

Minister
of Citizenship
and Immigration



Ministre
de la Citoyenneté
et de l'Immigration

Ottawa, Canada K1A 1L1

Greetings from the Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism

I am pleased to join Prime Minister Stephen Harper in welcoming leaders of the Ukrainian Council of Churches and Religious Organizations (UCCRO) to Canada for a visit hosted by the Ukrainian Jewish Encounter (UJE).

As Minister responsible for Multiculturalism, I am pleased that such a landmark visit is taking place in Canada, where our vibrant Jewish and Ukrainian communities have been developing a relationship that can serve as a model for cooperation. Both communities are actively engaged in unique initiatives, such as the Ukrainian Jewish Encounter, which seeks both to encourage open and honest dialogue about historical experiences and to chart a new course for the future.

Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky, to whom the visit is dedicated, is particularly worthy of a shared interest. Although Metropolitan Sheptytsky led the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church through a time of great turmoil for Ukrainians, he always strove for harmony between ethnic and religious groups and led by example. Notably, he learned Hebrew and risked much to save the lives of Jewish children during the Second World War.

This visit will contribute to a more thorough understanding of this righteous figure in shared Ukrainian and Jewish history and will undoubtedly draw the interest of all Canadians. I wholeheartedly commend the organizers on their efforts and I look forward to joining the participants in Ottawa.

Sincerely,

The Honourable Jason Kenney, PC, MP
Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism



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