume nobody would deny the fact that very often politics becomes a bone of contention in relationships between people, for it brings confusion when you know a person as an individual and at the same time as a man of politics.

I have always wondered how different it is to work in different parties, how different it is to be in "alien camps", and how different parties' members are. I was lucky to have a chance to have experienced all those things to the full in Canadian Parliament, for I worked both for the government and the opposition. I worked for different MPs and I saw the way they work and the goals they aspire to.

To tell you the truth, this time I was coming to Canada with a feeling of uneasiness that had burdened me for half a year back in Ukraine. The reason for that was that Michelle Dockrill, NDP MP whom I was working with last time, lost her seat during the federal election campaign, which meant I couldn't go back to her office, the office which was a team or better to say a family, for we used to work and live together here in Ottawa and later on in Cape Breton Island during the election campaign, sharing our concerns, problems and joys and doing

everything possible so that Michelle could win. But it happened that she was defeated by the Liberal candidate and I took her defeat as if it were my personal failure, for we worked with our heart and soul, standing for the people of Cape Breton, for social programs for them, for accessible health care, education, environment and things alike.

As we arrived in Ottawa, I went to Wellington Building to see the office I worked in last time, but there was another name on the door, and other people were sitting at the desks and it made me really sad. Imagine what I felt being aware that I'll have to work with somebody else, obviously a Liberal, for it's a rare chance that we get to the opposition. I'll tell you, my feeling was that I would have to work for the "enemy" and that fact made me feel uncomfortable. Another feeling was that if I do that, I'll betray NDP, I'd betray Michelle and ideas she stands for. You might think I'm too sensitive. Nothing of the kind; in my view it has nothing to do with politics, it is first and foremost about respect and friendship, though I admit that lots of issues on the NDP's agenda are burning crucial issues in Ukraine and I was eager to see how Canadians solve them.

Shame on me but I must admit that going to my new office for the first time I was a bit prejudiced and I kept thinking what the people I was going to meet would say when they found out I worked for the opposition and whether they, in their turn, would be prejudiced against me and I was also wondering who was going to be my MP. But as the proverb goes, the devil is not as black as it's painted. The "enemy", as I put it earlier (and I regret having thought in that way!), appeared to be ... a cheerful gentleman greeting me in Ukrainian. Easy-going, optimistic, always on the go, and at the same time hard-working, strong-willed and determined. He took me to the House, to the conferences, committee meetings and he

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would always ask me whether I saw this or that, being more of a guide than of my boss, being in jest when there was nothing concerning work, but committed when it came to his responsibilities as an MP and steadfast when it came to his constituents. I didn't even need time to get accustomed to the new environment; Janko Peric is Croatian and the same is with Betty and Stan, so we are all Slavs and have much in common in terms of mentality. As I was gradually learning more and more about Janko, about the way he works with the constituents, about his activity as an MP, I felt (I may be mistaken, for you can never say what other people think for sure), as if I were accepted to the Team.

Imagine my surprise when I found that both Michelle and Janko seem to have gone the same way from the start and had to face and put up with almost the same obstacles. Amazing? Well, let's take a look at them. To begin with, both have never been career politicians, but rather average, hard working tax-payers. Both unknown, they had to make their future constituents believe in their ability to stand up for them away in Ottawa. I would have never earlier believed that a welder technician or a health care worker could work their way up to the Parliament of the country. But as it appears, it is possible. And there's even more: one was an immigrant running for the Liberals in a riding never considered to be Liberal territory, the other had to fight with an incumbent candidate, who had worked on the Hill for 17 years and was a Cabinet Minister.

You may ask what was the reason they went into politics. Well, both have been very family-oriented and were taught to help people, both have a strong sense of community, both used to hear lots of complaints from people around them and one day they just had enough. Both Janko and Michelle are the kind of people who won't wait until somebody comes and does

something for them, and so they did. They just rose and went ahead. But! One became a Liberal, for considered it to be the best choice for his riding; the other went to the NDP, for considered the government policy inefficient in Atlantic Canada and the NDP platform to reflect the needs of the constituents. And so they got into different parties. But how much difference did it bring out between them?

Let's consider their approach to their job and their attitude towards their constituents. They both believe that "being an MP is about helping people in your community and not being afraid to stand up for them, to fight for their rights. Those who don't, do not deserve the right to be in the House". Amazing? You might think it's easy to speak like this when in opposition. Well, I can also tell you that everyone in the House admits that Janko, being a member of the government, at the same time was never shy to take a stand and oppose the Prime Minister or to vote against legislation that wasn't in the best interests of his community. For instance, he opposed Liberal policy on abortions or being an immigrant himself he initiated calling for expulsion of landed immigrants convicted of major crimes accepted by the Immigration Minister.

Both Janko and Michelle have committed themselves to represent their constituents effectively - with integrity, accessibility and responsibility. Both have fashioned a reputation as hard workers with a mind towards their constituents. Both believe that providing a safe community is one of the most important roles of government. And they both fight for what they believe in - their constituents.

Well, so different a person, so different a party, so much in common. Possible? It appears, yes. Then, what is it all about? Probably the idea is that being an MP is not about the party you are in, but it's about being an individual, or better to say, a

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personality. It's not about party affiliation and following the party policy, but it's about serving people in your community. And it's also about that everyone can do the same, I mean, work his way up to the top once he's made up his mind to achieve the sacred goal, i.e. to serve for the benefit and prosperity of the community.

By Olga Kravchenko

### **The Political Party I Worked For**

Coming to Canada CUPP participants do not choose a party they are going to work for according to their political affiliation but they get placement in those Parliamentary offices where there is an intern vacancy. Being a student of foreign languages, not very active politically, I found it was a very outstanding experience to be placed into NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY office, an opposition party in the Canadian Parliament. There were only two CUPP 2001 participants working for NDP: Alla Lukashenko (Alexa McDonough, Halifax, Leader of the NDP) and me Lina Klymenko (Libby Davies, Vancouver East).

The first day I met Alla shining with excitement about her future work with the New Democrats we swore to each other to support our party's program and to work hard against those massive Liberal Party's CUPP 2001 participants whose members of Parliament occupied the most seats in the House of Commons.

Being happy to experience political struggle and learn the Canadian democracy first hand Alla and I started to study our party's history and platform and found out that the New Democratic Party of Canada was founded in 1961 at a convention in Ottawa, which brought together the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation and affiliated unions of the Canadian Labour Congress. However, the origins of the Party go back to the social reform movement of

the early twentieth century and to pioneer social activists. Today NDP is a member of the Socialistic International worldwide association of democratic socialist and labour parties founded in 1951. In the present Government, NDP has 13 Members of Parliament representing different provinces. The NDP platform concentrates on such issues as putting money back into services for the people, cleaning up the environment, cutting tuition and student debt, supporting childcare, building affordable housing and helping farm families. The primary purpose of the NDP is to offer a vision for Canada where people come first, a clear democratic socialist political alternative. They seek to govern, to be a strong force electorally, so that they can implement the agenda of economic, political and social change. They recognize that their electoral success, whether as an opposition party in Parliament, as the balance of power, or as government, provides them with the opportunity for significant and lasting change. Those significant and lasting changes came earlier than anyone expected. Doing a media morning for my Member of Parliament one day, I came across an article about a new party built outside NDP. "What is up?", I was wondering. I was sitting there in the centre of NDP and did not know what was going on outside the Parliament building and there was no trouble in NDP itself as I could see from morning briefings, Caucus meetings, press conferences and media releases. Moreover, the party was working hard bringing up questions in the House of Commons and trying to find a right solution. There were troubles outside the party. A group called the New Politics Initiative had posted a Web site and grabbed plenty of attention with a bold plan to build a new party out of NDP.

"The new party sees NDP as no longer an inspiring or consistent force for social change. The idea is a new party that can build a bridge between what the left does in election and what the left does between

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elections" (Canadian Press, Ottawa, June 8). It was still not clear if it was a media game or Liberal's provocation. Was it just a small argument inside NDP or a real danger for NDP existence from outside? Was it Alla's and my fault because we were naive exchanging our experience and ideas with Liberal CUPP 2001 participants not expecting them to cause trouble for our party? The last one is unreal. The Canadian democracy is based on the coalition of all parties in the Canadian Parliament working on common issues.

The Parliament is not in session now, it's on summer holiday. I hope that the NDP will start the new session in its old makeup with its progressive ideas and programs and CUPP 2002 participants who come to Ottawa next spring will enjoy working for the NDP PARTY I WORKED FOR.

By Lina Klymenko

### **Learning to Respect Yourself**

**'When we seek to discover the best in others, we somehow bring out the best in ourselves'**

Our attachment towards a country is based on some objective factors, among which are the fact that one is born on a certain territory and is brought up in a certain cultural and social environment. This is not a matter of economic and political issues. This is the matter of a natural bond existing between an individual and a country, which cannot be eliminated no matter how much we resist or deny it.

Very often people tend to manifest love for their own country at the same time neglecting the social value of others. In some cases they would even assert themselves as a nation through domination and superiority. It

is because people think that if they don't put forward the idea of their supremacy over others, the national interests would suffer.

It appears, though, that when you give more respect to others it does not at all mean that you disregard yourself, or that you neglect your own interests. On the contrary, by appreciating others and sometimes even giving them a certain degree of priority, you show your level of maturity and consciousness, thus displaying the moral advantage of your own.

History reveals a number of such examples for instance, Canadian-Dutch relations during the Second World War exhibited through civility and mutual regard. During the war the Queen of the Netherlands immigrated to Canada and was about to give birth to a child. But according to the Dutch laws, a child could not be an heir to the throne if he or she was not born in Dutch territory. As the situation was of extraordinary character, the Canadian government decided to wave the Dutch flag over the Canadian Parliament and also to bring some Dutch soil to the hospital where the delivery was to take place. The reason for that was respect and recognition of another nation. (By the way the result of this celebration was the annual tulip festival that takes place every year in Ottawa, when millions of tulips blossom in May). It is possible to say that by doing that Canadians neglected themselves? The answer is "no". By displaying such degree of respect to another nation, Canadians celebrated themselves, for they know that they, Canadians and nobody else, can achieve this level of recognition of others which makes them different from the rest. Is it not a nation-consolidating factor?

Another level of building a strong nation which makes Canadians Canadian is the openness of the state to the public, i.e. there are no access barriers to the government on the part of the Canadian

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people. That's why Canadian Parliament and other governmental buildings are open to the public. The point is that the government is convinced that it's not only politicians and public servants who can have access to Canadian history and heritage. This is common in Canadian history, and that is why all Canadians have the right to access it and make their own judgment.

Another point is the openness and the degree of commitment of Canadian politicians towards their constituents, namely protection and promotion of interests and concerns of the people they represent. For when people elect someone to represent them in Ottawa, they want a person that will stand up for them, in order to foster positive changes in their riding as well as on the level of state and thus, to maintain Canada's position in the world as one of the best countries to live in.

Notably, one can witness the degree of love and respect of common Canadians towards their country and the way they cherish it during their most celebrated holiday - Canada Day, the birthday of the nation that Canadians created themselves. "Happy birthday, Canada!" - the way the citizens display their care, devotion and love towards their home is striking. And they don't wait for somebody to shape the home they want to live in, they shape it in the way they choose themselves. It creates a certain bond between the country and its every citizen which enables everyone to feel the nation's recognition and involvement into social life. Without this bond there's no happiness of the individual and welfare of the nation.

Building a democratic society, one has to be aware that being a citizen of a country means putting your efforts into contributing to the benefit and prosperity of the state. It means to learn to respect those who are next to you and who are different from you. One should bear in mind that they

are not worse than you, and you are not better than them. You are all different. Our background is tremendous, and everything we learn from others and everything that comes from others is not to humiliate us, but to enrich us.

*By Yevhen Shevchenko and Olga Kravchenko.*

### **CUPP: A valuable learning experience**

#### **Reflections from the Canadian Coordinator**



As I write this article, the 2001 Canada-Ukraine Parliamentary Program is close to finishing and it's difficult to believe that we have only a few days left in Ottawa and a day in Toronto before the CUPP participants and the Ukrainian coordinators fly home. This last week has been full of activity and the upcoming weekend, featuring Canada Day, promises to be very eventful, enlightening, and fun. The eight weeks of the program seem to have passed

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like lightning.

Considering the major themes and issues that have come to define this particular program, adjustment is immediately what comes to my mind. The beginning of May saw 16 participants and 3 coordinators arrive in Canada to become acquainted with the Canadian parliamentary system and, more broadly, with the Canadian way of life. As CUPP 2001 was made up of a very diverse group, each participant came with different expectations and different objectives to pursue which made adjustment to life in Canada that much more complex. I, too, came with my own set of preconceptions. Although I am of Ukrainian heritage and have met several visitors from Ukraine, I have not yet visited my family's homeland and did not know entirely what to expect.

This was my first time as a CUPP Canadian Coordinator. At the beginning, the prospect of facing Ukrainian students and helping them orient themselves in Canada and learn about our society seemed like an exciting, and sometimes daunting, challenge. At the end, however, I see that this "sink or swim" approach to learning was one of the major advantages of CUPP - both for me and for the participants. Being thrown into an entirely new situation developed our maturity when dealing with challenges and built our self-confidence when we experienced successes. As students, we are constantly learning, just as Ukraine, and truly all nations, is still learning how best to deal with its own issues.

Altogether, I am so thankful to have had this opportunity to be the Canadian Coordinator for CUPP 2001. As a result of my involvement with the program, I have met 20 outstanding Ukrainian students and had the privilege to live and work with them. As a group, we have had a seemingly endless string of adventures. We have attended Prime Minister Jean Chretien's Garden Party,

visited Montreal, and volunteered to do spring cleaning at St. John's Ukrainian Camp in the Gatineau hills. We have met with so many interesting and instructive people, such as the Right Honourable Ramon Hnatyshyn and Senator Raynell Andreychuk, and we have toured several unique sites and facilities, from the Ukrainian Canadian Care Centre in Toronto to the National Gallery of Canada. We've also simply had fun together. We celebrated birthdays, goings-away, visits, and just took time to learn a little more about each other. We have had to overcome significant differences - in understanding, behaviour, and background - but I would say that ultimately we have been comparatively successful in bridging those gaps.

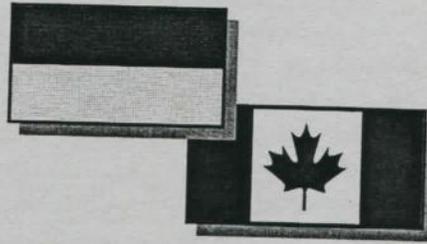
I sincerely hope that each of the CUPP 2001 participants will return home having had an enjoyable experience and will warmly remember her or his stay in Canada. However, looking a little deeper, I would really encourage everyone who has participated in CUPP 2001 to take the time to reflect upon how their experiences in Canada, both good and bad, have helped to shape them, or if they have at all, and how they, as individuals, contributed to the overall CUPP experience and how they can contribute to Ukraine's development of a civil society and true democracy. CUPP, like countless initiatives around the world, through its focus on both life skills and professional development helps instill initiative and maturity in young people and give them an opportunity to learn from every aspect of life. While we came to Ottawa to experience life in Parliament, we will certainly come away having had a much richer experience.

Finally, I would just like to reiterate my thanks to everyone involved with CUPP, especially to all of the participants. We have overcome challenges and had opportunities that we couldn't anticipate when we met for the first time in Toronto. Now, as you are

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preparing for your return to Ukraine, I wish all of you well. May we return to our homes having learned some, and enjoyed some, and altogether experienced something valuable because of our involvement with CUPP. I know I certainly have. And in the same way that we have dealt with challenges and adjusted to a new environment, may we then take our experience and apply it to all of Ukraine, which, like us, is young and striving to come to terms with its place in the world.



*By Natalie Haras*



*CUPP 2001*

## Canada - Ukraine Parliamentary Program



### *CUPP Participants*

*wish to express their deep gratitude for the lifetime opportunity of coming to Canada and acquiring invaluable experience and knowledge to all the people who contributed their efforts and time to make our stay in Canada unforgettable, wonderful and exciting*

Mr. Ihor Bardyn - CUPP Director  
Mr. And Mrs. Hordienko  
Natalka Wallace  
Bill Kereliuk

### **The Members of Parliament who kindly hosted CUPP participants:**

Mrs. Eleni Bakopanos, Ms. Sarmite Bulte, The Hon. Joe Clark, Ms. Libby Daview, Mr. Arnold Wayne Easter, Mr. Mac Harb, Mr. Walt Lastewka, Ms. M. Sophia Leung, Ryan Mansour (Liberal Research Bureau), Mr. Inky Mark, The Hon. Maria Minna, Ms. Alexa McDonough, Mr. Dan McTeague, Dr. Rey D. Pagtakhan, Mr. Janko Peric, Mr. Benoit Serre, Mr. Alexander James Shepherd, Mr. Andrew Telegdi, all Executive Assistants and Other office staff.

### **CUPP'01 Coordinators**

Canadian Coordinator: Natalie Haras  
Ukrainian Coordinators: Yevhen Shevchenko, Vasyl Harasymiv, Olga Kravchenko and Alla Lukashenko

### **Other Wonderful People**

St. Vlad's staff - for authentic Ukrainian cuisine  
Adrian and Stepan Pruchnickyy - for hanging out with us  
Andrew Teliczewsky (Sheila Copps' office) - for a wonderful BBQ and hilarious laughter  
Slavko Hrehirchak and Zhenia Truhin - Montreal would have been boring without them  
Yuriy Truhin (Zhenia's father) - for saving Vasyl's life  
Bohdan Matsura - for uniting Ukrainians abroad  
Dmytro Gorodnichiy - we will never forget hot Latin-American dancing club "Caliente"  
Jan Gudz - for giving a ride  
Father Mykytyuk - for picking up for the mass  
Halyna Michaelchuk, Lidya Choulgine, Marta Wynnyckyj - for Ukrainian hospitality  
**and**  
Parliamentary guards - for a tolerant attitude to those who forgot their passes  
Bus drivers - for letting us use a transfer for a "couple of times"  
Olena's Sobaka - for becoming the CUPP symbol  
Bands "Destiny's child" for a song "Survivor", 'Okean Elzy' for its 'Vstavay' and Weezer for "Hash pipe" - all of which became CUPP anthems.  
GAP stores - it is cool to bring something of this brand back home  
Room 703 - for hosting so many parties

### **2001 Spring Edition**

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