

UKRAINIAN CANADIANS

A century of accomplishment for Ukrainian Canadians

■ How times change. Ninety or 100 years ago, Ukrainians were one of the most despised ethnic minorities in Canada. This year, the 125th anniversary of the start of their migration to Canada, they can look back on a record of accomplishment.

Their collective story has lessons for other ethnic or religious communities—and for Canadian society in general.

A century ago, serious people who considered themselves reasonable talked about how these strange new settlers—with their unfamiliar language, religions and customs—would permanently change this country for the worse. Mass deportations and punitive laws—making Ukrainian-language education more difficult, for example—were prescribed.

The story of Ukrainian immigrants needlessly interned or harassed during the First World War has been told elsewhere. The persecution did not end with the Armistice in 1918, though. When the Ku Klux Klan came to Canada in the 1920s, its main targets were eastern Europeans and Catholics. The Anglican bishop of the diocese of Saskatchewan infamously referred to

"dirty, ignorant garlic-smelling unpreferred continentals."

The parallels with today's anti-immigrant prejudice are obvious.

The response of immigrants from what's now Ukraine was to endure and improve themselves through hard work and, especially, education. When the Second World War broke out, Ukrainian-Canadians enlisted in disproportionately large numbers to show their attachment to their new country.

Prejudice was slow to end. As the late Serge Kujawa relates in his autobiography, when he sought membership in the Law Society of Saskatchewan 60 years ago, he found a sneering challenge to his education and character that drove him to prove himself; he retired as one of the highest-profile lawyers in the province.

By the early 1990s, some of the highest positions in the province were held by the children or grandchildren of humble Ukrainian immigrants: premier, lieutenant governor, finance minister and chief justice. In the accomplishments of them, and others, are examples to others. This summer, it was heartening to see the Regina branch of



Interned in large numbers on dubious grounds, Ukrainian-Canadians can look with pride on the 125th anniversary of the start of their migration to Canada.

UKRAINIAN CANADIAN CIVIL LIBERTIES FOUNDATION PRINT

the Ukrainian Canadian Congress reach out to First Nations and say, in effect, "We, too, have known pain and prejudice. Let us learn from each other."

This is not an entirely happy story. The Ukrainian republic, established after the 1991 breakup of the old Soviet Union, remains bedevilled by bickering and corruption among its leaders and especially by Russia's armed occupation of much of the coun-

try's eastern half and the Crimean Peninsula, with the constant fear the Russians will invade to take more, or even all, of the country.

A people of such strength and resiliency deserve more. And Canada is the better for so many people of Ukrainian heritage finding it here.

REGINA LEADER-POST EDITORIAL BOARD
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Приятель Дітей -The Child's Companion

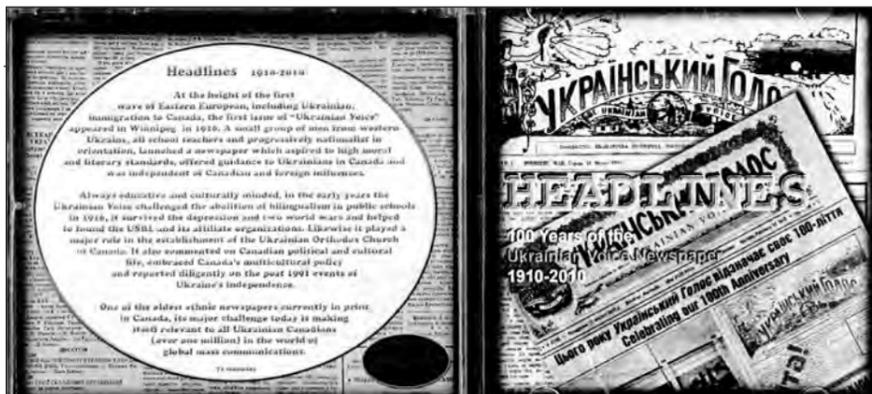
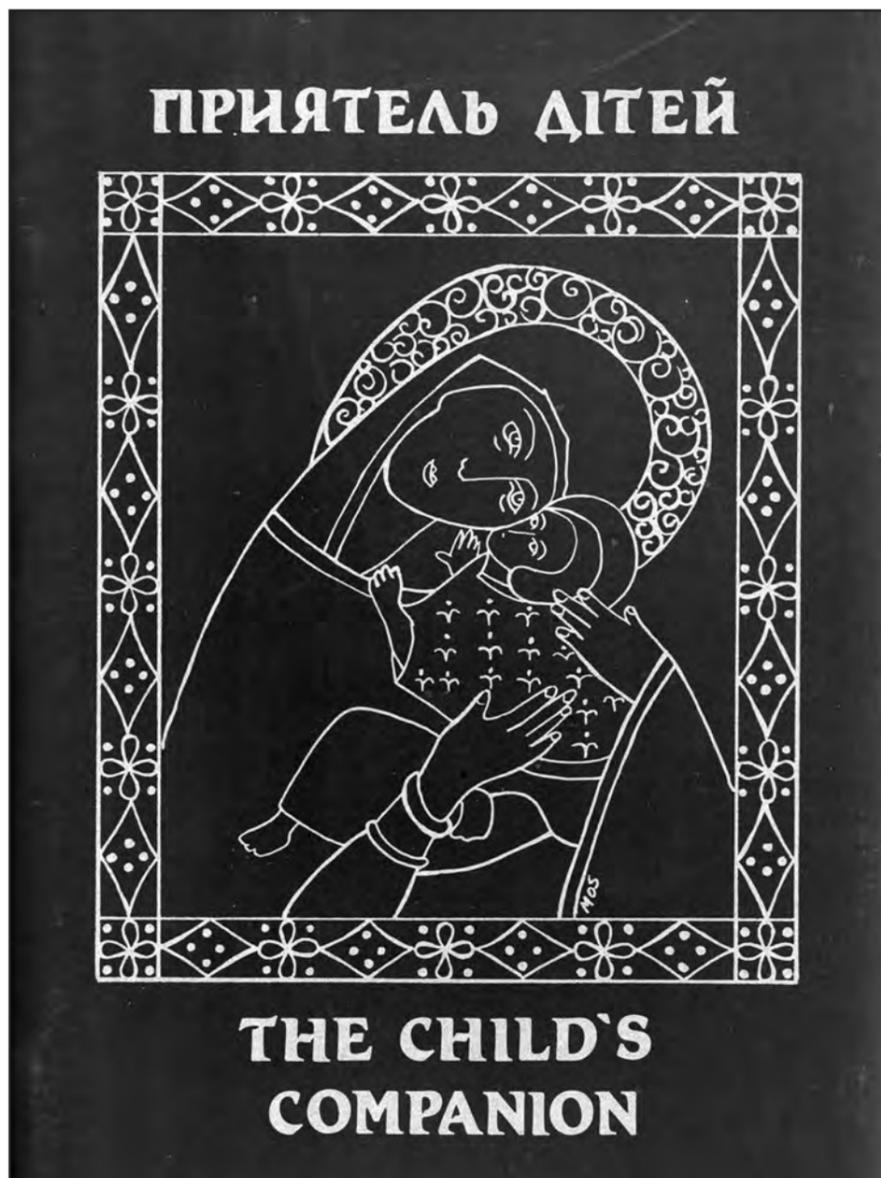
■ A liturgical supplement to the Ukrainian Orthodox Prayer Book is recommended for use in Sunday School classes.

Price \$6.00 plus GST

Available at:

Ukrainian Voice Book Store

842 Main Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba R2W 3N8



HEADLINES: 100 OF "UKRAINIAN VOICE" NEWSPAPER 1910-2010

"UKRAINIAN VOICE – UKRAINSKIY HOLOS"

has celebrated its 100 anniversary—the longest serving Ukrainian Canadian newspaper in Canada.

To mark this important occasion, the Board of Directors decided to redo, improve and add to the 90th anniversary video production, a modern version CD –DVD. The new CD was produced by Stephen Kiz of KAS SYSTEMS and entire project was co-ordinated by Dr. Roman Yereniuk and a team of eight members. The CD is 74 minutes in length.

The CD production brings to life an institution that has been a mainstay in the annals of the history of Ukrainian Canadians. In fact the CD portrays most of the main periods, many of the key personalities and the major events in the life of the community, as well as that of Canada and Ukraine. The UV is today one of the primary archival sources for the study of the history of Ukrainians in Canada... and yet it is still publishing issues for the

XXI century Ukrainian Canadians. A truly remarkable lifespan!!

Please purchase this CD for yourself and friends and consider placing it into the libraries of major cities and towns, high schools, bilingual schools, parish and community libraries as well as for relatives in Ukraine. The COST IS RELATIVELY LOW AND THESE CDS CAN BE BOUGHT AT REDUCED RATES IN BULK. Organizations and parish boards can place bulk orders for their members as well their kiosks and stands.

—one copy \$12.00 and postage \$2.00 = \$14.00 (3 copies — \$37.00, 5 copies — \$55.00, 10 copies — \$108.00)

Please assist us in buying out the entire stock as soon as possible. Write us, phone us or email us for further information