



Alberta's Year of the Ukrainian-Canadian

Whereas 2016 marks the 125th year since the arrival of the first Ukrainians to Canada; and

Whereas 2016 marks the 25th Anniversary of Ukrainian independence; and

Whereas Ukrainian-Albertans have greatly contributed to the province of Alberta, initially through agriculture, forestry, railways and mining, and, presently, in many professional fields in the workplace; and

Whereas Alberta was the province where Ukrainians first settled in Canada, and where many of the earliest religious and cultural institutions were founded; and it was Ukrainians who brought with them their wheat grains from Ukraine and developed the "Red Fife Wheat" which is grown throughout Alberta; and

Whereas 2016 marks more than four decades of Ukrainian bilingual education programming in Alberta, the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, and more than three decades with the Alberta Council for the Ukrainian Arts and the Alberta Ukrainian Dance Association; and

Whereas higher education is deeply important to Ukrainian-Albertans, and the community was instrumental in the establishment of three institutions at the University of Alberta: the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies in 1976, the Kule Ukrainian and Canadian Folklore Centre at the turn of the millennium, and the Ukrainian Studies Department, as well as the establishment of the Ukrainian Resource Development Centre at Grant McEwan University in 1988; and

Whereas Ukrainian-Albertans have contributed to Alberta's rich cultural heritage through the arts, including choral and instrumental music, folkloric and performing dance, fine art, fibre art, literature, architecture, libraries, museums, archival collections, and cuisine, and that Ukrainian interned immigrants helped build railways and infrastructure in Alberta's national parks; and

Whereas Ukrainian-Albertans have contributed immensely to Alberta's government, civil society, industry, economic advancement and prosperity,

Now, therefore, be it known that I, Deron Bilous, Minister of Economic Development and Trade of the Province of Alberta, declare that 2016-2017 shall be designated as the year of Alberta's Ukrainian-Canadian in Alberta, and I shall commend its thoughtful observance to all citizens of our province.