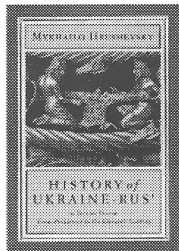


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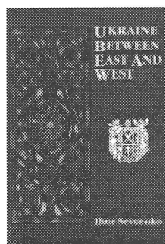
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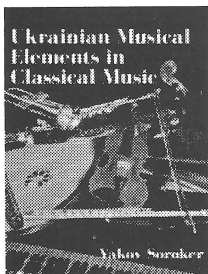
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## UCPBF: Pillar of Ukrainian- Canadian Community

by Bree Verity

The Ukrainian Canadian Professional and Business Federation (UCPBF), founded on July 17, 1961, links Ukrainian Canadian business and professional people across the country. The Federation represents 900 members in 16 associations in the Ukrainian Canadian Congress.

The UCPBF has been the link that binds Ukrainian professional and business people across the country: a farmer in Saskatchewan and a president of a large corporation in Toronto; a teacher in Halifax and a small scale entrepreneur in Victoria; a university student and a retiree. The one element they all have in common: to preserve Ukrainian culture in Canada.

The goal of the Federation is to advance the professional, economic and social life of its members in Canada through their Ukrainian roots. Its role is also to assist and communicate with Ukraine in a new relationship. "The Federation is at a crossroads," said President Donna Korchinski. "Since its independence, our relationship to Ukraine has widened to include economic, business and financial assistance. In order to maintain this relationship, we need to strengthen our base in Canada even more."

Communication among Ukrainians in Canada is at the top of the list of priorities of the UCPBF. A national database of members is being prepared which will be distributed through Internet access. A monthly newsletter is sent to all board members and associations.

In 1998, eastern and western regional conferences will be held to develop policies and air issues. The main focus will be on youth, continuing a program to nurture young professionals and future business leaders in the Ukrainian community. All issues and projects of the Federation are distributed not only to members and member organizations, but also to all Ukrainian media in Canada. The Federation stresses teamwork on corporate sponsorships, marketing, government relations, and research work on projects and position papers vital to Canadians across Canada. Some of these issues include the World War I internment of Ukrainians who were deemed to be "enemy aliens" because they happened to carry Austrian passports. The Ukrainian community has been asking the federal government for acknowledgement of the incident and a public apology. Seventy-five years later, there has been no apology. The Federation has been working with the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association on the issue. Another issue of interest to Ukrainians in Canada is the deportation and denaturalization of Ukrainians Canadians who were suspected of being War Criminals in World War II, without due process.

Throughout its 35-year history, the UCPBF has led major projects. One includes the publication of five volumes of the Ukrainian Encyclopedia through the establishment of the Canadian Foundation of Ukrainian Studies. A current project is to assist CFUS in researching the possibility of transfer of the volumes to CD-ROM.

The UCPBF has recognized individuals who have contributed to Canadian culture. The Nation Building award is a high honour for Ukrainians who have toiled for unity in Canada, and to those who make a lasting impression on Ukrainian Canadian culture. Hon. Roy Romanow, Premier of Saskatchewan received the award, while Foreign Minister Lloyd Axworthy has also been named as a friend of Ukrainians in Canada.

President Korchinski compares the relationship of the Federation and its associations to a chain formed by many diverse links, working together to preserve Ukrainian culture in Canada and show others the richness and diversity of their heritage, today and in the future. The UCPBF is linked closely with the global Ukrainian community on the Internet at:

<http://www.infoukes.com/ucpbf/>

Bree Verity is Director of Communications for the UCPBF.