

#1

Letter to an internee

Letter from 9-year-old Katie Domytruk, to her father H. Domytryk, who was arrested in Edmonton in March 1916.



Comments in brackets are not part of the original document. They have been added to assist the reader with difficult words.

My dear father:

We haven't (sic) nothing to eat and they do not want to give us no wood. My mother has to go four times to get something to eat. It is better with you, because we had everything to eat. This shack is no good, my mother is going down town every day and I have to go with her and I don't go to school at winter. It is cold in that shack. We your small children kiss your hands my dear father. Goodby (sic) my dear father. Come home right away.

(Signed)
Katie

Endowment Council of the Canadian First World War Internment Recognition Fund, The affirmation of witnesses: The causes and consequences of Canada's first national internment operations 1914–1920 (Kingston, ON: Kashtan Press, 2011), p. 17.

#2

Diary of commanding officer at Castle Mountain Internment Camp



Excerpt from the journal of a commanding officer at the Castle Mountain Internment Camp near Banff, Alberta.

Comments in brackets are not part of the original document. They have been added to assist the reader with difficult words.

O. L. Spencer

Thursday January 20th

Prisoner of war No. 281 Mike Skoropodak who was working at the rock crusher was hit on the head with a piece of rock that flew through the air from an explosion that had been set off to break the rock. It appears from information gathered from the guards that they had lined up about 200 yards away when the explosion was set off and small pieces of rock were flying through the air.

Monday February 21st

Weather mild Prisoners of war sent out to work on park work. One prisoner of war No. 272 Wasyl Barkow escaped. Circumstances not known

Wednesday February 23rd

Weather mild Prisoners of war sent out on park work. One prisoner of war burnt his hand badly.

Wednesday March 8th

Weather moderate. 320 prisoners of war employed on park work today. Prisoner of war No. 277 Wasyl Tkachyk, escaped from rock crusher gang during the day

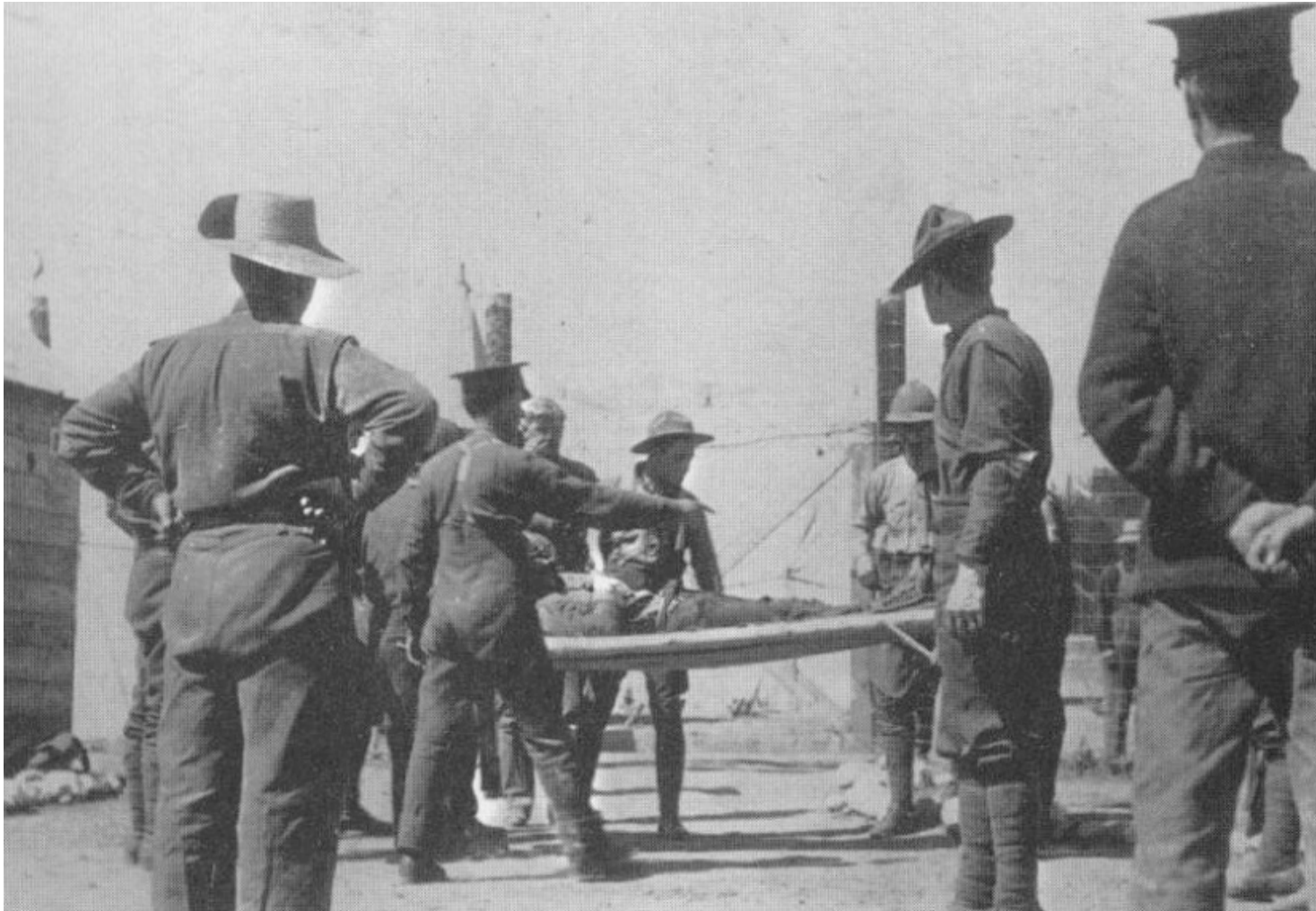
O. L. Spencer, "Diary of internment camp: Castle, Alberta," in Bohdan S. Kordan and Peter Melnycky (eds.), *In the shadow of the Rockies* (Edmonton, AB: University of Alberta Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies Press, 1991), p. 51–57.



#3

Prisoner on a stretcher

Photograph taken by Sergeant William Buck somewhere between July 15, 1915 and July 15, 1917 showing a prisoner on a stretcher who was shot by a guard while trying to escape from the Castle Mountain internment camp.



"Prisoner on stretcher, shot by guard when trying to escape" in *In My Charge: The Canadian Internment Camp Photographs of Sergeant William Buck*. Ed. Lubomyr Luciuk & Borys Sydoruk. Kingston: Kashtan Press, 1997. Pp. XL



History Docs



#4

Report on internment operations



Excerpt from "Internment Operations 1914–1920," the final report about internment operations written by Major-General Sir William Otter, the director of Canada's internment operations during World War I.

Comments in brackets are not part of the original document. They have been added to assist the reader with difficult words.

Report on internment operations 1914–1920

The insane

Insanity was by no means uncommon among prisoners, many being interned it was suspected to relieve municipalities of their care, while in others the disease possibly developed from a nervous condition brought about by the confinement and restrictions entailed.

In all instances such individuals were at once placed in insane asylums, being for the time supported by Internment Operations, and ultimately deported to their native countries, except three who have now been turned over to proper institutions in the provinces from which they came, the Federal Government being relieved of their charge (A total of 106 cases of insanity were dealt with in the internment camps nationwide).

The sick

... So many instances of tuberculosis appeared among the prisoners, that it was thought advisable to establish a separate hospital for their special treatment. This was first done at the Spirit Lake camp then later transferred to Kapuskasing, and in both places with great advantage owing to the climatic conditions of those locations. Altogether some 41 of such patients were treated, of whom 26 unfortunately died.

Casualties

During the continuance of internment operations, practically six years, a small percentage of prisoners died, and a statement is here given of the number (107), with the cause, from which it will be seen that save in the case of those killed while attempting to escape (six prisoners), the diseases were natural ones, the total being 1 ½ per cent of the interned.

Tuberculosis and the epidemic of pneumonia in 1918 (The Spanish Flu), it will be noted, accounted for a large proportion

(Signed)
Sir William Otter

William Otter, "Report on internment operations," in Lubomyr Luciuk (ed.), *In fear of the barbed wire fence: Canada's first national internment operations and the Ukrainian Canadians, 1914–1920* (Kingston, ON: Kashtan Press, 2001), p. 82–88.

#5

Release certificate for William Daskoch

William Daskoch's January 9, 1920 release certificate that was issued by Canadian government authorities upon his release from the Kapuskasing internment camp.

Comments in brackets are not part of the original document. They have been added to assist the reader with difficult words.




Certificate of Release Kapuskasing 9 January 1920

570

This is to certify that I, WILLIAM DASKOCH
a subject of AUSTRIA
who was interned as a prisoner of war in Canada at KAPUSKASING, Ont.
described for identification as follows:-

Age 28 yrs. Height 5' 9 1/2" Weight 140 lbs.
Complexion Fair Hair D. Brown Eyes Brown
Marks _____

have been discharged from internment subject to the following conditions:-

1. That I will not leave Canada during the period of hostilities without an exeat issued by competent authority;
2. That I will observe the laws of the country, abstain from espionage or any acts or correspondence of a hostile nature or intended to give information to or assist the enemies of the British Empire;
3. That I will report as directed by the R.N.W.M.P. Police on arrival, Ft. Sask, Alta. and thereafter as often as that Officer may direct.
4. 

Dated at Kapuskasing, Ont. this ninth day
of January 1920

Wm Daskoch Signature
#3055
Witness Lubomyr Luciuk
Commandant, Internment Camps
Kapuskasing, Ont.

48

This is to certify that I, William Daskoch a subject of Austria who was interned as a prisoner of war in Canada at Kapuskasing, Ont. Described for identification as follows:

Age: 28 yrs. Height: 5' 9½" Weight: 140 lbs.

Complexion: Fair Hair: D. Brown Eyes: Brown Marks: (blank)

Have been discharged from internment subject to the following conditions:
That I will not leave Canada during the period of hostilities without an exeat (leave/permission certificate) issued by competent authority:

That I will observe the laws of the country, abstain from espionage (spying) or any acts or correspondence of a hostile nature or intended to give information to or assist the enemies of the British Empire:

That I will report as directed by the R.N.W.M.P. Police on arrival, Ft. Sask, Alta, and thereafter as often as that officer may direct.

Dated at Kapuskasing, Ont., this ninth day of January, 1920.

(Signed)
William Daskoch

Lubomyr Luciuk (ed.), In fear of the barbed wire fence: Canada's first national internment operations and the Ukrainian Canadians, 1914-1920 (Kingston, ON: Kashtan Press, 2001), p. vii.



History Docs



#6

Great War Veterans Association Parade

Photograph taken on June 4, 1919, shows the Great War Veterans Association parade and rally in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

**PRIMARY
SOURCE**
Effects of WWI
internment for Ukrainians



Archives of Manitoba/Archives du Manitoba, Winnipeg (Strike 5, N12296)

#7

Letter to editor

Excerpt from a letter to the editor written by a group of Ukrainians that was published in the January 29, 1915 Winnipeg Tribune.



Comments in brackets are not part of the original document. They have been added to assist the reader with difficult words.

Winnipeg Tribune 29 January 1915

Owing to the unjust classification of all Slavs as Austrians and anti-Allies, and owing to irresponsible utterances [remarks] in the press and otherwise, a certain degree of intolerance and hatred toward everything that is "foreign" has been implanted in the public mind, resulting in indiscreet [reckless] looting of property, disturbing of divine services in the churches, raiding of private homes, and personal assaults of the gravest kind on all those who have the appearance of foreign birth, thus rendering [making] our lives endangered. The Ukrainians in Canada have always peacefully followed their occupations, thus having greatly aided in the development of this country, and

having neither harmed nor hindered any Canadian undertakings toward successful prosecution [action] of the war, but, on the contrary, the Ukrainians have substantially contributed man-power, money and production in aid of Canadian military operations. The Ukrainians perform generally the usual labour employed in the hardest undertakings, and as such they are holding their positions not owing to special favours, but to their perseverance and honest devotion to their duties. These positions, we submit, are not enviable and will remain open only to men of greatest endurance.

Alan F. J. Artibise, "Divided city: The immigrant in Winnipeg society, 1874–1921," in Gilbert A. Stelter and Alan F. J. Artibise (eds.), *The Canadian city: Essays in urban and social history* (Ottawa, ON: Carleton University Press, 1984), p. 384.



History Docs



#8

A descendent remembers

Transcript of a 2010 interview with Marsha Skrypuch, the granddaughter of an internment camp internee.



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Marsha Skrypuch:

My name is Marsha Skrypuch. My maiden name is Forchuk. My grandfather, George Forchuk, was interned in World War I at Jasper internment camp.

... He used to tell stories about living on the frontier ... various adventure things, and he would mention about being imprisoned for something he didn't do. But it was sort of like he would brush by that, it's not something that he wanted to talk about. And actually, my father did hear stories, but the way that he heard stories was whenever other internees would come and visit my grandfather's house, they would go into a room and they would talk and they didn't want anyone else listening, like they made a point of having no one else listening, but my dad wanted to hear and he was very inquisitive. So he would hide in the next room and listen, and so he heard what was going on. But he couldn't really put it into context either

My father had two brothers and two sisters, and one of his siblings refused to believe that her father was interned, even once she was told. "No, no, no, that couldn't have happened."

... My grandfather didn't tell me anything about what happened It wasn't until after he had died, and I had read a newspaper article written by Lubomyr Luciuk It was in the Globe and Mail and it just talked about the internment, and so I called my dad and I said, "Did you hear about this, that there were Ukrainians who were interned in World War I?" and he said, "Well, that's what we were talking

about when we were talking about Guido being put into prison for something he didn't do. That was the wording that was used back then, "being put into prison for something you didn't do."

... He escaped from the internment camp. And as he was trying to escape there were bullets whizzing past his ears. That's the way my father described how he described it. But he did escape and he made his way all the way to the Lethbridge area, changed his name and was working in coal mines there.

... When they came out of the internment camps, the Ukrainian people turned their backs on these people. They were considered convicts; the Canadian public turned their backs on these people. That's how they saw them too.

... My grandfather, he never ran for public office or anything like that. He was a very intelligent man. He was asked to do a number of things like that. But he didn't want to because he didn't want to be seen in the public because he was afraid he could be arrested and interned again, especially because he had escaped. So he had this big thing hanging over his head.

"How One Woman Discovered That Her Grandfather was Interned Simply Because He was Ukrainian," produced by The Mark News, 3:25, The Mark News' Forgotten Internment Camps, 2010, film.

#9

Internment Survivor writes Mulroney



Excerpt from a letter written by Mary (Manko) Haskett on March 29, 1993 to Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney. Before she died on July 14, 2007 at the age of 98, Mrs. Haskett was believed to be the sole survivor of Canada's World War I internment camps.

Comments in brackets are not part of the original document. They have been added to assist the reader with difficult words.

29 March 1993

I was 6 when I was interned, along with my parents, Andrew and Katherine, my brother John, and my sisters Anne and Carolka. She was only two and a half years old when she died at the Spirit Lake internment camp in Quebec.

I may be the last survivor of Canada's first national internment operations. What happened to our family, to many of our friends from Montreal's Ukrainian-Canadian community, and to my sister Carolka, can never be undone. It was unwarranted. It was unjust.

But I believe that you, Mr. Prime Minister, have a unique and historic opportunity to show understanding and compassion for those who fell victim. Before you leave office I appeal to you to honour the Ukrainian Canadian community's request for acknowledgement and redress. I do this on behalf of my parents, for those many thousands of others who can no longer speak, for my sister Carolka. Our community, all of us, suffered a national humiliation. Few Canadians, even today, realize how traumatic and damaging those internment operations were. My own children did not believe me when I told them I had been interned in Canada. Spirit Lake is no longer shown in any atlas. Canadian history books do not mention how thousands of Ukrainians were interned, disenfranchised and otherwise mistreated in this country between 1914-1920. Until recently, I did not even know where Carolka was buried.

I believe you can appreciate how important it is for me to have this injustice dealt with in my lifetime. I hope you will take my appeal to heart and do what is right and just.

(Signed)

Mary (Manko) Haskett.

Mary Haskett (Manko), "Internment survivor writes Mulroney" in Lubomyr Luciuk (ed.), *Righting an Injustice* (Toronto, ON: The Justinian Press, 1994), p. 151.

#10

Ukrainian-Canadian economic losses during World War One

Excerpt from a May 9, 1993 Ukrainian Weekly newspaper article written by journalist Christopher Guly.



Comments in brackets are not part of the original document. They have been added to assist the reader with difficult words.

The Ukrainian Weekly 9 May 1993

A just-released confidential report to the Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC) estimates that between 3,300 and 5,000 Ukrainian Canadians suffered economic losses totalling anywhere from \$21.6 million to \$32.5 million (in 1991 dollars) while they were interned following the outbreak of the first world war The study, titled "Economic Losses of Ukrainian Canadians Resulting from Internment During World War I" was prepared by Price Waterhouse in January 1992.

It [the Price Waterhouse report] estimates that the majority of Ukrainian Canadians interned between 1914 and 1920 were unemployed or destitute prior to their imprisonment and did not pose a military threat to Canada. Each Ukrainian was interned for an average of 1.5 years.

Although most Ukrainian Canadians were not interned, most were forced to register as enemy aliens. As a result, they lost the right to vote, lost the right to naturalize as Canadian citizens and were restricted in their ability to serve in the Canadian military... earnings were ... estimated and deducted from the minimal salaries they received The average rate of pay for a Ukrainian Canadian would have been \$557 annually.

... It further estimates that Ukrainian Canadian internees would have earned between \$1.9 million and \$2.8 million [combined earnings of all internees] in 1917 dollars had there been no internment.

Mr. Bardyn [spokesperson for the UCC] maintained that the UCC's redress package [i.e., what the UCC is asking of the Government] extends to the entire community, based on wide-ranging discriminatory measures waged against it by the government. For instance, the Ukrainian ethnic press was censored, Ukrainians were deprived of naturalization rights [i.e., gaining citizenship rights] for 10 years after the war and the War Time Elections Act prohibited enemy alien immigrants naturalized after 1902 from voting.

He added that this wartime violation of Ukrainian Canadians' civil rights also negatively affected their language and culture, let alone the humiliation suffered by the community.

- Christopher Guly

Christopher Guly, "Report details Ukrainian Canadian losses during internment" in Lubomyr Luciuk (ed.), *Righting an Injustice* (Toronto, ON: The Justinian Press, 1994),



#1

Fictional diary of a young Ukrainian girl

Excerpt from the fictional diary of Anya Soloniuk, written by Ukrainian-Canadian writer Marsha Forchuck Skrypuch about the life of a young girl interned with her family at the Spirit Lake internment camp in Northern Québec in 1915.



Comments in brackets are not part of the original document. They have been added to assist the reader with difficult words.

Thursday, March 18, 1915, after supper

Oy, Dear Diary, in today's paper it is all about the Russians who are winning battles in Galicia. Also I got a letter from Irena. It is no better for her. Here is her letter pasted below:

Hairy Hill,
Alberta, Canada
Tuesday, March 2, 1915
Dear Anya,

I can barely write this letter because I am so sad. Our neighbour Yuriy Feschuk has been arrested! Here is what happened.

Father and our neighbour went to town to get their papers stamped. They stamped Father's, but then refused to stamp Yuriy Feschuk's. Instead, they handcuffed him and took him away. Father found out that he has been taken to a work camp just outside of Jasper, Alberta. Anya, this is just not right! Our neighbour did nothing wrong!

Father was afraid that they were going to arrest him too, but they didn't. Father went up to Feschuk's homestead and closed it up to protect it from the weather. He brought his cow and horse to our place. After all, who would feed them? Anya, I am so sad about Yuriy Feschuk, but having milk is nice. It is also good to have the horse.

Mama is upset and scared. She fears that they will take Father next.

Your dear friend,
Irena

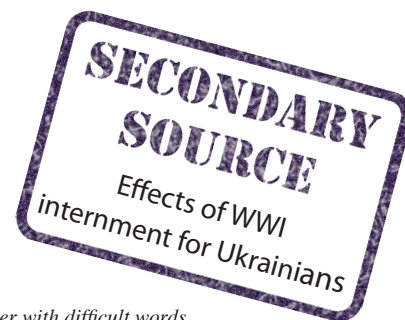
Oy, Dear Diary, that is terrible about Irena's neighbour, but I hope you don't think I am awful if I admit that I'm glad that it wasn't Irena's father who got taken away.

From Dear Canada: Prisoners in the Promised Land © 2007 by Marsha Forchuk Skrypuch. Reproduced by permission of Scholastic Canada Ltd.

#2

Consequences of the internment of Ukrainians

Excerpt from a book written by Ukrainian-Canadian historian Lubomyr Luciuk entitled, *Without just cause: Canada's first national internment operations and the Ukrainian Canadians*.



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Since anti-immigrant feeling was part of most veterans' cultural milieu [context], there was considerable support for the Great War Veterans Association when, in 1918, it demanded the suppression [control] of "enemy alien" newspapers, compulsory [required/not optional] badges for "foreigners," and forced labour for "Austrian" and German men in Canada. During the fall and winter of 1918, the Canadian government did in fact declare several Ukrainian-language newspapers and organizations illegal. Just after the end of the war, several hundred Ukrainians were also deported as a result of the "Red Scare" [fear of communism in Canada]. Hundreds more remained in the internment camps, some of which were kept operating until 1920.

Given such a political climate, many Ukrainian Canadians long remained, as an RCMP constable observed to his superiors in Ottawa, "in fear of the barbed wire fence." American intelligence agents echoed that conclusion, noting that "Ukrainian-Canadians are still under a handicap resulting from their experiences in the First World War."

... Today, in reminding the nation of what they suffered as a people in this country, Ukrainian Canadians are appealing to the government of Canada to acknowledge [admit] publicly that wrongs were done to their community between 1914–1920, and asking for the restitution [repayment/compensation] of the contemporary value of that portion of the internees' wealth never returned. Those funds would be used to provide for various educational, research, and cultural programs to help remind all Canadians of what happened and of the need for maintaining vigilance [watchfulness] in defence of civil liberties and human rights in periods of domestic and international crisis. No other Canadian ethnic, religious, or racial minority should ever have to suffer as Ukrainian Canadians did during the First World War. Although what happened can never be undone, a time for atonement has surely come.

Lubomyr Luciuk, *Without just cause: Canada's first national internment operations and the Ukrainian Canadians, 1914–1920* (Kingston, ON: Kashtan Press, 2006), p. 12–13.

#3

Lubomyr Luciuk on the redress movement

Excerpt from a transcript of a 2010 interview with historian Lubomyr Luciuk, who was actively involved in the campaign to pressure the Canadian government into acknowledging the injustice of internment camps during World War I.



Comments in brackets are not part of the original document. They have been added to assist the reader with difficult words.

The Mark News Forgotten Internment Camps

The government of Canada destroyed many of the relevant archives, many of them were lost in the Second World War ... people were afraid to talk about this Some of the survivors said to us quite clearly back in the 1980s when we began finding some of them, that they didn't want to talk about it, because maybe it would happen again So it was an unknown episode, a blank page in Canadian History that beginning in the mid 1980s we slowly began to fill in the page, and of course the result of all this was, that in May 2008, the government of Canada, the government of Stephen Harper, thanks in large measure to the work of Inky Mark, a member of parliament for Dauphin-Swan River-Marquette, who is himself of Chinese-Canadian heritage, whose parents paid the head tax, who became interested in redressing historical injustices. We got in touch with him, and Inky Mark crafted Bill C-331, the Ukrainian Canadian Restitution Act ... and that Bill, C-331, although it was later modified, became the basis on which the government of Canada, in May of 2008, offered the Ukrainian-Canadian community an endowment fund of 10 million dollars administered by the Ukrainian Canadian Foundation of Taras Shevchenko for the purpose of commemorating what happened during Canada's first national internment operations and educating all Canadians about that experience, so that hopefully, no other Canadian ethnic, religious or racial minority ever has to suffer again as Ukrainians and other Europeans did in 1914-1920.

"Lubomyr Luciuk on the Redress Movement" produced by The Mark News, 4:29, The Mark News' Forgotten Internment Camps, 2010, film. <http://www.themarknews.com/series/24-canada-s-forgotten-internment-camps/articles/1968-the-internment-operations> (Accessed October 11, 2011).