

April 22, 2025 Webinar

Questions/Answers

Additional Information Provided by Myron after the Webinar

Biographical notes on some prominent leaders in the Ukrainian left-wing movement and information on the Ukrainian Labour Farmer Temple Association and the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians are included in the Internet Encyclopedia of Ukraine (<https://www.encyclopediaofukraine.com/>):

John Kolasky, George Ryga, Mary Skrypnyk, John Boyd, John Boychuk, Mitch Sago, John Weir, Peter Krawchuk, and the Ukrainian Labour Farmer Temple Association (ULFTA) and the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians (AUUC).

Question:

Where did a fledging organization, pre WW1 get the money to build such a big building in Winnipeg? Our great grandparents and grandparents were eking out a mean living, in poverty, on the prairies, while other Ukrainians in Canada had the money to build such a building. Or where did they get the money to build this? From Ukraine? Russia?

Every society, in every country, has the rich and the poor. Here's an example, here in Canada, within one group, the Ukrainians.

Answer:

The Ukrainian Labor Temple in Winnipeg was built through donations of funds and labour from across western Canada from members and supporters of the Ukrainian Social Democratic Party of Canada. At the initiating meeting held on March 1, 1918 in Winnipeg, the Building Committee collected and received pledges for close to \$4000.00. The work began in May, 1918 and was completed in February, 1919. There were also fundraising events, for example, concerts and other performances. Mathew Popovich and his wife (who was an accomplished singer) toured the Prairie Provinces and performed in various locations to raise money for the building of the Labor Temple. Individuals donated their time and building skills. It should be mentioned that during the war years (1914-1918), there was little unemployment and the farmers sold most of their crops so funds were available.

Peter Krawchuk, *Our Story, The Ukrainian Labour-Farmer Movement in Canada, 1907-1991*, Lugus, 1996, p.31-32.

Question:

why were some Ukrainians attracted to the Communist Party?

Answer:

Ukrainians in Canada were attracted to the Communist Party for several reasons. The main reason was their difficult life on homesteads and as labourers in the cities. As recent immigrants, they suffered from discrimination when seeking employment in urban areas and when they did find work, it was as physical demanding 'pick and shovel' and low paying jobs that Canadians did not want. At that time, they were completely on their own with no help from local government authorities except some Church charities. Negative stereotypes of Ukrainians as labourers and farmers developed that persisted for many years including among the Canadian-born. Since many were not yet naturalized as Canadian nationals and could not vote, the traditional political parties did not actively seek their support during elections and they were ignored by city welfare organizations. From 1921, the Communist Party of Canada (CPC) made a determined effort to recruit members from among recent immigrants including Ukrainian Canadians. For this reason, the CPC and the Ukrainian Labor Farmer Temple Association (ULFTA) organized cultural events to attract Ukrainians including their youth with activities, organizations, publications and newspapers. This campaign was even more successful as a result of the difficult social and dire economic effects of the Depression of the 1930s. In addition, the Soviet government in Soviet Ukraine began the campaign of 'Ukrainianization' in the 1920s to attract Ukrainians to participate in the building of the new Soviet state and joining the Communist Party of Ukraine. The Communist Party of Ukraine was dominated by Russian-speaking industrial 'workers' but with relatively few Ukrainians who were in large percentage 'peasants' working in agriculture and not recognized as a 'working class' according to Marxist and Leninist political theories. The plan was to 'indigenize' the Communist Party of Ukraine. News about the role of the Ukrainian language, new universities, schools, educational institutions including publications, newspapers, theatres in Soviet Ukraine was welcome news to Ukrainian Canadians when they remembered persecution and discrimination against Ukrainian language and culture under the Czarist and Austro-Hungarian regimes. The Soviets mounted a successful propaganda campaign aimed at Ukrainian Canadians and some returned to Soviet Ukraine to build the 'new' Soviet Ukraine. This propaganda campaign stopped and was reversed with the consolidation of political power by Joseph Stalin in the late 1920s and early 1930s. But the propaganda regarding 'Ukrainianization' continued to have a positive effect for many more years among Ukrainian Canadians. Also propaganda about 'full employment' in the Soviet Union led to admiration for the Soviet government including the Communist Party. Friendships and community bonds formed during the

difficult years of the 1920s and the Depression as members of the CPC and the ULFTA endured for many decades despite anti-Soviet rumours and news from the Soviet Union about collectivization, the Holodomor and elimination of members of the Ukrainian intellectual and cultural elite and later Russification and persecution of dissidents. The Soviet contribution to the defeat of Nazi Germany during the Second World War and the recognition of Soviet Ukraine as a founding member of the United Nations in 1945 also helped to attract and maintain the support of individual Ukrainian Canadians to the AUUC and the CPC.

Question:

What can you tell us about funding from Moscow for the Ukr-Canadian leftist organizations?

Answer:

According to some unverified reports, the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians (AUUC) allegedly received some financial support from the Soviet Union but it is difficult to locate documented evidence. During visits by leading AUUC members to the Soviet Union, some did allegedly receive 'gifts' that were intended for the AUUC and these gifts' included furs, jewellery and even furniture. It was only when some of the Canadians kept these 'gifts' for personal use that disputes arose among the AUUC leadership and information 'leaked' out about this method of supporting the AUUC. Also, there were accusations that the Soviet Embassy in Ottawa was also a source of funding for the AUUC. The AUUC established a number of commercial enterprises that included sending parcels to the Soviet Union, a tourist travel agency and other business concerns. The Ukrainska Knyha was a bookstore that sold Ukrainian-language publications and other merchandise from the Soviet Union that attracted many from the larger Ukrainian community. The parcel business, the travel agency and the bookstore were in effect commercial monopolies that benefitted the AUUC.

Question

Where can one obtain a list of the WW2 internees?

Answer

List of Interned and Imprisoned Labour People

(Source: Library and Archives Canada, RG14, vol. 2483, file 62: List of Cases in Ontario and List of Interned and Imprisoned Labour People also Norman Penner, They Fought For Labour - Now Interned (Winnipeg, n.d.) p. 23.

Nova Scotia

R.C. Murray	Scott MacLean	C. Smythe
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Nova Scotia Prisoners

Tom Lawrence		
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Quebec

J.A. (Pat) Sullivan	Jack Chapman	David Sinclair
Kent Rawley	J. Villeneuve	Jean Bourget
Joseph Duschene	Mr. (Alcide) Aubry	Mr. Tremblay
Romeo Duval	Joseph Levesque	Ernest Gervais
Paul Gervais	Muni Taub	Joseph Sheer
Jack Laxer	Bernard Moreyne	Saul Bercovitch
Saul Markman	Mr. Boychuk	Douglas Betts
Louis Baillargeon	Mr. Pindus	Mr. Charest
Rudolph Majeau		

Ontario

Harry Binder	Louis Binder	A. Roy Saunders
M. Cohen	T. Chopowick	Ernest Holwell
Fred Collins	Muni Erlich	Norman Freed
Charlie Weir	J.S. Wallace	William (Bill) Walsh
J. Billings	Bruce Magnuson	Nick Huculak

Ontario Trial Pending

A. Parsons		
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Manitoba

Alderman Jacob Penner	John Navis (Navizivsky)	School Trustee A. (Andrew) Bilecki
Tony Bilecki	Mike (Myron) Kostaniuk	P. Prokop (Prokopchak)
Mathew Shatulsky	P. Lysets	N. Bidulka
N. Stefanitsky	N. Krechmarowsky	John Weir
Bill Toumi	A. Woytishyn	John Dubno
J. Procak	M. Biniowsky	W. Kolysnik
John Boychuk	A. Petrash	A. Bayluk
Peter Krawchuk	N. Kashchuk	D. Moysiuk
A.C. Gunn	P. Nikiforiak	M. Sawiak
M. Butler	Orton Wade	

Manitoba Prisoners

Mitch T. Sago	Alfred Bass	M. Bilinsky
Thomas McEwen	James Ramsey	John Perozek
Margaret Mills	Ida Corley	Ella Sehl

Manitoba Trial Pending

Annie S. Buller	Harry Guralnick	J. McNeil
L. Guberman		

Saskatchewan

A. C. Campbell	W. Taylor	William (Bill) Beeching
C. Post (Clifford Peet)	G.T. McManus	Gladys McDonald (MacDonald)
George Rudak	John Alexiewich	Peter Parcheta
Harry Gesef	A. Alexandra	

Alberta

Ben Swankey	William (Bill) Repka	Alderman Pat Lenihan
Alex Miller	Fabrin Paradis	

British Columbia

Fergus McKean	Bob Kerr	William Rigby
Wilfred Ravenor		

***Persons Ordered Interned Under Section 21 of DOCR Pursuant To An Order of the Minister of Justice, and Who Have Not Yet Been Interned
(Library and Archives Canada, RG24, Vol. 6585, File 4-1-5 (vol.3) Internment Ordered***

Bellinski, R.E.	Bordonardo, Charles	Culhane, Garry S.
Dornig, John Jr.	Feldman, M.	Gagnon, Henri
Gershman, Joseph	Guberman, Israel	Guralnick, Mrs. Harry
Guralnick, Harry	Hamel, Joseph	Hill, A.T.
Kane, Oscar	Klig, Myer	Lipschitz, Sam
Morris, Leslie	Pylypas, Teho	Rosen, Charles
Ross, William Cecil	Samuel, Emery	Steele, Richard
Sundquist, G.		

Library and Archives Canada, RG24, Vol. 6585, File 4-1-5 Internments Ordered

Balint, George	Nyerki, Julius (Guyla Nyerki)	William Cecil Ross (Cecil Zuken)
Charles Murray		

Library and Archives Canada, RG24, vol. 6588, file 247: Petitions to Parliament by Internees held at Internment Camp, Hull P.Q.

Copy of petition - page 3; Signed on this 2nd Day of February, 1942, at Hull Goal, Hull, Quebec /Arranged alphabetically/

Asson, Harry	Beeching, W.C.	Bidulka, N.
Bilecki, Andrew	Bilecki, Anthony	Billings, J.
Binder, Louis	Biniowsky, M.	Bourget, Jean
Boychuk, John	Campbell, A. Cowie	Chapman, Jack
Chapowick, T.	Charest, E.	Collins, F.
Duchesne, J.	Duval, Romeo	Erlick, M.
Freed, Norman	Gervais	Gervais, P.
Gray, M.	Gunn, A.C.	Hucaluk, N.
Kerr, Robert	Kostaniuk, Myron	Lenihan, Patrick
Levine, Isaac	Lowrie, Dr. H.A.	Magnuson, Bruce A.H.
Majeau, R.	McEwan, T.	McKean, F.A.
McLean, Scott	McNeil, J.	Miller, A.
Moysiuk, D.	Murphy, James	Nadeau, Napoleon
Nawizowsky, John	Penner, Jacob	Petrash, J.
Prokopchak, P.	Prossak, John	Pyndus, N.
Repka, William	Rowley, R.K.	Sago, M.
Saunders, R.A.	Sinclair, D.	Smyth, C.
Stefanitsky, J.	Sullivan, J.A. "Pat"	Swankey, B.
Taub, M.	Taylor, W.	Tuomi, W.
Villeneuve, Jacques	Wade, O.	Wallace, J.S.
Walsh, W.	Weir, Charles	Weir, John