



Montreal June 28-July 2

Ukrainian Canadian Professional & Business Federation Convention: Focusing on new challenge

The Ukrainian Canadian Professional and Business Federation is holding its biennial convention in **Montreal** from **June 28 to July 2, 1995**. For the first time, the convention is being hosted in Quebec by the Montreal Association. With a membership of 2000 individuals organized into 17 regional associations across Canada, with sister organizations in the United States, and with the general Ukrainian ethnic community to draw on, organizers are expecting a large turnout of delegates.

The Federation's guests at the Convention include the Hon. Sheila Finestone, Secretary of State for Multiculturalism and the Status of Women; Andriy Vesselovsky, Minister Counsellor at the Ukrainian Embassy in Canada, and Vera Danyluk of the Montreal Urban Community.

After two consecutive post-Ukrainian independence conferences focusing on Canadian-Ukrainian business, trade and assistance, this year's convention will turn its attention closer to home. The theme to be explored is "Ukrainian Canadians: The New Challenge" and the impact that the independence of Ukraine and events since 1991 have had on the Ukrainian Canadian community. The Convention will explore the challenges which present themselves to Ukrainian Canadian professional and business people as they seek to strengthen their networks and search for new ways to capitalize on their cultural heritage, economic interests and expertise.

According to Gregory Orleski, president of the Montreal UCPBA, "There has been a lot of concern that although we had no choice in focusing all of our efforts on Ukraine and its independence, we have may have done so at the expense of the Ukrainian Canadian community."

Many members see a need to re-define and overhaul the organization.

One particular topic the Montreal executive is hoping this Convention to address is the structure of the Federation's executive. Currently, the UCPBF elects its entire four-member senior executive from members of the host city's Association, leaving the rest of the country unrepresented.

On a more outward looking note, the UCPBF will consider its potential to become an important resource for Ukrainian immigrants to Canada, examining ways to help them integrate into the Ukrainian Canadian community.

The timeliness of the issues and the opportunities for serious discussion should be a finite drawing card for the Convention and ensure its success.



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MEET YOUR UKRAINIAN MPs & SENATORS

The Ottawa community recently had an opportunity to hear and meet Members of Parliament and Senators of Ukrainian ancestry at a dinner organized by the Ottawa Branch of the Ukrainian Canadian Professional and Business Association. L-r: UCC National President Oleh Romaniw, Senators David Tkachuk and Raynell Andreychuk, UCPBA Ottawa President Margaret Kopala, and MPs Ron Fewchuk and Walt Lastewka.