

Ukrainian Input into Canada's 150-Year History

Dear Sisters in Christ: C.I.X.

I know you have all become familiar with the resolutions as passed at the last Congress, and are planning to implement some of them in preparing the programs for your branches. I would like to offer you some additional ideas, as pertaining to the cultural and educational aspect of our programs. This year, 2017, Canada is celebrating its 150th Birthday. How fitting it would be for our membership to look at the input of the multitudes of Ukrainians into the history of Canada. I will give you examples of just a few, mostly on the political/judicial front.

1. Ray Hnatyshyn – 24th Governor General of Canada 1991-2001; born in Saskatchewan; first Ukrainian Canadian Governor General of Canada
2. Roy Romanow – 12th Premier of Saskatchewan
3. Stephen Juba – 37th Mayor of Winnipeg 1957-1977 (also an MLA 1953-1959)
4. John Yaremko – 1951-1975 first Ukrainian Canadian elected to Ontario's Legislature (minister without portfolio)
5. John Sopinka – first Ukrainian Canadian appointed to the Supreme Court of Canada 1988-1997; born in Broderick, Saskatchewan, later moved to Ontario
6. William (Vasyl) Wall – first Ukrainian Canadian senator, appointed to Senate of Canada in 1955; born in Ethelbert, Manitoba
7. Senator Paul Yuzyk – appointed to Senate of Canada in 1963; born in Estevan, Saskatchewan; named "The Father of Multiculturalism"; author of *Ukrainian Canadians* and other publications
8. Senator Raynell Andreychuk – appointed to Senate of Canada in 1993; born in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
9. Roman Waschuk – present Ambassador of Canada to Ukraine; born in 1962 in Toronto, Ontario
10. Mary A. Wawrykow – first woman lawyer of Ukrainian descent in Canada; born 1911 in Wakaw, Saskatchewan; practised law in Winnipeg; was a member of UCWLC
11. Dr. Roberta Bondar – first Canadian woman astronaut (selected in 1983); born in 1945 in Sault Ste. Marie; in 1992 flew in space shuttle *Discovery*

There have been, and now are, many other well known Ukrainians in the area of politics: leaders of political parties, mayors, MPs, MPPs. In the areas of culture,

arts, education, religion, sports, medicine, science, technology and media, there are very many Ukrainians who have contributed and are still contributing to Canada's rich history.

SUGGESTIONS:

Look up and compile the names of some of the well known Ukrainian Canadians in the arts, education, culture, religion, sports, or politics.

Along with your cultural committee, do some research on some of these people, and "introduce them" to your membership, and if possible to your community, throughout the year 2017.

Perhaps the theme of your Teas (or special events) in 2017, the year of Canada's 150th Birthday, could be dedicated to bringing attention to some famous Ukrainian Canadians. Many of these people were or are residents of your cities, province or maybe even your parish.

The internet, libraries, the Ukrainian Encyclopedia, Ukrainian Documentation Centre, editors of various Ukrainian news media, especially past and present editors of *Nasha Doroha*, are good sources of information.

Maybe, along with other organizations within your parish, you could host an event to bring attention to the celebration of Canada's 150th birthday.

It would be very beneficial if we could share ideas. If any *Cultura Referentka* – Eparchial or Branch level – has any information, which would be of interest to others, please send it to me, and I will forward it to all the Eparchies. By sharing, we will help each other enrich our programs and in this way we will all grow stronger. It would be beneficial to have an expanded Cultural Committee, as opposed to just one person trying to come up with ideas and organize things.

During the course of next year, I expect feedback from you to see how successful you have been in the implementation of these suggestions.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Vera Kostecki
Chair Cultural Committee
National Executive of UCWLC

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