

League of Ukrainian Canadian Women

Ліґа Українок Канади

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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League of Ukrainian Canadian Women (LUCW) to accompany Prime Minister Harper on Ukraine Visit

TORONTO-KYIV: Prime Minister Stephen Harper is enroute to Ukraine today, as part of an overseas program from June 6 - 11, with official visits to Ukraine, Poland, Germany, Vatican City, and Rome. Mr. Harper will meet with US and European leaders and participate in the G-7 Summit. Lisa Shymko, the President of the League of Ukrainian Canadian Women (LUCW) and Honorary Chair of the Guardian Angels Ukraine humanitarian project, is part of the official delegation flying with the PM to Kyiv. The Prime Minister's itinerary in Ukraine will include meetings with President Petro Poroshenko and Prime Minister Arseniy Yatseniuk to discuss the





international community's response to Russia's aggression against Ukraine and Canadian initiatives supporting Ukraine's efforts to strengthen its economy, security, and democracy.

In addition to the substantial commitments made by Canada to assist Ukraine in the economic and democracy-building sphere, and deploy military instructors to train Ukraine's defence forces, several Canadian NGO's are also playing an important role in the humanitarian sphere.

One such initiative is the <u>Guardian Angels Ukraine Project</u>, established under the auspices of the League of Ukrainian Canadian Women. The Canadian project helps establish rehabilitation centres to provide psychological and physical rehab treatment for the thousands of Ukrainian servicemen injured as a result of Russian military aggression in Eastern Ukraine. The first rehabilitation centre sponsored by the Guardian Angels Ukraine (GAU) Project opened on April 27, 2015 on the site of the <u>Irpin Military Hospital</u> near Kyiv, with over 30 Ukrainian media outlets in attendance. The site is a template for future rehab centres sponsored by the GAU projects throughout the country, linked to Ukraine's military hospital system.

According to LUCW President, Lisa Shymko, "Canadians should be proud of the principled position that our government has taken to stand with the people of Ukraine as they strive to build a European democracy and thwart Russia's efforts to destabilize Ukraine."

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