

UKRAINIANS ABROAD: NEWS AND VIEWS #155

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1. “An Important Source on Ukraine and the Ukrainian Diaspora: The *Internet Encyclopedia of Ukraine*.”

By Marko R. Stech

This year marks the twentieth anniversary of the *Internet Encyclopedia of Ukraine (IEU)* project. Launched by CIUS in 2001 with the aim of providing an unprecedented source of information about Ukraine and Ukrainians, the *IEU* provides free Internet access to thousands of detailed articles and encyclopedia entries on all aspects of Ukraine, its history, culture, people, geography, society, diaspora, and current administration. The textual content of the *IEU* is

complemented with thousands of maps, photographs, illustrations, and tables as well as music files and multimedia materials which allow viewers to see the faces of prominent people they are reading about, to find exact locations of cities, towns, mountains, and lakes or rivers, to look at architectural monuments and works of art, and to listen to musical compositions mentioned in the entries.

In 2020/21, in spite of the significant impediments that the *IEU* team encountered due to the COVID pandemic and the resulting lockdowns of the University of Alberta and the University of Toronto, the *IEU* team, led by the *IEU* project manager Marko R. Stech, managed to nonetheless maintain its pace of work and, indeed, even increase output. New *IEU* team members, namely, the consulting editor Serhiy Bilenky and senior editor Tania Stech, made significant contributions in this regard. The *IEU* managing editor Roman Senkus edited some important updated articles. The *IEU* team was able to expand the pool of subject editors and to commission new articles and updates. Overall in 2020/21, the team final-edited and uploaded to the *IEU* site over 600 *IEU* articles and located and uploaded to the site over 1,700 graphics and multimedia files.

Currently, over 8,700 entries (approximately 60% of the projected number of the target *IEU* database), accompanied by tens of thousands of illustrations, tables, and music files, are displayed on the *IEU* site and accessible to Internet users worldwide.

The *IEU* includes numerous entries related to Ukrainians abroad. These range from an article on “Argentina” in South America to another on “Vladivostok” in the Russian Far East. There are entries on individual organizations, such as the postwar “Ukrainian Social and Cultural Society” in Poland, the “Circle of Ukrainians in Paris” at the start of the twentieth century, and the “Union of Ruthenian-Ukrainians of the Slovak Republic,” among many others. Three examples of individual biographies include Luka Bych, born in the Kuban, in the Russian Empire, who in the interwar period was a professor of economics in the Ukrainian Husbandry Academy in Poděbrady, Czechoslovakia; the American Hollywood actor Jack Palance, and the Governor General of Canada in 1990–95, Ramon Hnatyshyn. A large number of Ukrainian periodicals were published abroad, and entries on some of them range from “*Ukrains'kyi holos na Dalekomu skhodi*” (Ukrainian Voice in the Far East), published in Shanghai in 1941–44, and “*Khliborob*” (Farmer) of Curitiba, Brazil, to “*Ukrains'ka dumka*” of London, United Kingdom.

An article titled “Emigration” provides an overview of the distinct waves of Ukrainian migration eastward and westward.

The *IEU* site is visited by an average number of 1,500 visitors per day and the *IEU* staff receive correspondence from scholars, students, and general Internet users from within and outside Canada. Over time, the *IEU* site has been visited by approximately 4 million individual visitors who have conducted over 30 million specific searches for information. The 18 to 34 age group makes up almost half of all *IEU* visitors. In terms of its rankings among general Internet

resources, in 2020/21 the *IEU* organic search traffic conversion rate (an important indicator of the high ranking of the site) has reached an excellent level of 79.6%.

To consult the *IEU*, visit www.encyclopediaofukraine.com.

An *IEU* monthly electronic newsletter is prepared and distributed, and, recently, an additional new monthly e-newsletter “What’s New on the Internet Encyclopedia of Ukraine,” was introduced. To subscribe, please write to: m.stech@utoronto.ca.

2. Brazil. “The Head of the UGCC Congratulated Ukrainians in Brazil on Three Jubilees,” *UGCC News*, 21 June 2021.

The Father and Head of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church His Beatitude Sviatoslav congratulated Ukrainian diaspora in Brazil on 130th anniversary of the migration.

Apart from that, there are two more anniversaries falling on this year, 50th anniversary of the UGCC Eparchy of St. John the Baptist and 40th anniversary of [the Grupo Folclórico Ucrainiano] “Poltava”.

“These jubilees demonstrate an in-depth spiritual, national and cultural, historical period. They speak of our predecessors, our inhabitants in Brazil, who, overcoming extreme challenges, brought to this land culture, language, customs and above all – vibrant faith of our Church”, said His Beatitude Sviatoslav in a special appeal to devoted Greek Catholics in Brazil.

“Today the whole Ukrainian community from around the world is celebrating with you. From Kyiv and Ukraine to your mother – the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church – we all are rejoicing with you. Today we are praying to God to bless our community and our Church in Brazil”.

The UGCC Department for Information

3. Canada. “Giant Flag Celebrates Ukraine Independence,” *Calgary Sun*, 25 August 2021.

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By Dylan Short

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Calgary’s Ukrainian community celebrated the eastern European nation’s 30 years of independence outside city hall Tuesday evening, with a flag-raising event and traditional performances.

Anna Platonova, president of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress, Calgary Branch, said the consulate general of Ukraine for Edmonton, Danyleiko Oleksandr, is currently travelling around Western Canada to mark the anniversary and was in Calgary on the country’s day of independence to present a 30-metre-long flag to the celebrations outside of city hall.

“We are celebrating unity of Ukrainians, their resilience and their struggles and sacrifices over centuries of foreign occupation and oppression,” said Platonova.

A local choir sang the national anthem while traditional dances and songs were also performed throughout the evening.

Platonova said it is important to remember not only Ukraine’s past struggles to gain independence but the continued fight to keep it.

“Canada has always supported Ukraine’s aspiration and fight for freedom and independence, and I think peace in Ukraine is important not only for Ukraine, but for Europe and for the entire world,” said Platonova.

Ukraine continues to face aggression from Russia after the Crimean peninsula was annexed by the larger, neighbouring country in 2014. Current Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelenskyy recently pledged to do everything in his power to return the contested peninsula to Ukraine.

“Ukraine is still bleeding defending its sovereign entity against Russia's aggression,” said Platonova. “It’s a process, right, to become truly independent and free and democratic. And we wish for peaceful sky over Ukraine.”

Canada is home to the largest number of Ukrainians in the western world. Numbers from Statistics Canada show that there are more than 90,000 Ukrainian people living in Calgary.

Alberta Premier Jason Kenney released a video on his social media channels wishing Ukrainians in the province a happy independence and thanking them for their contributions to building Western Canada.

“It’s a great opportunity for us as Albertans to reflect on the enormous contribution that people of Ukrainian origin have made to our province and our country for well over a century,” said Kenney.

4. Canada. “Actor-Director Troy Ruptash Mines Slavic Pathos for Ukrainian Period Film,” *Edmonton Journal*, 25 August 2021.

By Fish Griwkowsky

A new feature-drama with a pounding Ukrainian heartbeat debuts in theatres across Canada — including Edmonton — Friday.

Written, directed by and starring Vegreville-born L.A. actor Troy Ruptash, *They Who Surround Us* is a penetrating, thick-with-emotion period piece. (You might recognize him from guest appearances on *The West Wing* and — careful with unearthing spoilers here — a certain astonishingly important figure on *Mad Men* in a Korean War segment.)

The narrative of *They Who Surround Us* begins after a rural family tragedy in 1987 Alberta, with the accidental death of Ukrainian farmer Roman's wife and, in a cascading emotional landslide, paralyzing flashbacks of Red Army savagery he witnessed as a boy in 1943. Ruptash plays the harried lead.

"It really started with wanting to more fully understand my own grief," the 56-year-old explains over the phone from L.A., "and communicate in a way that might be helpful to others. How it was transformed by connecting with my family, connecting with my ancestors and their history, and with my community — coming back here."

By here, he means in and around Vegreville, where much of the film was shot in the fall of 2019 — just before the pandemic.

Eight-year-old Edmontonian Daniel Mazepo plays his character's son Mykola in the film, and Ruptash's mother even appears in the congregation of the church she was baptized in: Plain Lake Holy T[ri]nity Ukrainian Catholic Church, a quick drive northeast of the big Pysanka.

When he was a boy, Ruptash was traumatized by a shooting at a neighbour's, which he hoped to leave behind him when ended up leaving Alberta as a competitive figure skater. Like in a Eastern European fairy tale, he went off to seek his fortune, landing in Toronto at Ryerson Theatre School before moving to New York, then L.A., to be a lifelong actor.

Sometimes, though, in scenes with guns in his many guest roles, he'd find himself triggered — and felt embarrassed about it. But through all this he carried an even deeper ache that wouldn't sit still.

"I lost my maternal grandmother when I was really young ... I was very close to her," he confides, noting, "Within each of us lies that need to connect one last time with someone who we have forever lost."

Exploring his family's history head-on, the pieces of the film slowly coalesced over the years.

"My maternal grandmother, she was smuggled out of Ukraine, and you know, her parents were shot, so it's pretty dark," says Ruptash. "She didn't talk a lot about it, but she shared a little. And it's her brother, my great uncle, who is the real inspiration for the film."

In his travels, Ruptash "went to the village that my grandmother was raised in, in western Ukraine.

"We found out that not only did my great uncle get out alive out of Siberia, but he became a commander with UPA — the Ukrainian Partisan Army — and got married and had a daughter who is still living in the same village where my grandmother grew up. And I got to meet her," he happily reports.

Taking a photo of his great uncle as a sort of totem for the sort of sacrifice and suffering we too easily forget as generations pass, Ruptash began to write *They Who Surround us* not as a direct family history, but something more ambitious and impressionistic.

“I wanted to, you know, pay homage to my family — but also sort of create a space where other people can begin to recognize or continue to recognize the people who came before them — their ancestors — what they went through to get here.”

As he went along, “I got really intrigued by the idea of epigenetics and intergenerational trauma.

“And I see it, you know. I see how the trauma and the grief that lived within my grandmother was passed on to my mother, and was passed on to me. And I think that happens in Eastern European families, and any families that have had people that fled countries, have fled war.”

It’s still happening today, of course — never mind in Syria, but now we have Afghanistan — in a cycle that never seems to end.

Ruptash submitted his emerging script to the Duplass Brothers’ *Hometown Heroes* competition, ending up as a finalist. While he didn’t take top prize and its executive production cash, there was no stopping him from making this movie.

“I love what I’ve done, I’ve loved my career. And I’ll continue to act in the way I’ve been acting. But I’d directed some stage in L.A. and I was like, ‘Oh my God, this is what is fulfilling.’ Suddenly, I realized that I love being in control. But,” he laughs, “I love delegating, too, and I especially love collaborating.”

While the process of preparing and writing — and even shooting the film at times — triggered buried grief, he wouldn’t have it any other way.

“That’s a big part of what I wanted to do,” he explains. “I knew when I made this film, I didn’t want to shy away from talking about grief and talking about PTSD. What the film will do, hopefully, is take them through the arc of going into it, but also coming out the other side.

“I went through a very intense process before I started writing, where a lot of grief started really surfacing.

“And the process of researching and writing it, really, I feel that saved my life. I truly believe that.”

While the film has its premiere at Edmonton International Film Fest last fall, now that it’s getting a proper theatrical release, he’s flying up here for its early evening screening at 7:15 p.m. at Cineplex North Edmonton Friday. “I just got approval from Cineplex and I get to introduce the show, and I love that.

“I’m going to have a lot of friends and family coming,” he laughs. “So I’ll be there. But maybe not the next night...”

[<https://edmontonjournal.com/entertainment/movies/actor-director-troy-ruptash-mines-slavic-pathos-for-ukrainian-period-film>]

5. Canada. “Charlottetown, P.E.I. Celebrates Ukrainian Independence Day Ahead of 30th Anniversary,” *Saltwire*, 22 August 2021.

Grace Biswas

CHARLOTTETOWN, P.E.I. — After finishing lunch around the corner, Charlottetown Mayor Philip Brown was on his way to commemorate the city’s first celebration of Ukrainian Independence Day.

He expected to see two or three people waiting for him at Charlottetown City Hall.

“Coming around the corner, I see it packed full. I didn’t know there were so many Ukrainian people in Charlottetown. It was a very pleasant surprise,” said Brown.

For a small Ukrainian diaspora, the gathering at the corner of Queen and Kent streets in Charlottetown was significant.

For the first time in P.E.I. history, Ukrainian newcomers and those with Ukrainian heritage gathered to celebrate Ukrainian Independence Day, which takes place on Tuesday, Aug. 24, by raising the national flag at the City Hall and singing a national anthem.

Dressed in traditional clothing, vyshyvankas, dozens of Ukrainians, along with their kids and families, waved Ukrainian flags and met neighbours they didn’t know they had.

The organizer of the event, Elina Lialiuk, joined the mayor for a celebratory speech at the flag-raising ceremony.

“When I arrived here, I didn’t know there were any Ukrainians at all,” said Lialiuk.

“I didn’t know either,” replied the mayor.

“But thanks to this event, we are now able to meet each other and officially commemorate the existence of the Ukrainian community here,” continued Lialiuk.

Lialiuk said she believes this celebration is especially important for children to become acquainted with Ukrainian traditions and see how their parents demonstrate love for their motherland.

“Ukrainian community belongs to one of Canada’s largest ethnic communities (1.4 million), and the 30th anniversary of Ukrainian independence has become a wonderful reason to start the P.E.I. Ukrainian community, which previously did not exist officially,” she said.

Lialiuk saw the need to create a community while preparing for her move to P.E.I. in November of 2019. She was trying to get in touch with Ukrainians in the province but couldn't find any.

"Upon our arrival, there was a feeling that we were the only Ukrainian family," she said.

To find out if there were other families, Lialiuk created a Facebook group called Ukrainian P.E.I. and slowly saw a few people joined.

With the help of the P.E.I. Association for Newcomers to Canada, she was provided with a contact of a community engagement assistant at Charlottetown City Hall who helped organize the flag-raising ceremony and lighting up of City Hall with Ukrainian national colours.

"I was impressed that Mayor Philip Brown very quickly and easily accepted our invitation to join Ukraine's Independence Day celebration and even personally helped with the Ukrainian flag raising. Indeed, people in P.E.I. are amazing," Lialiuk said.

Lialiuk also acknowledged the work of Orysia Dawydiak, who helped gather representatives of the Island's earlier Ukrainian diaspora.

Dawydiak is a daughter of Ukrainian immigrants and a P.E.I.-based author who moved from Ontario in 1986.

Her book *a House of Bears* tells a story about an internal conflict of a person of Ukrainian heritage who is trying to blend in and adapt to living in Northern Ontario.

"It's fiction, but I used nuggets of real life. I heard many stories of immigrants who came here and the hardships they faced. I'm very sensitive to people who come to a new place. It's hard enough to move to a new city or province, but changing culture is more than hard," she said.

When Dawydiak arrived on the Island, she also felt like there were no one to share her Ukrainian heritage with.

Over the years, she met a few people with whom she would gather every year to celebrate Sviat Vechir, the holy evening before Ukrainian Orthodox Christmas.

Starting from a few people, their company grew, once hosting 14 Ukrainians for a traditional Christmas dinner.

"It was something my family did every Christmas, and I wanted to keep this tradition alive here."

Seeing all the Ukrainians gathered together Aug. 22, though, was a big surprise for Dawydiak.

"I just got gobsmacked. I didn't realize there were so many people, so many young immigrants. And they are motivated, and they are not taking things for granted and are not forgetting about the culture that brought them here," she said.

“I’m so thrilled. Takes the pressure of us, old people,” she laughed.

Lialiuk said she hopes this event will help to unify more Ukrainians of P.E.I. and educate other people about their ethnic group.

“It is very important since I frequently hear from people that Ukraine is a part of Russia, which is absolutely wrong and, I would say, even offensive,” she said.

“Ukraine officially declared itself an independent country on Aug. 24, 1991, and Ukrainian is the sole official national language. It is a beautiful country with unique traditions and extremely delicious cuisine.”

Brown said he’s looking forward to seeing how the Ukrainian community can get involved with his city.

“We have six or seven advisory committees. That’s the way for any ethnic background, or absolutely anyone, to get involved, no matter their language, colour or religion. It’s all about getting involved. And it’s always important to build that community of interest,” he said.

6. Canada. “Jewish Groups Call for Removal of Vandalized Ukrainian WWII Memorial,” *CBC News/Edmonton*, 12 August 2021.

The Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies (FSWC) is calling for the removal of two Ukrainian monuments considered racist, one of which was recently vandalized.

A memorial honouring the 14th Waffen SS Division in St. Michael’s Cemetery, located in northeast Edmonton, was covered with red paint. The words “Nazi monument” were painted on one side and “14th Waffen SS” on the other.

The statue of Roman Shukhevych was also vandalized with the words “actual Nazi” outside of the Ukrainian Youth Unity Complex. It has since been cleaned up.

The vandalism was seen on Monday night but it’s not known when it happened.

In a news release sent Thursday, Jaime Kirzner-Roberts, director of policy at FSWC, said the memorials honour “Nazi collaborators and war criminals” and urged that they be removed.

“It is beyond shameful to have monuments here in Canada,” Kirzner-Roberts said in the release. “These monuments are nothing less than a glorification and celebration of those who actively participated in Holocaust crimes as well the mass murder of Polish civilians.”

Abe Silverman, B’nai Brith Canada’s manager of public affairs and a Holocaust survivor, said the organization has been working with the Ukrainian Youth Unity Complex to remove the bust of Shukhevych.

Shukhevych was known for leading an anti-Soviet nationalist uprising in Ukraine. B'nai Brith has described him as a Nazi collaborator who oversaw mass atrocities against Jews, ethnic Poles, Belarussians and others.

“It’s a disservice to our community when we put up statues that honour people who have a history that may be very acceptable to some and offensive to others,” Silverman said.

He said these types of discussions are emotional on all sides but added, “We do have to overcome the barriers that exist for the sake of harmony.”

The Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Edmonton called the graffiti “disturbing” and reported it to police.

“This vandalism is part of the decades-long Russian disinformation campaign against Ukraine and Ukrainians to create a false Nazi image of Ukrainian freedom fighters,” it said in an emailed statement.

“The translation of the Ukrainian message on our vandalized monument is ‘For those who fought for Ukraine’s Freedom.’”

The Ukrainian Youth Unity Council said in a statement that recent accusations against its community have been “riddled with disinformation.”

“As for those who presume a right to dictate to us about whom we should honour, we invite them to reflect upon whom they are serving when publishing divisive ‘fake news,’” the statement read.

Jars Balan, the director of the Ukrainian Canadian Studies Centre at the University of Alberta, said the history of the monuments is complicated.

The memorial in St. Michael’s Cemetery was put up to honour the people who fought against both the Soviet army and the Nazis for the independence of Ukraine during the Second World War.

“There’s all this history behind this. And in history, context is everything. Horrible things happened in the Second World War,” he said. “Difficult decisions, and decisions that may be regrettable in retrospect, were made. But it’s hard to put yourself in the shoes of those people who had to make them then.”

He said it’s easy to refer to them as Nazis, but as a historian, he needs to be objective.

“Some of these people who ended up fighting in German uniforms were simply not Nazis. They were fighting for Ukrainian independence,” he said. “And that was the best way to achieve it, as far as they were concerned. They didn’t have any options.”

The graffiti still remains on the memorial in St. Michael’s Cemetery.

Edmonton police have not confirmed whether they are investigating.

**7. Canada. “These 5 Ukrainian-Canadians Are Devoted to Their Ancestral Homeland,”
Kyiv Post, 2 July 2021.**

By Olena Goncharova.

Although they were not born in Ukraine, the nation is a part of them in many ways: Through philanthropy and promotion, on the pages of books, and in songs that are sung around the table on Christmas.

For the last 130 years, Canada’s 1.5-million-strong Ukrainian community — the largest Ukrainian diaspora outside of Europe — has had a strong voice both in Canada and their ancestral homeland. They helped gain formal recognition of the Holodomor as an act of genocide, raised money for projects acknowledging Canada’s internment of Ukrainians during World War I, and have sent hundreds of election observers and military instructors to Ukraine.

This community, built over four waves of immigration, began on the prairies and has spread throughout Canada’s other provinces.

These are just a few of the many prominent Ukrainian-Canadians:

Chrystia Freeland
Deputy prime minister, minister of finance of Canada

If there is one minister in Canada’s federal government who stands above all others in terms of commitment to Ukraine, it is Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland. She is the first female finance minister and the first Ukrainian-Canadian to serve in that role. She is the most influential member of Cabinet after Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

Holding on to her roots and family traditions is something Freeland has never lost sight of.

“The traditions of Ukrainian Christmas and Easter are very important to my family and me. Every year, we gather with family and friends around the table,” Freeland said in written comments to the *Kyiv Post*.

After the third Ukraine Reform Conference that took place in Toronto on July 2, 2019, bringing Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky to his first official trip to Canada, local journalists wrote that Canadian-born, Harvard and Oxford educated Freeland spoke the language of Ukraine better than the country’s president, whose first language is Russian. The explanation stems from family traditions.

“My mother was Ukrainian-Canadian and I speak Ukrainian, including at home with my children,” Freeland says. “It is very important to me that they are also able to speak Ukrainian, so I have made each one attend Ukrainian school on the weekends. It was hard at first, but all three of them are now proud to speak Ukrainian.”

Freeland is also among the Canadian politicians who have deep insights on Russia's aggression against Ukraine. She is considered internationally as a key point person on Ukraine.

"We have been at the vanguard of defending Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity in the face of Russian aggression," she says.

She reiterates Canada's principal message to Ukraine: "Our government is committed to the international rules-based order. Canada is a steadfast partner of Ukraine and will always stand up for its sovereignty and territorial integrity."

Freeland cheers for independent Ukraine because she personally experienced what it was like under the Soviet regime.

"I was in Ukraine, as a student, between 1988 and 1989. It was the Soviet era and I am very grateful to have had that experience, to have lived that part of history. It gave me a very personal understanding of life in the Soviet Union, a communist and authoritarian regime," she says. "What struck me, very powerfully, and which I have never forgotten, was how quickly a political system can collapse. An important life lesson — that I carry with me today — is the possibility of dramatic, discontinuous change."

Alexandra Chyczij

President of Ukrainian Canadian Congress

Alexandra Chyczij knows the importance of community: As the president of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC), she is committed to representing the interests of one of Canada's largest ethnic and cultural communities. She believes "we are all part of something bigger than ourselves," and that a hromada (Ukrainian for community) is more than the sum of its parts.

It comes naturally from her upbringing. Chyczij's parents and grandparents were refugees who emigrated to Canada after World War II. They raised her and her sisters with a love for Ukraine, its culture, language and traditions, and instilled in them the importance of preserving and protecting their heritage at a time when Ukraine was under Soviet occupation.

"As a family and as part of the Ukrainian community in Toronto, we celebrated the beautiful Ukrainian traditions — Christmas, Easter — and we have passed down the importance of keeping our identity with our children, as our parents did for us," Chyczij says.

Her parents' generation started the first Ukrainian day school in Canada — St. Josaphat's in Toronto — which is now part of a Canada-wide network of bilingual schools that teach Ukrainian language and preserve Ukrainian heritage.

"My family instilled in us the importance of education, learning and achievement. Having been a plastunka (member of Plast, a Ukrainian scouting organization) in a displaced-persons' camps in Germany, my mother sent us to Plast. This scouting organization had a profound influence on my sisters and me as it taught us voluntarism, patriotism, and community service," she recalls.

Now as the president of UCC, Chyczij feels an obligation to carry on the work of those who came before them.

“My generation inherited a strong and united community with thriving institutions and we have a responsibility, both to those who came before us and built it, and to those who will come after us and will continue to reinforce and consolidate the efforts of our predecessors, who struggled in much more trying circumstances than those we face today,” she says.

A lawyer by profession, Chyczij says she was struck by how far the legal profession in Ukraine has come and the vital role that women are now playing in reforming Ukraine’s legal system. In 2019, she was invited to speak at a conference of JurFem, a women’s legal organization that was supported by one of Canada’s development projects through Global Affairs Canada and the Canadian Bureau of International Education.

“This is a sea change from the early days of independence and just one example of the many profound changes in Ukrainian society that Canada has been able to support,” she says.

But more changes are still on the horizon.

“We often hear about the need for reforms to move quickly, that Ukraine isn’t doing enough quickly enough,” she says. “We have to remember that a nation can’t emerge from centuries of foreign domination without addressing and working through the damage and trauma that was wrought by genocide and oppression.”

There will be steps backward, reversals and frustrations, she adds, but it is worth remembering that where Ukraine was 30 years ago and where it is today are worlds apart.

“This should fill us with hope for the future.

Victor Hetmanczuk
Ex-president, CEO of Canada-Ukraine Foundation

Ukrainians may not know Victor Hetmanczuk by name, but they know his work.

For six years he served as president and CEO of the Canada-Ukraine Foundation (CUF) before retiring in 2020. During that time, CUF was able to annually deliver a craniofacial surgery training program at Ukrainian military hospitals by bringing over teams of surgeons and their support staff for a week at a time.

“The competition to get chosen (for surgery) was fierce,” Hetmanczuk explains. “Because of COVID-19, we have gone to a video format that has allowed us to expand to the civilian hospital system as well. Over 300 patients have received life-changing surgeries. Less visible (since 2014), has been our psychosocial trauma therapy programs for male and female veterans as they struggle with issues around PTSD or reintegration into civilian society.”

Hetmanczuk first visited Ukraine in 1968 after his university graduation and did not have a chance to return until the early 1990s.

“As I was leaving, the question was posed: When will Ukraine become a European style democracy? I answered: In 45 to 50 years, or in two generations of citizens that have not lived under Soviet rule.”

Thirty years down the road, he says his forecast has now been reduced to 25 years.

Among the obstacles he lists combating corruption, further reforms in the security sector, promoting the rule of law, decentralization reform as well as promoting an inclusive political process.

Hetmanczuk’s family immigrated to Canada from Britain in 1955 after seven years of trying to establish roots there. They came straight to Toronto and his religious and social life revolved around the St. Volodymyr Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral.

“After church, we would all meet as a family and partake of our Ukrainian culinary traditions,” he says. “These special family meal get-togethers are still going on with my grandchildren who cannot wait to get to Baba and Dido’s house to see what new dish we have added to the menu to reflect our heritage.”

Hetmanczuk believes that growing up and attending school with a second language and cultural paradigm helped him better prepare for university and the working world after.

“Never in my dreams did I see myself talking in person to Ukrainian presidents in our native language about current issues in Ukraine — yet it happened,” he says. “My frequent visits in recent years have expanded my knowledge of the different regions of the country and the people that live there. Canada is proud of its multiculturalism — and Ukraine has started on that same path.”

Lubomyr Luciuk
Academic, author

When Lubomyr Luciuk was seven years old, he and his mother were yelled at in a bus in his native Kingston, Ontario for speaking “a foreign language” — Ukrainian. The Ukrainian community in Kingston was very small at the time.

The incident was shocking, but it also boosted Luciuk’s desire to tell the world about Ukraine. Now he can say he has fulfilled his childhood promise.

Luciuk, a professor of political geography in the department of political science and economics at the Royal Military College in Kingston, has devoted his academic life to globally promoting the Ukrainian cause and raising awareness about the country’s fight for freedom and independence through dozens of books, newspaper articles and public appearances.

Love for books stems from his childhood — every week his mother would take him to the library and let him pick any book he wanted with one condition — he had to read it within a week. Luciuk wanted to learn more about his ancestral land, but was disappointed to find no books in English about Ukraine at the library.

“I thought: I will make sure that books in English about Ukraine are on the shelves of libraries around the world,” he says.

His parents also raised him with the sense that people can achieve more by working together for a common cause.

“I’ll work with any Ukrainian or other person who is ready to devote their time for Ukraine,” he says.

Luciuk has organized dozens of projects across Canada and overseas, focused on the political geography of Ukraine in the 20th and 21st centuries. He is behind projects such as securing funding in 2017 for a memorial walk at Loos-en-Gohelle, France, remembering Cpl. Filip Konowal, a Ukrainian-Canadian soldier of the WWI whose valor at the Battle of Hill 70 earned him the Victoria Cross.

In 2019, Ukraine recognized Luciuk’s work, giving him the Cross of Ivan Mazepa, a presidential award that marks a person’s significant contributions to the revival of Ukrainian national interests.

With his colleagues in the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association, Luciuk also spearheaded the campaign to secure official acknowledgment and symbolic redress for Canada’s first national internment operations of 1914 to 1920, leading to the creation of the \$10 million Canadian First World War Internment Recognition Fund, supporting dozens of educational, cultural and commemorative projects across Canada.

“My parents always said: Make a difference, do something — and I love that,” Luciuk says.

Paul Grod
President of Ukrainian World Congress

The Ukrainian World Congress coordinates a network of organizations and communities in more than 60 countries, supporting efforts to preserve Ukrainian national identity. Behind its powerful voice representing over 20 million ethnic Ukrainians living abroad, is its president, Paul Grod.

Lately, the UWC has been hosting a series of meetings and public discussions with government officials and prominent experts on a NATO vision for Ukraine.

“Ukraine’s NATO membership is the surest and fastest path to peace and security in Ukraine. It will bring an end to Russia’s war against Ukraine and stop Russia’s ongoing provocations in Eastern Europe,” Grod says. “Continued appeasement of Russia will continue to deliver

oppression in Belarus, bloodshed in Ukraine and global aggression by (Russian President Vladimir) Putin and his henchmen.”

Grod knows what totalitarian regimes are: As teenagers, his parents were taken with their families from western Ukraine to Germany as slave laborers.

His parents were fortunate to immigrate to Canada. They reunited in Toronto, got married in the Ukrainian Catholic Church and had three sons.

“They always wanted to make sure their children remained conscientious Ukrainians who would continue to fight for Ukraine’s independence,” Grod explains.

And Grod does exactly that: A lawyer and business leader, he served as the UWC’s vice president for 10 years prior to his election as president in November 2018. He has chaired several projects including election observation missions to Ukraine and UWC’s Council in Support of Ukraine, among others. He believes that Ukrainians abroad must build strong self-help institutions and stay engaged in the nations where they are living and with Ukraine.

8. Canada. “Why Are So Many Surprised by Finding of Mass Child Graves?” *Edmonton Journal*, 9 June 2021.

By Elise Stolte
Page A4

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“Leah, there were no natives here” - that's what Leah Hrycun’s Ukrainian grandmother kept telling her, with increasing annoyance, as Hrycun wrestled with a mystery.

If the Cree moved onto reserves before the Ukrainian settlers arrived, as local Ukrainian historians had said, then why do Indigenous families have stories of grandfathers learning to speak Ukrainian? Why do their grandmothers pass down Ukrainian poppyseed cake recipes? Hrycun is a PhD student at the University of Alberta. I thought of her work Monday as city council debated renaming the Grandin LRT station.

Hrycun’s mystery goes a long way to explain why so many Canadians still are so surprised by the children's graves in B.C. The abuse, disease and trauma has been documented extensively. But the Ukrainian example illustrates how the stories we tell ourselves become a mix of myth and reality; Canada's popular history is also full of blind spots.

Council voted unanimously to remove Bishop Vital-Justin Grandin's name from the LRT station, in response to the discovery of 215 unmarked children's graves beside a residential school in Kamloops. Just before Monday's vote, Coun. Aaron Paquette shared his perspective.

“Growing up, I knew about (the residential schools, abuse and lost children) and I learned more as I got older. But for Indigenous people, this history is very much present and constant,” said Paquette, whose heritage is Cree and Métis.

“It’s as if there are two histories - two worlds, two realities - in this land. I’ll tell you, growing up, I didn’t understand why no one else cared about these things. I thought they knew and didn’t care. It didn’t occur to me that they lived in an entirely different reality, a different history, and therefore had entirely different priorities. But I’m hoping that changes.”

Bishop Grandin - a key supporter of the French language and community in Alberta - also lobbied to build more residential schools. He wanted to isolate Indigenous children from their parents so they would let go of their traditions and beliefs.

The vote Monday means the city is taking down references to Grandin at the LRT station, and then will work through a renaming process with Edmonton's Indigenous and French communities. City officials also covered the mural depicting the residential school system with orange, a symbol of reconciliation.

Hrycun’s work is specific to the Ukrainian community of central Alberta, but a similar forgetting happened in many communities as Canada created the “two histories” that Paquette references.

The first Ukrainian settlers fled persecution to settle in Western Canada in the early 1900s. At that time, their letters home and their written stories included stories of help. These farming families were unprepared for how cold it gets on the prairies and many would have starved and frozen if local Indigenous families hadn’t rescued them.

But those stories gradually changed. As Ukrainian settlers learned to farm here, their stories about Indigenous neighbours still expressed sympathy but also stressed hard work, Hrycun said. It became a “bootstrap narrative” - that Ukrainians succeeded through their own hard work.

By the 1970s, the stories of all that Indigenous Canadians did to help their Ukrainian neighbours had all but disappeared.

“(Former prime minister Pierre) Trudeau was really pushing that multicultural atmosphere,” Hrycun said. “It was only then that Ukrainians truly began to feel they were part of this Canadian project. At that time, a lot of settlers who had stories of interactions with Indigenous peoples really pushed them under the rug.”

That much has been documented by other researchers. Hrycun’s PhD project is to find local stories of Indigenous-Ukrainian interaction and share them again. She has help from Indigenous friends such as Judy Half, whose Cree grandfather spoke Ukrainian, and Sharon Venne, whose Indigenous grandmother passed down the Ukrainian poppyseed cake recipe. Eventually, Hrycun will co-produce a travelling public exhibit with participants.

For Hrycun, what stands out is how much Ukrainian and Indigenous families had in common. They were both oppressed, pushed to the margins of society and dealing with the loss of their traditional lands.

But as they gained acceptance in Canadian society, Ukrainians created a new founding myth, she said. “Ukrainians came to see themselves as the first true occupants of these lands. These revisionist histories are the stories of my ancestors.”

Hrycun’s work is deeply personal. It makes for awkward family conversations. Some of her relatives are excited about the new perspective, while for others there's guilt and a sense that this wouldn’t be a problem if it wasn’t talked about.

On a broader scale, we need to recognize the history of Indigenous oppression isn't dead. The trauma of residential schools is still being felt today, and it's absolutely appropriate to mitigate that harm by at least removing murals and names celebrating what was done.

But Bishop Grandin isn’t being “cancelled.” If all goes well, his legacy will simply be seen more completely. Then our new myths will at least be more accurate, and that has to be a first step to healing.

9. Czechia. “Brno City Remembers Ukrainian Independence by Hoisting Flag,” *CTK Daily News*, 24 August 2021.

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Brno, Aug 24 (CTK) - The Brno City will hoist the Ukrainian flag on the New City Hall building today to mark the 30th anniversary of the independence of Ukraine, Katerina Gardonova, from the City Hall press section said in a press release.

Gardonova said the city asked members of the Ukrainian Initiative of South Moravia to hoist the flag.

Brno councillor Marek Fiser (Pirates) said Brno this year hoisted the flag of Greece to remember the revolution leading to liberation and the flag of Belarus in support of Belarusian civic society and the victims of the repressions.

Fiser said Ukrainians are one of the strongest minorities in Brno.

More than 9,000 Ukrainians with a Czech residence permit lived in Brno at the end of April, according to the Interior Ministry data.

“It is well known that there were attempts at the sovereignty of Ukraine already in the past, however, all of them failed. And this is also why the importance of this event is sensitive and very high for Ukraine and every Ukrainian citizen,” Ilnara Dusash, the Ukrainian Initiative of South Moravia, said.

She said Ukraine is again having a hard time in the last few years due to the occupation of a part of its territory by the Russian Federation.

Dusash said the Ukrainian minority in the Czech Republic appreciated the gestures of solidarity and support very much. She said the Brno City Hall seems to be honestly trying to support and help Ukrainians who lived, studied and worked in the city

10. Czechia. “Ukraine: Czech Economy to Stop Functioning without Ukrainians,” *Business World Magazine*, 21 July 2021.

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Ukrainians form the largest national minority in the Czech Republic, and it would be much harder for the Czech economy to function without them, Ukraine’s Ambassador to the Czech Republic Yevhen Perebyinis has said.

“Without Ukrainian workers, the Czech Republic would not be able to live and the economy would simply stop,” Perebyinis said, adding that government officials and company executives had repeatedly told him about this.

Labor migration of Czech citizens abroad has created a labor shortage in various areas, which has prompted the Czech government to amend the legislation and simplify the procedure for foreigners obtaining a work permit. Special programs have been created to attract labor migrants from other countries, primarily from Ukraine.

The ambassador mentioned such programs as “Regime Ukraine” or “Project Ukraine”, aimed at attracting medical workers, IT specialists and scientists to work in the Czech Republic on preferential terms. In recent years, the quota for Ukrainian workers under these programs has grown from 10,000 to 20,000 and now to 40,000 people per year.

The diplomat drew attention to such an aspect as ensuring the rights of citizens who went abroad. With various countries, in particular, with the Czech Republic, there is a legal framework in this regard, in particular, social security agreements. However, Perebyinis said, the benefits of these agreements could only be enjoyed by those citizens who worked legally. This is how most Ukrainians in the Czech Republic work. Thus, for the most part, they are fully socially protected and are covered by all the guarantees of Czech law and bilateral documents.

But there are many people who work semi-legally or illegally, which is facilitated by a certain bureaucracy in decision-making by the Czech migration authorities and the emergence of a large number of “intermediaries”, mostly Ukrainians who are engaged in illegal employment. In such cases, there are many problems, including the fact that workers are not properly insured, they have inadequate working conditions, and so on.

“We must fight these illegal companies, because they use our citizens who then suffer,” the ambassador said.

He believes that law enforcement agencies must fight this systematically.

The Czech Republic is home to one of the largest Ukrainian diasporas abroad. According to the recent census, more than 53,000 people are citizens of the Czech Republic but identify

themselves as Ukrainians, which is only half a percent of the republic's population. At the same time, according to migration services, almost 180,000 Ukrainians live in the country, and they are almost the largest national minority. The vast majority of them are migrant workers, and what attracts them in the Czech Republic primarily is the wage as they steadily earn more than 1,000 euros and even more per month. Money is not the only factor, but the main one, the ambassador said. He added that, unfortunately, the vast majority of Ukrainian citizens who came to work in the Czech Republic did not return home.

Perebyinis emphasized the importance of creating a systematic program for the return of citizens from abroad, which should be comprehensive - it was necessary to give a clear signal that Ukraine needed its citizens who had left.

(Ukrinform/Business World Magazine)

11. General. "Some 3-5 Mln Ukrainian Migrants Are Abroad – Expert," *Interfax: Ukrainian General Newswire*, 20 July 2021.

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KYIV. July 20 (Interfax-Ukraine) - Director of Ptukha Institute for Demography and Social Studies of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine Ella Libanova said there are from 3 million to 5 million Ukrainian migrants abroad.

"At least 3 million, at most 5 million people," she said at the all-Ukrainian forum Ukraine 30. Human Capital on Tuesday, answering a question of how many Ukrainian migrants currently live abroad.

In her opinion, the reasons for the migration of Ukrainians are not only the financial issue.

Libanova believes that the main factor of migration is inequality between countries and regions.

"I disagree with the fact that most of our people go because of low salaries, they say so. But when you start conducting in-depth interviews with them, you understand that people are going because they do not just see their fate in this country, they do not see the future of Ukraine. They do not see that Ukraine will be such a country as Poland or the Czech Republic," she said.

12. General. "Ukrainian Ambassador to Poland Deschytsia Advocates Creation of Separate Department Responsible for Communication with Ukrainians Abroad," *Interfax: Ukrainian General Newswire*, 6 July 2021.

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KYIV. July 6 (Interfax-Ukraine) - Ambassador of Ukraine to the Republic of Poland Andriy Deschytsia considers it necessary to create a separate department or ministry, which would be solely responsible for communication with Ukrainians abroad.

“An important element that would have to coordinate work with Ukrainians in Poland, as well as, I think, around the world, should have been either a department or a ministry in Kyiv, which would be solely responsible for communication with Ukrainians abroad,” he said on the Ukraine 30. International Politics all-Ukrainian forum on Tuesday.

In his opinion, the potential for cooperation with foreign Ukrainians is very great.

13. Hungary. “Zhovkva, Adviser to Hungary’s PM Discuss Bilateral Declaration Recognizing Ukraine's European Prospect,” *Interfax: Ukrainian General Newswire*, 14 July 2021.

KYIV. July 14 (Interfax-Ukraine) - During his visit to Hungary, Deputy Head of the President’s Office Ihor Zhovkva held working consultations with diplomatic adviser to the Prime Minister of Hungary Janos Balla.

“During the meeting, particular attention was paid to the implementation of Ukraine’s European aspirations. Ihor Zhovkva informed the interlocutor about the main priorities of Ukraine in relations with the EU, in particular in the context of preparations for the 23rd Ukraine-EU summit. Among these priorities is the recognition of Ukraine's European prospect. In this regard, the interlocutors continued to discuss a draft of the corresponding bilateral political declaration,” the presidential press service said.

The parties also assessed the development of the security situation in the east of Ukraine. Zhovkva noted the ongoing ceasefire violations by Russian-backed formations, resulting in an increase in the death toll of the Ukrainian military. The worsening of a situation in the Russian-occupied Crimea, in particular with regard to systemic violations of human rights, was also noted.

Zhovkva thanked Hungary for the continued support of Ukraine’s sovereignty and territorial integrity and expressed hope that a peaceful settlement of the situation in Donbas would be among the priorities of Hungary’s Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe.

The interlocutors positively assessed the participation of the airborne assault troops of the Ukrainian Armed Forces, at the invitation of the Hungarian side, in the military exercises Saber Guardian 2021, which were held in Hungary in May-June 2021.

Regular bilateral contacts between representatives of the authorities of Ukraine and Hungary and the continuation of activities of corresponding subgroups of the interdepartmental working group on education were also positively assessed. The intention of the parties to sign in the near future an agreement on mutual recognition of documents on education and academic degrees between Ukraine and Hungary was also noted.

“The disposition to search for a mutually acceptable solution to sensitive issues of education and national minorities opens up a window of opportunity for us to transfer these issues from the

political to the expert level and normalize bilateral Ukrainian-Hungarian relations,” Zhovkva said.

In Budapest, Zhovkva also met with chief diplomatic adviser to the President of Hungary Gabriella Kereszty and State Secretary for Security Policy Peter Sztaray.

The main focus was on the security situation in eastern Ukraine and in the temporarily occupied Crimea, as well as the agenda of Ukraine’s relations with the EU and NATO. Zhovkva welcomed the intention of Hungarian Foreign Minister Peter Szijjarto to visit the east of Ukraine in the framework of Hungary’s Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe.

In addition, Zhovkva met with representatives of the Ukrainian community in Hungary and thanked the Society of Ukrainian Culture in Hungary, the Ukrainian Association Unity and the Ukrainian Cultural Association of Csongrad region for letters sent to the Hungarian leadership, calling for further support of Ukraine in the fight against Russian aggression amid build-up of Russian military presence along the Ukrainian border and in the temporarily occupied Ukrainian territories in the east and in Crimea, as well as providing Ukraine with a NATO Membership Action Plan and implementation of our country’s Euro-Atlantic course.

14. Italy. “Ambassador: Ukrainian Cultural Center Should Be Created in Italy,” *News from Ukraine*, 6 July 2021.

By Olga Lobastova

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A Ukrainian cultural center or a branch of the Ukrainian Institute should be established in Italy in order to promote Ukraine and demonstrate its potential.

“One of the important tools for popularizing Ukraine, improving and conveying the image of Ukraine, demonstrating our potential – cultural, spiritual and historical – would be the creation of a cultural center or a branch of the Ukrainian Institute,” Ambassador of Ukraine to Italy Yaroslav Melnyk said at the All-Ukrainian Forum “Ukraine 30. International Relations” on July 6, an Ukrinform correspondent reports.

According to him, this has been discussed for many years, but nothing has been implemented so far.

The Ambassador said that more than 100 Ukrainian NGOs were registered in Italy. However, a significant part of them are not active, including due to objective reasons such as lack of funding.

In total, according to official data, about 250,000 Ukrainians live in Italy. “The Ukrainian community in Italy is one of the largest. According to official data, about 250,000 Ukrainians are registered in Italy. Unofficial data show that this figure is many times bigger,” Melnyk added.

15. Italy. “Ukraine Counting On Female Support,” *Times*, 3 July 2021.

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Ukrainian fans cheering their side tonight in Rome could be mostly women, an official has said. With fans from Ukraine blocked from travelling due to Italian coronavirus restrictions, support will be left to members of the 240,000-strong Ukrainian community in Italy. Since 90 per cent of them are women, many of them working as cleaners and carers, they are expected to be a large part of the Ukrainian contingent, according to Yaroslav Moshkola, political councillor to the Ukrainian ambassador to Rome. “When a group of fans went to welcome the Ukrainian team at their hotel in Rome the other day, 70 per cent were women,” he said.

16. Lebanon. “Ukrainian Embassy: Official Opening of Taras Shevchenko Monument in Lebanon,” *National News Agency Lebanon*, 10 August 2021.

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NNA - The Ukrainian Embassy in Beirut on Tuesday issued the following statement: “The official opening of Taras Shevchenko monument will be held to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the restoration of Ukraine’s independence on August 19, 2021, in Ukrainian Park in Baabda.

The bronze monument to the Great Kobzar will become the first one in the Middle East and the 100 outside Ukraine. The author of the monument is the famous Lebanese sculptor Pierre Karam who graduated from the National Academy of Fine Arts And Architecture in Ukraine.

The Ukrainian poet Taras Shevchenko is well known in Lebanon for the admiration and promotion of his works by the outstanding Lebanese writer Mikhail Naimy. In 2020, the memorial plaque was installed in Ukrainian Park near the premises of the Embassy of Ukraine in Lebanon. The plaque contains carved in the stone “Testament” by Taras Shevchenko, translated into Arabic by Mikhail Naimy who studied in Poltava at the beginning of the 20th century.

During the opening ceremony Yaroslav Dzhys, Ukrainian bandura player and composer, will perform songs to Taras Shevchenko’s poems. Also his poems will be recited by representatives of the Ukrainian community in Lebanon.

The event will be attended by representatives of Lebanese authorities, public circles and diplomatic corps, Ukrainian community in Lebanon, Ukrainian Embassy staff and friends of Ukraine. Official guests from Ukraine will also participate in the opening ceremony.

The project is realized by the Embassy of Ukraine in Lebanon under the support of Baabda-Louaizeh Municipality, Ukrainian Universities Graduates Club in Lebanon and Ukrainian Community in Lebanon.”

Embassy of Ukraine in the Lebanese Republic

17. Lithuania. “PM Calls to Offer Opportunities to Foreigners to Learn Lithuanian Language,” *Baltic Daily - Political/Social News*, 9 June 2021.

© 2021 Baltic News Service

VILNIUS, Jun 09, BNS – With Lithuania seeing growth in certain ethnic diasporas, it is important to enable these people to learn the Lithuanian language, Prime Minister Ingrida Simonyte has said.

“We now increasingly hear a question about the learning of the Lithuanian language in discussions with people from those diasporas, which have been growing in Lithuania, and it is, of course, mostly the Ukrainian diaspora, also perhaps the Belarusian diaspora to some extent,” she said during the sitting of the Cabinet on Wednesday.

“It looks like we should consider ways to offer more opportunities to learn the official language more rapidly to those people who consider settling down, working and living in our country...,” the prime minister said.

The discussion on the learning of the Lithuanian language was triggered by the presentation of the implementation of migration policy guidelines.

Transport Minister Marius Skuodis called to provide more services “in at least several main languages of the European Union” in public institutions.

Simonyte agreed that it was necessary to enhance the provision of information in various languages but also stressed the importance of learning of the official language.

18. Poland. “Ambassador Deshchytsia: Some 1.5 Mln Ukrainians Working in Poland,” *Menafn.com*, 20 July 2021.

Currently, nearly 1.5 million Ukrainians are living and working in neighboring Poland.

This is a significant human capital, which is valued in Poland, while some of the Ukrainians, having gained experience and financial resources, could later successfully invest in developing own business in Ukraine, Ambassador of Ukraine to Poland Andrii Deshchytsia told the All-Ukrainian Forum “Ukraine 30. Labor Resources” on Tuesday, an Ukrinform correspondent reports.

“We’re seeing a rising number of migrant workers: against 2014, the numbers have doubled or tripled. Now we’re talking about 1.5 million Ukrainians working in Poland,” Deshchytsia said.

About 600,000 Ukrainians officially pay taxes to the Polish Social Insurance Fund, the envoy added, noting that the rest work legally, on employment contracts, while not being taxed in the country. The ambassador said labor migrants from Ukraine are treated “very well” in Poland.

Among the reasons for Ukrainians to seek jobs in Poland are higher salaries, opportunities toward self-realization, and a more stable situation that allows them to make more money, Deshchytsia explained.

“Another factor Ukrainians coming to Poland consider is proximity to Ukraine. This factor motivates Ukrainians to believe that, if the economic situation in Ukraine improves, they will return,” Deshchytsia stressed.

According to the diplomat, Ukrainians working in Poland on legal grounds are interested in an important form of social benefits: the possibility of receiving their pension in Poland upon their return to Ukraine. This is an important element in the context of migrant workers moving back to Ukraine, the ambassador noted.

“We are currently working on a new agreement between Ukraine and Poland on employment and social security of Ukrainian labor migrants,” said Ukraine’s ambassador to Poland.

According to Deshchytsia, another “bridge” ensuring the return of Ukrainian citizens to their homeland may be their experience of starting up businesses in Poland. He believes that over time, Ukrainians could transfer this experience to Ukraine. In this regard, the diplomat said that in 2014, there were 680 companies in Poland, owned by Ukrainians, while in 2021 their number skyrocketed to 16,000.

“This shows that Ukrainians don’t just come to Poland to work at construction sites or pick strawberries, they think about starting their own business. If it were to develop, it would potentially have to happen in Ukraine,” Deshchytsia is convinced.

Ukrainian labor migrants, the diplomat believes, are gaining experience, capital, and relevant contacts, and they could further use all this upon their return to Ukraine.

He also touched upon the Ukrainians studying in Poland. Of 50,000 Ukrainians currently enrolled in Poland’s educational facilities, some will stay in the country or move further westward, but some will come back to Ukraine.

“We need to think about encouraging our youths to do business in Ukraine. We could create proper conditions for them to stay in Ukraine,” the Ukrainian diplomat stated.

19. Portugal. “Number of Ukrainian Migrants in Portugal Significantly Decreasing over Years – Ambassador,” *Interfax: Ukrainian General Newswire*, 20 July 2021.

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KYIV. July 20 (Interfax-Ukraine) - Ambassador of Ukraine to the Portuguese Republic Inna Ohnivets says the number of Ukrainian migrants in Portugal has been significantly decreasing over the years, primarily due to the acquisition of citizenship.

“At the moment, about 30,000 citizens of Ukraine live in Portugal. The Ukrainian community is in fifth place among other migrants, the total number of which is about 600,000 people. The

number of Ukrainian migrants in Portugal has been significantly decreasing over the years, the number of the Ukrainian community in Portugal was more than 100,000 people, and at the beginning of 2010 some 52,500 people,” she said at the Ukraine 30. Human Capital all-Ukrainian forum on Tuesday.

At the same time, she said the reduction of Ukrainian migrants is not due to a massive departure from the country, but to the acquisition of Portuguese citizenship, after which such persons are excluded from the list of foreign citizens.

20. Romania. “Fr. Nicolae Lauruc Officially Becomes New Vicar of Romania’s Ukrainian Orthodox Vicariate,” *RISU*, 5 August 2021.

On August 1, 2021, Father Nicolae Lauruc has officially begun his new role as the vicar of the Ukrainian Orthodox Vicariate in Romania. Vicar Nicolae Lauruc celebrated the first Divine Liturgy in his new dignity at the Orthodox Church in Ruscova, Maramures County, for the feast of the Glorious Prophet Elijah, according to the unrevised calendar (August 2).

The Divine Liturgy was celebrated in both Romanian and Ukrainian, reported orthodoxtimes.com.

At the end of the Divine Liturgy, Fr Nicolae Lauruc presented the former vicar Fr. Ioan Pitura with an icon depicting Saint John the Russian that contains a particle of the Saint’s relics. This gift was a token of gratitude for the 30 years of ministry as vicar of the Ukrainian Orthodox Vicariate.

In his word, Father Ioan Pițura thanked God for all the blessings bestowed upon him. He also thanked Patriarch Daniel for his fatherly care. for all the vicarage clergy and the faithful present.

Ukrainian Orthodox Vicariate

The Ukrainian Orthodox Vicariate is an administrative-territorial unit canonically dependent on the Romanian Patriarchate, dedicated to Ukrainian Orthodox believers living in Romania. They participate in services held in their mother tongue by Ukrainian priests or Ukrainian speakers.

Currently, the Vicariate is based in the city of Sighetu Marmăției (Maramureș County) and includes believers from the northern part of the country (Maramureș, Transylvania, Crișana, Banat).

In 1952, the Ukrainian Orthodox Vicariate was transformed into a Ukrainian Orthodox Deanery, based in the commune of Poienile de sub Munte, Maramureș County, under the jurisdiction of the Orthodox Diocese of Cluj, receiving financial support from the Romanian Patriarchate.

After 1989, by the Decision of the Holy Synod no. 1432/12 February 1990, the Ukrainian Orthodox Vicariate was re-established, being directly canonically dependent on the Romanian Patriarchate.

21. Spain. “UGCC Parish Officially Established in Valencia,” *RISU*, 3 June 2021.

On June 1, in the Spanish city of Valencia, in the Church of Virgen del Pilar, documents were signed on the provision of a personal parish for the UGCC community, whose chaplain is Father Vasyl Boyko.

This was reported on the Facebook page of the Pastoral-Migration Department of the UGCC.

It is noted that the agreement was signed by: Vicar for Eastern Catholics Andrés Martínez Esteban (Madrid), vicar general Vicente Fontestad Pastor (Valencia), documented and present at the signing – Chancellor José Francisco Castelló Colomer (Valencia).

A member of the Valencia Community, Andriy Yakubov, told in detail about this to “Dilo” newspaper:

“Integration into the regional church structure on equal terms with other Spanish parishes. As another local Catholic parish, but aimed at satisfying the spiritual rights of Ukrainians. The division into Roman/Greek is typical for our area, not for this place. For example, the new status will allow weddings to be held in Ukrainian and in the Eastern rite, but with the issuance of a Spanish document (in Spain, canonical marriage is valid before the state without the need for newlyweds to go to the registry office). Prior to that, two priests serving the community had the status of chaplains with not very clear subordination to a number of church hierarchs of Spain and Ukraine, depending on the essence of a particular issue,” commented Andriy.

[RISU = Religious Information Service of Ukraine]

22. United Kingdom. “Scottish Ukrainians Fight to Keep Their Culture Alive,” *Kyiv Post*, 24 August 2021.

By Dylan Carter. Published Aug. 24. Updated Aug. 24 at 1:10 pm

EDINBURGH, Scotland — Nearly 80 years since the first arrival of Ukrainians to Great Britain, members of the Scottish-Ukrainian diaspora are fighting to keep their culture alive from their headquarters in Edinburgh.

This small team of volunteers, many of whom are now third-generation immigrants, take part in the uptake of their community center, which is a cornerstone of the Ukrainian community in Scotland.

Despite an ever-dwindling number of volunteers, the Scottish Ukrainians are now busily preparing for their most ambitious independence day yet, which commemorates Ukraine, and their immigrant ancestors.

Micheal Kerr, the vice chair of the Edinburgh Ukrainian Association, stated that it was crucial to celebrate it this year.

“It’s especially important to celebrate it after so long,” he said.

Now, on Ukraine’s 30th anniversary of independence, the Ukrainian community of Scotland prepared its most ambitious event yet.

The city of Edinburgh has a special connection with Kyiv. Not only has it accommodated many Ukrainian migrants, but it is also twinned with the Ukrainian capital.

As such, Edinburgh will celebrate Ukraine’s independence with official celebrations. It will be the first time that the Lord Provost, Scotland’s equivalent of mayor, will take part in the celebrations and the first time in five years that the flag of Ukraine will fly above Edinburgh.

On Aug 24, Scotland’s Ukrainians will gather around the Edinburgh City Chamber to honour the raising of the Ukrainian flag about the council offices.

A procession will then gather by Edinburgh’s monument to historical Ukrainian leader, Volodymyr the Great.

Walking once again in procession, a lone piper will lead the Ukrainian community to Edinburgh’s Holodomor monument, laying flowers in the memory of millions of Ukrainians who died as a result of Stalin’s man-made famine in 1932-1933.

The organizers of the procession will also plant kalyna trees, a plant traditionally used to mark big occasions, which have been specially donated from Ukraine.

As the evening progresses, a small celebration will be held from their Edinburgh club, welcoming members of the diaspora, and locals too, to mark the event with music, drinks, and celebrations.

Ukraine’s 30th independence day celebrations will be the association’s most important to date for the diaspora established after World War II.

According to Roman Krawec, a researcher on the Ukrainian diaspora in the United Kingdom, an estimated 34,000 to 36,000 Ukrainians relocated to Great Britain following World War II.

Some were former soldiers, many of whom were recruited by the British to fight against Nazi Germany as part of Winston Churchill’s Polish Armed Forces under British Command.

Before the outbreak of the Second World War, many ethnic Ukrainians lived in Poland, and were conscripted to the Polish army. In total, 1,000 Ukrainians, citizens of pre-war Poland, came to the UK as part of the exiled Polish army.

However, a large number of Ukrainians equally came to Scotland as prisoners of war captured from the 14th “Galicia” Division of the Waffen-SS and rehabilitated in British captivity.

Others relocated to Scotland as displaced persons, arriving to work as part of the European Volunteer Workers scheme, which recruited labourers from territories liberated from the Nazis to help rebuild post-war Britain.

Many Ukrainians went to work in the textile, mining, and agricultural industries of Scotland.

Kerr's grandfather, whose family name was Jakowuik, had arrived in Scotland following the war and found work in the Scottish textiles industry, later bringing most of his family with him.

Edinburgh attracted a large community of western Ukrainians and Polish Ukrainians, mainly Greek-Catholics, who later established Edinburgh's church of Saint Andrew in Edinburgh.

Members of the Scottish Ukrainian community recently rediscovered and restored a large Tryzub monument which was found nestled away on the site of a former Ukrainian community in the Scottish highlands, attracting media attention in Ukraine.

While just over a quarter of Ukrainians later relocated to other parts of the world, by 1950 around 22,000-27,000 remained.

According to members of the association, there were once around 3,000 first-generation Ukrainians in Scotland. Now, just a handful of those original migrants now survive.

Unfortunately for Scotland's Ukrainian community, it has proved difficult to maintain Ukrainian heritage outside of Edinburgh.

"It's unfortunate, just with members passing away, and just not coming along, my local club closed in the 90s," said Kerr. "Because we are now so isolated, we have to make an effort."

Kerr is one of those who volunteer to help in the surviving Edinburgh branch. With help from immigrants to Britain, the association hosts online Ukrainian language lessons, traditional dances, poetry nights, and also opens its doors to locals to help expose Edinburgh residents to Ukrainian culture. Fellow volunteer Louisa Tymkewycz reflected on her youth, stating that she was brought up in a Scottish environment, but a distinctly Ukrainian culture.

As communities had fragmented, closed, or moved on, Tymkewycz now sees the priority of her work for the centre as cultural preservation. "Sadly, yes, over the years less people are attending," she said. "It's just a matter of trying to keep up traditions. We were brought up trying to celebrate our Ukrainian heritage."

23. United Kingdom. "‘Wonderful to See’: Ukrainians in England Revel in Euro 2020 Encounter," *Guardian*, 7 July 2021.

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By Amelia Hill

Saturday's quarter-final has revitalised a sense of community and identity, though some are torn about who to support.

Nine-year-old Luca Mullaney was over the moon when Ukraine beat Sweden on Tuesday. The half-Ukrainian boy from Bradford did a series of victory jumps but then stopped dead. "I've got a big problem, Grandad," he said. "Who do I support on Saturday?"

His family are now putting their heads together ahead of the team's Euro 2020 quarter-final against England. Luca's mother, Sonia, is thinking she might sew him a top with Ukraine's colours on one side and England's on the other. Luca's cousin has suggested he wear his Ukraine shirt for the first half of the match and his England shirt for the second.

"I've told him he's in a win-win situation," said Stefan Jarockyj, Luca's grandfather. "One of his teams will go through to the semi-finals, so he's in the best position possible."

With holubtsi or cabbage rolls being stuffed in as many as 100,000 Ukrainian kitchens across the UK, varenyky dumplings pinched closed and shot glasses carefully counted to make sure there's enough horilka or Ukrainian vodka for everyone, Luca's dilemma is widely shared.

Jarockyj said that when the match was announced, people he hadn't seen for years appeared at his local Ukrainian community centre. "They were asking to buy Ukrainian football shirts to wear on Saturday," he said. "This match has regenerated and rekindled roots and national feelings instilled by parents and grandparents. It's wonderful to see."

Stefan Dezyk, a 19-year-old Ukrainian undergraduate from London, said the match would be a turning point for lots of young Ukrainians who were "teetering on the edge" of forgetting their national identity.

"This match has made a lot of Ukrainians remember what their country and culture are, and realise that they can feel proud of it," he said. "It's one of those rare moments when Ukraine is in the news and Ukrainians get a chance to say to the outside world: 'Hey look, we're a real country with something to be proud of.'"

Dezyk's mother, Hanya, spoke strongly about Ukraine's wrongly disallowed goal against England in their 1-0 defeat in the Euro 2012 tournament. Saturday, she said, will be a chance to right that historic wrong – against a backdrop of brocade.

"There will be lots of embroidery," she said. "The women and girls will have their flowered headdresses and the men will have their embroidered shirts, as well as their football shirts."

Ukrainians first came to the UK in significant numbers at the end of the second world war, mainly – like Hanya's parents – as prisoners of war from Germany and Poland.

Bonded by their national trauma, the Britain's Ukrainian community has traditionally been very strong, resulting in a wide network of local community centres, churches and Ukrainian language schools.

Ewen Chymera, a 22-year-old transport planner for Leeds city council, said all these community hubs had been deserted during Covid, but that thanks to Saturday's match they were again at the centre of a swelling of national pride.

"We've been worried that over the pandemic the Ukrainian community was at risk of fracturing because people had become too used to staying at home," he said. "We were worried that we wouldn't be able to get them to come back to the community centres post-lockdown. But this match has reminded them that they're part of a community, and that it's a community to be proud of."

Petro Chymera, a 31-year-old business analyst from Bradford, has created a special flag for Saturday's match that bears the Ukraine coat of arms on a background of the Bradford City colours.

"Our local Ukrainian community centre has had a burst of new life since the match was announced," he said. "Seats to watch the match on Saturday at our centre were sold out almost as soon as they went on sale."

"We're a very assimilated community but if Ukraine wins this match, then us Ukrainians will certainly have bragging rights. But everyone wins in this match no matter what the outcome because we're all Ukrainian and we're all English too, so whoever gets through, we're proud."

24. USA. "City of Binghamton Celebrates Ukrainian Independence Day," *WICZ.com*, 24 August 2021.

By Vincenzo Scarapicchia

On August 24th, 1991, Ukraine re-emerged on the maps as an independent nation, breaking out of Soviet Union aggression.

Thirty years later, Ukrainian people around the world are celebrating the 30th anniversary of the restoration of Ukraine's Independence.

In celebration of the 30th anniversary, the Ukrainian-American Congress Committee - Binghamton Branch hosts an annual flag-raising ceremony at Binghamton City Hall.

With a plentiful Ukrainian community in Binghamton, many still hold true to their culture and traditions, but still, remember the oppressed history of Ukraine from Russian aggression.

Although this flag-raising was a celebration of the Ukrainian spirit and freedom, the local Ukrainian community also uses this opportunity to spread awareness in the area about Ukraine's oppressed history.

"We had immigrants from Ukraine come here around the turn of the early 1900s" said Stephan Wasylko, member of the Ukrainian American Congress Committee. "They've remained loyal

Ukrainians, building America, but at the same time remembering that Ukraine was an oppressed captive nation for so many years.”

The local Ukrainian community holds plenty of festivals, bake sales, and events all throughout the area. For over one hundred years, Ukrainian descent has had some of the largest impacts in the Southern Tier.

In 2021, the Ukrainian community still celebrates and embraces their freedom. The Ukrainian-American Congress Committee awarded Mayor Rich David with a plaque for honoring the Ukrainian independence and raising the flag at City Hall.

Some of the local organizations that participated were the Ukrainian-American Veterans Association, Sacred Heart Ukrainian Catholic Church, St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Orthodox Church, and the First Ukrainian Pentecostal Church.

[<https://www.wicz.com/story/44590976/city-of-binghamton-celebrates-ukrainian-independence-day>]

25. USA. “Greek Catholics of the United States Held the Largest Pilgrimage, Where They Presented the Highest Award of the UGCC - The Order of Metropolitan Sheptytsky,” *RISU*, 16 August 2021.

On August 14-15, the 67th Assumption Pilgrimage took place in Slutsburg, New York, which is the largest pilgrimage of Ukrainian Catholics in the United States of America. This was reported to Rhys by the communications service of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

The pilgrimage was conducted by the congregation of the Sisters-Servants of the Immaculate Virgin Mary in Slutsburg, New York. The feast of the Assumption of the Virgin is a special day for service sisters all over the world because on August 27, 1892, the solemn consecration of the first House of Service Sisters in the village of Zhuzheli and acceptance of the first six candidates.

The theme of this year’s pilgrimage was “Mary, Mother of the Savior, and Joseph, the Righteous Betrothed, support us in God’s Providence.”

The festive Liturgy on August 15 was led by Archbishop-Metropolitan Boris Gudziak of Philadelphia, eparch Bishop Pavlo Khomnitsky of Stamford and eparch Bishop Bohdan Daniel of Parma, with whom priests of the UGCC Metropolia in the United States co-celebrated. Numerous believers traditionally gathered for forgiveness from different parts of the world.

In his sermon, Metropolitan Gudziak noted that the feast of the assumption is widespread in the UGCC — there are many churches, cathedrals, and most of the farewells are held on the Dormition of the Virgin. In his sermon, he gave the pilgrims a small task — to tell others about the essence of the Feast of the Assumption of the Virgin.

This year’s pilgrimage to Slutsburg was a special occasion to congratulate Bishop Emeritus Basil Losten, who is celebrating the 50th anniversary of his episcopal ministry this year.

Metropolitan Boris Gudziak listed the merits of Bishop Losten:

“In Philadelphia, Bishop Basil built a house for the elderly, which is now a sign of our service to the wider society, because there are many non-Ukrainians there, it was the driving force behind the celebrations of the 1000th anniversary of the baptism of Ukraine-Rus and thanks to it, mosaics of Saints Volodymyr and Olga appeared in St. Peter’s Basilica in Rome.”

Also during the pilgrimage, on behalf of the head of the UGCC and members of the Synod of bishops, Metropolitan Borys Gudziak presented Karl Anderson, who for 20 years led the “Knights of Columbus” around the world, with the highest award of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church-the order of Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky. Carl Anderson became the seventh Knight of the order.

This distinction is awarded by the UGCC to individuals, public or ecclesiastical institutions, representatives of Churches and religious communities, as well as secular persons, in particular public figures, who, through their work, implement the principles and principles that the righteous Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky lived and served the church and people.

The Knights of Columbus is the largest lay Catholic organization in America, with more than two million members worldwide.

“Knights give millions of hours of volunteer work and tens of millions of dollars to charity. Mr. Anderson ran an ultra-sound diagnostic program that saved the lives of thousands of babies – mothers were able to see their babies in the womb and gave up the idea of terminating the pregnancy. He also actively supported the initiative to create a branch of the Knights of Columbus in Ukraine,” Metropolitan Borys Gudziak said as he presented the award.

The long-standing Supreme Knight of the “Knights of Columbus” noted that the modern diaspora of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church has a task that no one else can perform. This task is to be an example of those who experience great suffering, but at the same time do not cease to bear witness to God. He stressed: “This is exactly what Christians around the world need today, and especially our Catholic brothers here in the United States of America, as we all face the challenges of a secular society that is becoming increasingly hostile.”

[Religious Information Service of Ukraine. https://risu.ua/en/greek-catholics-of-the-united-states-held-the-largest-pilgrimage-where-they-presented-the-highest-award-of-the-ugcc---the-order-of-metropolitan-sheptytsky_n120974]

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