

UKRAINIAN CANADIAN WOMEN'S COUNCIL–WINNIPEG BRANCH

Honouring Ukrainian Canadian Women in Politics, Sunday, April 2nd, 2017



Hon. Mary Ann Mihychuk, MP

- * Hon. Mary Ann Mihychuk has been elected 6 times (1989, 1992, 1995, 1999, 2003 and 2015)
- * She held three cabinet positions at 2 levels of government
- * Instrumental in the creation of Winnipeg's first Aboriginal School – Children of the Earth
- * Signed an international declaration banning child labor in Canada
- * As part of Canada Ukraine Free Trade Agreement, she signed a Labour Agreement on Mine Safety with Ukraine
- * Helped secure funding for the shipment of 10 ambulances to Ukraine
- * Visited Ukraine three (3) times, professionally and personally
- * As Federal Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Labour, sponsored Pay Equity, Flex work, reformed Temporary Foreign Workers program and introduced Labour Legislation (Bill C-4) to reverse anti-union legislation from the previous government
- * Accomplished professional with BScH, Msc, PGeo designation
- * Managed her own business for 10 years
- * Founder of Women in Mining Canada
- * Mary Ann Mihychuk raised three children



Roseann Wowchuk

- * Roseann Wowchuk was elected in 1983 and was the first woman to serve as a councillor in the Swan River area. She held the position of councillor until 1990 including a period as deputy reeve
- * She entered provincial politics in 1990 and was elected as the MLA for Swan River and held the seat in 4 subsequent elections
- * Served as a member of the opposition from 1990-1999 and appointed Minister of Agriculture and Food when the NDP formed government
- * Roseann was the first woman to serve as a Minister of Agriculture in Canada. She also served as the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs and Cooperative Development
- * In 2011 she was appointed Minister of Finance and Minister responsible for Manitoba Hydro, the first woman in Manitoba to hold the portfolio. She also served as Deputy Premier under both Premier Doer and Premier Selinger
- * As Minister of Finance Roseann was able to secure funds to support building a statue in Dauphin which recognizes the contribution of Ukrainian Pioneer Women in this country
- * Roseann reintroduced the Farm and Rural Stress Line for northern and rural families; expanded the Food Development Centre in Portage La Prairie giving more opportunities to add value to products grown in Manitoba



Hon. Cathy Cox, MLA

- * Hon. Cathy Cox successfully advocated on behalf of the River East community to stop the construction of a big box development that would cause traffic congestion in the neighborhood
- * She successfully won every poll in River East during the 2016 election
- * Hon. Cathy Cox was appointed Sustainable Development Cabinet Minister for the Government of Manitoba
- * Implemented 2-year moratorium on cottage fees
- * She brought in legislation for flexible marketing for Manitoba Commercial Fisherman
- * Directed our Conservation Officers to aggressively enforce unsafe hunting practices, particularly at night
- * Championed several recycling projects in the community (McIvor Mall, apartment buildings) to serve as lighthouse projects to the entire province
- * She consulted with Manitobans on a made in Manitoba climate and green plan
- * Successfully managed four of Bonnie Mitchelson's campaigns - Bonnie is the longest serving female MLA in Canada
- * Reduced red tape in Agriculture, construction and municipal development through streamlined administrative processes



Christine Melnick

- * Christine Melnick is the fifth child in a working class family and a third generation CCF-NDP
- * Her Grandparents were very involved in Winnipeg General Strike, turned their home into a make-shift hospital for wounded strikers
- * 1975 United Nations International Women's Year – Christine Melnick's mother had a poster, representing the slogan of this year "Why Not?" that had a lasting impression on Christine
- * Christine Melnick attended public school – in Grade 6, Chris realized that the home-ec program did not have a lot to offer her. Christine was the first girl in Manitoba to take shops and is delighted when she sees male and female students choosing between both programs today
- * Christine, was the first in her family to get a Master's degree, in Library and Information Science at Dalhousie University in Halifax.
- * She is an ardent advocate for women's reproductive choice
- * Inclusion and diversity is also very important to Christine. Welcoming people from the world over, who have chosen Canada is a great gift, worthy of celebration
- * Literacy is passion for Christine, being a trained librarian, she believes that literacy is the way out of many difficult situations, including poverty.
- * Twelve years ago she began Share the Magic, a program through which she collects new and gently used books and then gave them away in communities that don't have a lot of books. To date over 375,000 books have been distributed.



Judy Wasylycia-Leis

- * Judy Wasylycia-Leis was a candidate 14 times over 40 years, including becoming the first woman to breastfeed in Legislature
- * As Minister of Culture, initiated the Community Places Program, a Task Force on Multiculturalism and the Manitoba Advisory Council on the Status of Women Act
- * Achieved legislative amendments to ban flavoured tobacco products aimed at attracting new youth smokers
- * Helped mobilize community opposition to bank branch closures and to bring alternative financial services to Winnipeg's North End
- * Successfully led efforts as NDP Finance Critic amending the 2005 Liberal budget to convert \$4.5 billion in corporate tax cuts into areas of education, housing and the environment
- * Received unanimous support in Parliament for a motion calling on the government to ratify the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- * Campaigned throughout her provincial and federal political careers to strengthen public health care and stop privatization, was named the "Medicare Warrior" by Shirley Douglas
- * Introduced motions for Parliamentary recognition of the Holodomor as an act of genocide and for the creation of Holocaust Memorial Day, both of which were subsumed under future private members' bills and received royal assent



Leanne Rowat

- * Leanne Rowat was elected in 2003 and 2007 representing the Minnedosa constituency and elected in 2013 to represent the new Riding Mountain constituency
- * As an elected Member of the Legislative Assembly, Leanne introduced Bill 202: Universal Newborn Hearing Screening Act; Bill 214: Neurofibromatosis Awareness Month Act; Bill 226: Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Act
- * As the Economic Development Officer – 1998-2003, she worked for the Souris-Glenwood Community Development Corporation and sat as a board member for the Southwest Regional Development Corporation and EDAM.
- * Canadian Women Parliamentarians – 2005-2016, serving as the Manitoba Caucus Chair from 2011-2014. Presented at the CPA International Africa 2014 - Canadian Women Parliamentarians session. Topic: Pre/Post Natal Mental Health Stigma
- * Leanne as MLA was the critic on, Children and Youth Opportunities; Aboriginal and Northern Affairs; Culture, Heritage and Tourism and Multiculturalism; Advance Education and Training; Persons with Disabilities; Status of Women and Family Services and Housing
- * Supported and advocated for the rights of many who needed a voice within our province including families seeking supports for children with autism; and mental health advocacy work to address stigmas and draw attention to this serious illness

■ Mistress of Ceremonies (MC)—Roxanne Klymkiw Tayler welcomed all guests then called on Msgr. Mitrat Michael Buyachok to lead the opening prayers.

She then introduced the following Honourees: Mary Ann Mihychuk, Cathy Cox, Judy Easylycia Leis, Roseann Wowchuk, Christine Melnick and Leanne Rowat.

After that there was a musical interlude by ЧУБ.

Take Four Part Ukrainian Male Harmony and split it between two sets of brothers and you get, "ЧУБ—Чотири Українські Брати"

Myron Burdeniuk, Julian Burdeniuk, Ivasyk Chabluk, and Mikhas Chabluk share a common love of Ukrainian folk music developed from an early age. Through their music, Ukrainians share stories about their joys and sorrows, love, patriotism, and traditions. As these songs are sung and shared through generations we ensure that our culture and traditions get passed on as well.

"ЧУБ" began singing together in October of 2014 and they were honoured to perform for that ceremonies.

UCC-MPC Vice President Myroslava Pidhirnyj introduced the President of Members Organization Joan Lewandowsky who then presented the Honourees.

Guest speaker at the ceremonies was Joy Smith. Closing Remarks were made by Joan Lewandowsky, President of UCWL.

The closing prayer and benediction was by Sr. Janice Soluk, SSMLI.



ЧУБ performance.