

Lisa Shymko: In the footsteps of family, community and far-right, war heroes

**Ukrainian "Independence" Day
Kiev, August 24, 2017**



Yuri Shymko (right) with Marie Yovanovitch, the Cdn-born, US Ambassador to Ukraine, 2016-19 (left), his daughter Lisa Shymko and Gen. James Mattis, US Secretary of Defense, 2017-19.

"[Lisa Shymko] has advised successive Canadian governments on foreign policy vis-à-vis Russia and the former Soviet Union, and was part of Stephen Harper's delegation on three official visits to Ukraine." *Macleans*, Apr. 2, 2018

Like her father Yuri, Lisa Shymko has spent decades serving and leading a variety of pro-Bandera émigré groups in Canada, and around the world.

1985: Her 23-page antiSoviet essay on Ukrainian nationalism was published in *Ukrainian Review*,¹ the global quarterly of Stepan Bandera's faction of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists (OUN-B). Her article was reprinted in *ABN Correspondence*, the magazine of the Anti-Bolshevik Bloc of Nations (ABN). Both were edited

panic in East European communities."³ He was named 1988's Person of the Year by the government-created Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC). Shymko was on the WC-FU's team as "an accredited freelance journalist" for *Echo*. It is the government-funded paper of Canada's top Banderite group, the League of Ukrainian Canadians (LUC).

1991-2014: Exec.Dir., Canadian Friends of Ukraine. It promotes NATO expansion and Canada's military/political/economic ties to Ukraine. Its patrons include her father, and

former PMs Stephen Harper and Paul Martin.

1992: She co-chaired the public relations subcommittee of a WCFU affiliate, the World Federation of Ukrainian Women's Organizations.⁴

1992: She was Prog. Coordinator for the Journalists Exchange Project (JEP), funded by billionaire George Soros. Set up by Ukrainian-Canadian Roman Melnyk, then a CBC executive director and "long-time member of the Canadian Friends of Rukh executive," JEP used CBC and TVO staff to train journalists from postSoviet Ukraine.⁵

1993: She was Exec. Dir. of Canadian Friends of Rukh - Toronto.⁶ Rukh arose from an antiSoviet movement that led Ukraine's successful fight to break up the USSR.

1999-2003: She organized visits by pro-NATO Ukrainian leaders to Canada such as: Pres. L.Kravchuk (1999), For. Min. B. Tarasjuk (2000), ex-PM Y.Tymoshenko (2003).

2009: She received the Medal of Merit

from Ukraine's proNATO Pres. Victor Yushchenko.

2012: The Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal was presented to her by Canada's Gov. General.⁷

2012-17: Managing Dir., *Forum TV*. (She was succeeded by Stephen Bandera, Winnipeg-born grandson of Stepan Bandera.⁸) She appeared in *Forum TV* shows with portraits of OUN mili-

tary leaders Yevhen Konovalets and Roman Shukhevych.⁹ *Forum TV* recently aired a documentary glorifying the OUN(B), its UPA army, the ABN, leaders Bandera and Yaroslav Stetsko, and various campaigns to promote their Banderite causes in Canada by LUC and its affiliates: LUC Women (LUCW) and the Ukrainian Youth Assoc.¹⁰

2013-16: She represented LUCW on UCC's board of directors.¹¹

2014-17: National president, LUCW.¹²

References and notes

1. Lisa Shymko, *Ucrainica Research Institute*, "The National Question in the USSR," *Ukrainian Review*, Aut.1985, pp.5-27. bit.ly/LS-85 (Note: Her essay relies heavily on Richard Pipes, a far-right Cold Warrior who led a team of CIA analysts that was created by George Bush Sr. to destroy detente by fabricating Soviet threats. Pipes' son Daniel is as virulently anti-Islamic as his father was anti-communist.)
2. Lisa Shymko, "WCFU in Copenhagen," *Ukrainian Weekly*, Jun.24, 1990, p.1. bit.ly/LS-90
3. "War criminals prove sticky to Canada," *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, Feb.8, 1987, p.16. bit.ly/Wit87
4. Women's congress to convene in Toronto, *Ukrainian Weekly*, Oct.18, 1992, p.14. bit.ly/WFUWO
5. Oksana Zakydalsky, "TV journalists come to Canada to learn from colleagues," *Ukrainian Weekly*, Dec. 6, 1992, p.4. bit.ly/CBCsoros
6. "The Black Bull in T.O.," *The Student*, March 1993, p.1. bit.ly/LisaS-Rukh
7. ICSU Welcomes Election of Canadian NGO Leaders, LUC, Jul. 24 2014. bit.ly/LS-ICSU
8. Conference in Toronto examines 50 Years of UWC, *Echo*, Dec.13, 2017. bit.ly/LS-17
9. On *Forum TV* (Jan. 31, 2015), she spoke at a podium flanked by photos of Shukhevych and Konovalets (see 12:57). There is a better image of these portraits—with the red/black battle flag of the OUN-B's fascist Ukrainian Insurgent Army at 15:08. See also the portrait of Yaroslav Stetsko, leader of the OUN-B and ABN (see 13:03). bit.ly/OUNB-tv
10. *Forum TV*, Oct.25, 2020. (12:20) bit.ly/ABNtv
11. UCC Board of Directors bit.ly/UCC-Brd
12. Remarks by Lisa Shymko, Pres., LUCW, as Canada Airlifts Military Aid to Ukraine, CFB Trenton, Aug.7, 2014. bit.ly/LS-LUCW

Anti-Bolshevik Bloc of Nations Conference



Toronto 1986

Lisa Shymko (right), a coordinator of the ABN 'Campaign Freedom' conference, was honoured with ABN president Slava Stetsko (left), Anna Steciw, and her husband Orest Steciw, chair of ABN-Canada.

by Slava Stetsko, whose husband Yaroslav was then ABN president.

1986: Lisa Shymko co-coordinated the ABN's global conference in Toronto. Its keynote speaker, Slava Stetsko, had just become ABN president. Other speakers included Nazi collaborators, and delegates from *contras* and *mujahideen* "freedom fighters."

1990: She attended the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe with the World Congress of Free Ukrainians (WCFU) delegation.² (It was led by Ukrainian Andrew Witer, a Conservative MP. In 1987 he stopped quick passage of a bill to create the Deschênes Commission. Witer called this inquiry into war criminals "a witch-hunting brigade" that "would only cause anger and