



18th Convention of Ukrainian Canadian Congress

Some 250 Delegates from across Canada participated in the 18th Convention of Ukrainian Canadians held October 6-9, 1995 in Winnipeg. The delegates and guests represented the 27 national member organizations, 6 provincial councils and 24 branches under the umbrella of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC) Headquarters. The UCC has officially represented the concerns and aspirations of the one million Canadians of Ukrainian descent for the past 55 years.

Oleh Romaniw, Q.C., was elected to his second consecutive three-year term as UCC President.

Among the distinguished guests were Canada's new Ambassador to Ukraine, Christopher Westdal, and Ukraine's Ambassador to Canada, Victor Batiuk.

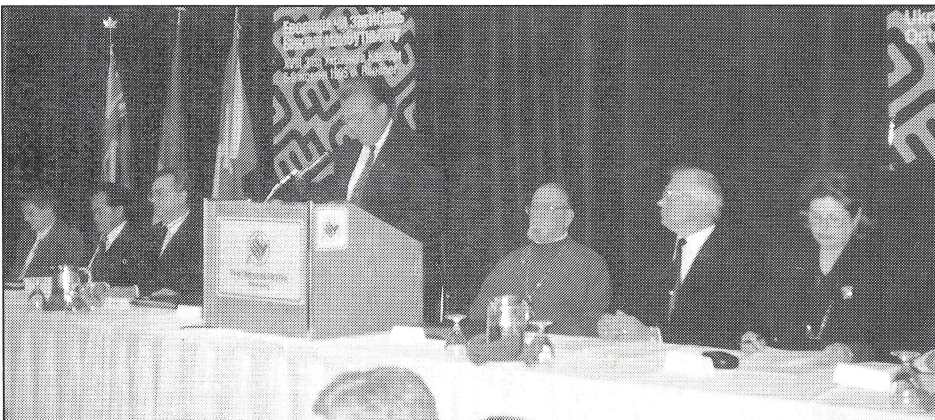
The provocative slogan for this convention, "Evolution or Extinction: Challenge for the Future", called for community action, rather than a forecast of doom, to implement the changes required to ensure a healthy and vibrant future for the existing Ukrainian Canadian institutions.

Delegates to the XVIIIth Convention of Ukrainian Canadians voted unanimously to amend the Constitution of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress. The vote effectively eliminated the so-called "Big Five"

member organizations from vetoing any matter. Any matter of fundamental principle will still require the consensus of the Big Five, but if none is forthcoming, it can be approved by a three-quarter majority vote.

The other majority constitutional change adopted sees the elimination of the rotation list in assigning Executive positions from among the Big Five organizations. The President of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress will continue to be elected at large by the delegates to the triennial Convention of Ukrainian Canadians. The other executive officers will now be comprised of a First and Second Vice-President, a Secretary General and a Treasurer. They will be elected by a majority vote from among the members of the Executive at its first meeting, scheduled for early December.

Delegates also actively participated in six day-long working sessions on the following subjects during the conventions: Future Directions for Ukrainian Education in Canada; Social Issues; Canada-Ukraine Relations; Financial Self-Sufficiency; Ukrainian Canadian Community Development; and the Ukrainian Community and the Canadian Mainstream.



UCC National President Oleh Romaniw addresses the UCC Convention in Winnipeg. Some of the Head table guests include: (l-t) Sophia Kachur, (UCC Presidium), Dr. Ray Paktakhan, MP Winnipeg North, Ambassador Victor Batiuk, Oleh Romaniw, Ukr. Orthodox Metropolitan Wasyl Fedak, Manitoba Rural Development Minister Hon. Len Derkach, Her Worship Susan Thompson, and Dr. Dmytro Cipywnyk, President of the World Congress of Ukrainians.

Recommendations and Resolutions of the UCC Canada-Ukraine Relations Workshop

1. The Executive of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress and the Canada-Ukraine Foundation are directed to establish an appropriate administrative and constructive base for the registry and organization of Canadian professionals of Ukrainian background who possess academic appointments and responsibilities at Canadian universities and colleges with the aim of coordinating educational and professional assistance projects with Ukraine.

This will help identify the ability and effectiveness of our intellectual base in Canada interested in the problems of Ukraine. Within the parameters of this process it is necessary to analyze the status of contemporary education in Ukraine, such as the basic and applied sciences, and to help carry Ukrainian scientific achievements onto the international arena. It is expected that a future and ongoing aim will be to develop appropriate scientific and academic assistance plans for Ukraine, as well as to coordinate their functions, taking into consideration our abilities in Canada and the priority of these, projects to the interests of the Ukrainian community in rebuilding Ukraine.

2. With the view that Ukrainian credit unions in Canada have provided service to the Ukrainian community and its members for over 50 years; and with the view of the successes of the program to revive credit unions in Ukraine, where more than 140 credit unions have already been registered; the Convention of the Ukrainian Canadians support the efforts of the Council of Ukrainian Credit Unions and the Canadian Cooperative Association to promote and assist the development of credit unions in Ukraine.

3. The Canada-Ukraine Relations session proposes that the Ukrainian Canadian Congress urges the government to preserve and rebuild the Ukrainian section of Radio Canada International as an indispensable source of information between Canada and Ukraine.

4. Be it resolved that every UCC branch report quarterly to the Ukrainian Canadian Congress Headquarters about local (within its area) projects which are of assistance to Ukraine.

5. Be it resolved that the 18th Convention of Ukrainian Canadians convey its best wishes to the new Canadian Ambassador to Ukraine and its hopes for his prolific work in building ties between Canada and Ukraine.