



UCPBF Convention

Moving Into the 21st Century

Outlook

Excerpts from a speech by John Gregorovich, Editor of Ukrainian Forum. At the Montreal convention.

"The future of the Ukrainian Canadian Professional and Business Federation, its member-associations, and members of the association is part and parcel of the future of the Ukrainian Canadian community. What happens to the community affects the federation. What happens to the federation affects the community.

"From the 1920s until December 1, 1991, the Ukrainian Canadian community and its organizations was defined by nationalism : the right of independence for Ukraine. There were organizations against, there were organizations for, there were organizations that wanted to isolate their members from the real world, a world that included an occupied Ukraine, but all defined themselves against the norm of nationalism...

"Ukrainian Canadian organizations reflected this. All had to devote most of their time and energy to the cause of Ukraine and fit the concerns of the community in Canada into the lesser that was left.

"This obligation ended December 1, 1991, with the independence of Ukraine. Survival of the language, literature, culture, the people are now the obligation of the government of Ukraine and Ukrainians in Ukraine. While Ukrainian Canadians and their organizations can, as a matter of sentiment, aid Ukraine, there is no longer a moral obligation to do so. The moral obligation of a Ukrainian Canadian is to... the development of the community in Canada.

"This requires that organizations reflect and lead this change. It is a notorious social fact that organizations fail to adjust to changes in external reality. They continue along old, outmoded paths with increasing irrelevance until they wither away. The community will, during the next decade, go through the trauma of existing organizations focused on old realities fading out, to be replaced by new ones...

"The professional and business organizations should be among the survivors... The economic aspect, networking, supply and exchange of information, will be an increasingly significant aspect...

"The speed with which the professional and business associations adapt to the new reality will govern their attractiveness to individual Ukrainian Canadians..."

"The panel discussions and forums at the convention all addressed the question of change and new paradigms within an ethnically oriented business and professional climate. As one of the participants, I was most impressed with the seriousness and imagination of the presentations and the delegates. They may not have all of the answers yet, but they are asking the right questions, and they're searching for a new, localized Ukrainianism tailored to their needs. They realize that change is necessary if they are to remain viable.

If I were a betting man, I would give odds that the Ps and Bs of Canada will find that new meaning for their Ukrainianism, and continue to flourish."

"The future belongs to those organizations that can identify the unmet needs of individual Ukrainians in a post-Soviet society and develop programs to meet them. Suffering, sacrifice and patriotic membership no longer cut it." *(Myron Kuropas)*

Hope for the Future

by Raya Shadursky, newly-elected UCPB Federation President

The Ukrainian Canadian Professional and Business Federation (UCPBF) Convention in Montreal this past summer left most participants with a renewed sense of hope for the future. The examination of current issues affecting our community brought to light the need for all members to take responsibility for the future - the future will arrive without us; what matters is what it will look like and

that depends on our involvement.

The Federation is the umbrella organization for all the UCPB Associations across Canada and represents their interests at the national

levels of the UCC. The Shevchenko Foundation, and the World Congress of Ukrainians. It is time now for the Federation to assist in building the future of the Canadian Ukrainian community at all levels.

The massive cross section of expertise of all segments of the Canadian economy and society are contained in each of the local Associations. The unity of all these forces strengthens our ability to move our community into the twenty-first century and help our neighbours (main stream Canada) along the way. The Federation has been a major player in providing knowledge and expertise to Ukraine and this will continue through new innovative avenues.

Over the next six months, the Federation Executive will be meeting with all the individual Associations across Canada. Based in the feedback, we will be forging an aggressive action plan for our two year term. Whatever the plans, they will all require a commitment on the part of each Association and its membership. The strength of the Federation lies in the strength of its total membership and its ability to communicate effectively at all levels. Special interest groups can only survive if they have a unique mission, all others need to align themselves to larger groups that can assist them.

Some of the immediate plans of the Federation are:

1. Secure access to the Internet for as many Associations as possible.
2. Develop a network at all political levels of the Canadian government
3. Establish a strong infrastructure for the effective operation of the Federation and Associations
4. Explore opportunities to establish partnerships with other Canadian Ukrainian organizations for compatible projects in Canada and Ukraine
5. Create a sense of excitement that the Federation and Associations are one of the leading organizations in Canadian Ukrainian society.

Persons interested in working on specific projects and/or wishing share their expertise, should contact the UCPB Federation Office at (416) 253-7434 or FAX (416) 253-9745.