

ingrained into the Canadian mind and heart. All are products of Ukrainian art, and its deep roots in life, and the love of life.

As a politician, I think of Andrew Shandro, member of the Alberta Legislature, representing Vegreville in 1913, the first person of Ukrainian descent to gain a seat in a provincial parliament. And it is Vegreville, of course, that sent Canada's Parliament its first Member of Ukrainian origin, the late Michael Luchkovich. As it is Vegreville today, which is the home, and the seat in Parliament, of the Deputy Prime Minister of Canada.

Because the words of the poets are so essential to the lives of Ukrainians, I would like to close by quoting from Shevchenko's poem My Last Will.

He wrote:

When you sing, my future brethren,  
Praising liberty,  
In the family of free men,  
Kindly mention me.

Shevchenko, of course, is more than "mentioned": He is revered wherever people gather, as we are doing, to honour Ukrainians. We think of all the free men and women, the hundreds of thousands of Ukrainian Canadians who, by their work in every kind of human endeavour, have made this the Canada we love -- the Canada we celebrate -- today.

Thank you.