

J. B. RUDNYCKYJ

**“Destalinization”  
of Canada**

OTTAWA - WINNIPEG

UKRAINIAN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION



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# SLAVISTICA

X C I I

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C O N T E N T S :	Page
"Destalinization" of Canada	1
Introduction	3
First steps	5
Forum academicum	12
Vox populi	18
"Final solution"	29
Aftermath	31

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\*                  \*

This issue of Slavistica was published with financial help of private individuals (e.g. F.Bogdan of Vancouver ) and a subsidy from the "J.B.Rudnycky Research Fund" at  
UKRAINIAN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION  
911 CARLING AVE.                  OTTAWA ONT.

K1Y 4E3

## INTRODUCTION

Slavic toponymy on the American continent fascinated the present writer long before his coming to Canada in 1949. It was already in 1947 that he published an article: "Peremishcheni nazvy" (Displaced place names) in PUHU - a Ukrainian monthly in Augsburg, West Germany (No.13, p.12). In fact, his first project in North America - "Slavic linguistic atlas of Canada and USA", published in Bulletin of the American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages, Vol.7, No.1, Philadelphia 1949, pp.13-14, dealt among others with (a) circa 100 Ukrainian place names (e.g. Ukraina, Man., Sich Man., New Kiev, Alb., Krydor, Sask., Stry, Alb.); (b) ca.20 Russian (e.g. Moscow, Ont., Volga, Man., Tolstoi, Man., Makaroff, Man.); (c) ca.20 Polish (e.g. Warsaw, Ont., Wisla, Man., Kopernik, Sask.); (d) 1 Czech (in German form): Carlsbad, Ont.; (e) 1 Serbian: Putnic (mountain) a.o. Among the collected toponyms was also the place name Stalin in Ontario and Mount Stalin in British Columbia.

Due to unfavourable scholarly publishing conditions the author was able to select only Ukrainian place names in Canada and to print them in an article in Propamyatna knyha Ukrain's'koho Narodnoho Domu, Winnipeg 1949, pp. 765-819. Nobody was interested in publishing Russian, Polish, Czech and other Slavic names. Thus they remained in manuscript form, mostly on cards. Together with other onomastic materials they are preserved in National Archives of Canada in Ottawa.

*An unexpected change came in 1985 with the establishment of the Royal Commission of Inquiry on War Criminals which requested for submissions as follows:*

Commission d'enquête  
sur les criminels de guerre



Commission of Inquiry  
on War Criminals

## **Notice of Submissions**

Minute of Council, P.C. 1985-348 dated February 7, 1985 as revised and modified by Order in Council P.C. 1985-635 dated February 28, 1985 provided for the appointment of the Honourable Mr. Justice Jules Deschênes as a Commissioner under Part I of the Inquiries Act:

to conduct such investigations regarding alleged war criminals in Canada, including whether any such persons are now resident in Canada and when and how they obtained entry to Canada as in the opinion of the Commissioner are necessary in order to enable him to report to the Governor in Council his recommendations and advice relating to what further action might be taken in Canada to bring to justice such alleged war criminals who might be residing within Canada, including recommendations as to what legal means are now available to bring to justice any such persons in Canada or whether and what legislation might be adopted by the Parliament of Canada to ensure that war criminals are brought to justice and made to answer for their crimes.

The Commission invites individuals and organizations having knowledge of any facts relating to such matters, or wishing to make any recommendations on such matters to communicate with the Commission, if possible in writing, by April 16, 1985. Any party who wishes to be represented by counsel is asked to advise the Commission of the name and address of counsel.

*Considering Stalin "the greatest war criminal" of our time the present author suggested removal of his name from Canadian maps; unfortunately his request was declined by the Commission: it dealt with the still living war criminals (if any) in Canada. Stalin died in 1953.*

## F I R S T S T E P S

*Being unsuccessful with his submission to the Deschênes Commission J.B.Rudnyckyj decided to proceed with his actions on the scholarly and political fora. He started from the top - a memorandum to the Prime Minister Brian Mulroney. In the following is the text of his submission of July 10,1985:*

Dear Mr. Prime Minister,

While preparing my submission to the Deschênes Commission I came across an astonishing fact of Canadian glorification of Joseph Stalin, Adolf Hitler's ally in 1939-1941, the ruthless dictator of the Soviet Union and exterminator of millions of innocent people in E. Europe including 7 millions of Ukrainians who perished in the genocidal premeditated famine in Ukraine in 1932/33. This World War II criminal is still today glorified in Canada by place name Stalin in Ontario and ononym Stalin Mount in British Columbia. Both names exist in Canadian gazetteers, atlases, geographical manuals, toponymic publications, etc. They exist in the respective segments of the Canadian population by the daily use of those names in toponymic practice. What is unusual in this connection is the fact that nobody ever questioned the presence of Stalin-geographical features in Canada...

As a pioneering Canadian onomatologist I recommend the abolition of the names Stalin place and Stalin Mount and substitution of them by more appropriate names of Canadian - or for that matter Ukrainian-Canadian - provenance, e.g. Panchuk Point, Worobec Mount, Ukraine Mountain or similar in honour of the Ukrainian-Canadian veterans of WWII. In any case I strongly object to the continuation of geographical Staliniana in this country and urge you, Mr. Prime Minister, to look into that matter at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely,

*J. Rudnyckyj*

The PM's answer came on August 7, 1985:



PRIME MINISTER · PREMIER MINISTRE

Ottawa, K1A 0A2

August 7, 1985

Dear Dr. Rudnyckyj,

Thank you for your letter of July 10.

I have noted your concern regarding political overtones of some Canadian place names, and I have forwarded a copy of your correspondence to The Honourable Pat Carney, who, as Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, has jurisdiction over the Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical Names.

I appreciate your bringing your views on this matter to my attention.

With every good wish,

Yours sincerely,

Dr. J.B. Rudnyckyj,  
President,  
Academia Scientiarum Mohylo-  
Mazepiana Ukrainensis,  
Suite 404,  
5790 Rembrandt Avenue,  
Cote St. Luc, Quebec.  
H4W 2V2

\* \* \* \*

*The reply of Honourable Pat Carney  
came on September 25, 1985 and was self-  
explanatory:*





SEP 25 1985

Dr. J.B. Rudnyckyj  
President  
Academia Scientiarum Mohylo-  
Mazepiana Ukrainensis  
Suite 404  
5790 Rembrandt Avenue  
Cote St. Luc, Quebec  
H4W 2V2

Dear Dr. Rudnyckyj:

Your letter to the Prime Minister on the subject of geographical features named for Marshal Josef Stalin has been referred to me for reply.

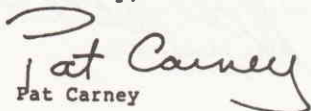
Both Mount Stalin in British Columbia and Stalin Township in Ontario were named in the 1940s by the respective provincial governments in honour of one of the Allied leaders who had contributed to the defeat of the Axis powers.

When this subject was raised in 1977 by a member of the public with the British Columbia member of the Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical Names (CPCGN), the latter replied that he would not consider changing the name Mount Stalin unless a substantial proportion of the general population in the area of the mountain submitted a well-reasoned request. He and other members of the CPCGN have usually been reluctant to change the name of a geographical feature on the sole basis that the person or place for whom it was named may have dropped from favour.

As the approval of geographical names is the responsibility of each province, the CPCGN as a whole has no authority to make unilateral changes to names of features in the jurisdiction of one of its members.

The CPCGN will be meeting this September in Regina, at which time the suitability of Canadian geographical features being named for Marshal Stalin will be discussed.

Sincerely,

  
Pat Carney

c.c. Don Cummer, P.M.O.

*In pursuing his goal J.B.Rudnyckyj asked some Ukrainian Canadian politicians for help. Dr. Alex Kindy of Calgary took upon himself the task of intervention before provincial authorities. Here is his letter to the Premier of Ontario:*

PARLIAMENTARY OFFICE  
Room 319  
West Block  
House of Commons  
Ottawa  
K1A 0A8  
Tel.: (613) 992-0903



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
OTTAWA, CANADA

CONSTITUENCY OFFICE  
Suite 121C  
3012 17th Avenue S.E.  
Calgary Alberta  
T2A 0P8  
Tel: (403) 248 5357

ALEX KINDY, M.P.  
Calgary East

June 25, 1986

Premier D. Peterson  
Premier of Ontario  
Legislative Buildings  
Queens Park  
Toronto, Ontario  
M7A 1A1

Dear Premier Peterson,

I have recently received a communication from Dr. J.B. Rudnyckyj, President, Academia Scientiarum Mohylo-Mazepiana Ukrainenis, concerning certain geographical features named for Josef Stalin. I am referring particularly to Stalin Township in Ontario.

In view of the fact that certain unflattering facts concerning Marshal Stalin have been revealed and confirmed, it would appear most appropriate that the use of his name should be changed immediately to that of another.

May I receive your assurance that you will look into this matter forthwith and in anticipation thereof I thank you for your consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Alex Kindy, M.P.  
Calgary East



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
OTTAWA, CANADA

ALEX KINDY, M.P.  
Calgary East

June 25, 1986

Dr. J.B. Rudnyckyj  
President  
Academia Scientiarum Mohylo-  
Mazepiana Ukrainensis  
Suite 404  
5790 Rembrandt Avenue  
Cote St. Luc, Quebec  
H4W 2V2

Dear Dr. Rudnyckyj,


I have your communication reference your letter from the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources dealing with the object of geographical features named for Josef Stalin.

The naming of geographical features is a provincial matter and you therefore appreciate that my jurisdiction is, therefore, limited accordingly.

I enclose, however, copies of letters that I have written to the two provincial Premiers in question in hopes that we might be able to effect some movement relative to this very important matter.

I will keep you advised when I have received a communication herein.

Yours sincerely,



Alex Kindy, M.P.  
Calgary East

October 7, 1986

Dear Dr. Rudnyckyj,

The Premier of Ontario, the Honourable David Peterson, has written to me reference the Township of Stalin and I enclose a photocopy of his letter dated September 12, 1986.

Yours sincerely,



Alex Kindy, M.P.  
Calgary East

The Premier  
of Ontario

RECEIVED / REÇU

24 SEP 1986

HOUSE OF COMMONS  
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES

Legislative Building  
Queen's Park  
Toronto, Ontario  
M7A 1A1

965-9353

September 12, 1986

Dear Mr. Kindy:

Thank you for your letter of June 25th requesting a change of name for the geographic Township of Stalin.

Upon discussing your request with my colleague, the Honourable Bernard Grandmaitre, I was informed that there are many geographic townships in Ontario which are named after prominent figures of the World War II era. All of the Allied leaders have been so recognized, including Churchill, Roosevelt and Eisenhower. The use of Marshal Stalin's name does not indicate support for his views or actions, but simply reflects his historical importance during the Second World War.

A name change, such as you suggest, would require the Legislature of Ontario to enact an amendment to the Territorial Division Act, and would also require all provincial maps depicting geographic townships to be revised accordingly. In view of the busy legislative schedule of the Legislature, I do not believe that such an amendment will be possible in the immediate future. However, I fully realize that this is a very sensitive issue for many individuals, and assure you that I will be pleased to keep your suggestion in mind.

I greatly appreciate your thoughtfulness in drawing Dr. Rudnykyj's concerns to my attention.

Sincerely,



David Peterson

Mr. Alex Kindy, M.P.  
Calgary East,  
Room 319 West Block,  
House of Commons,

*Parallel with his federal interventions J.B.Rudnyckyj undertook the case before provincial governments. One of the respective replies in this respect was as follows:*



Province of British Columbia  
OFFICE OF THE PREMIER

March 30, 1987

Dr. J.B. Rudnyckyj  
President  
Academia Scientiarum  
404 - 5790 Rembrandt  
Montreal-Cote St. Luc, Quebec  
H4W 2V2

Dear Dr. Rudnyckyj:

Thank you very much for your letter dated March 11th, expressing your concern with regard to the mountain in British Columbia known as Mt. Stalin.

Please be assured that I have read your comments most carefully and I have shared your letter with my colleague, The Honourable Bruce Strachan, Minister of Environment and Parks, so that he, too, may be aware of your views. I know that the Minister will be very pleased to respond to you on this matter.

Thank you for writing, Dr. Rudnyckyj - may I take this opportunity to extend my warmest wishes to you for good health and continued success in all your endeavours.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'W. Vander Zalm', written in a cursive style.

William N. Vander Zalm  
PREMIER

cc: The Honourable Bruce Strachan

## FORUM ACADEMICUM

An important role in the "destalinization" of Canadian toponymy was played by members of the Canadian Society for Study of Names/Société Canadienne pour l'étude des noms, founded in 1967 in Ottawa. At the annual meeting of this group in Winnipeg in 1986 J.B. Rudnyckyj read a paper on "Toponymic Staliniana in the USSR and Canada" requesting support of those present for his endeavours to "destalinize" Canadian toponymy. This idea was picked up by the Winnipeg, Toronto, Vancouver, Montreal a.o. press and a public discussion of this issue ensued. Especially the Ukrainian Canadian papers supported it without reservation.

Out of many voices in this respect the editorial of the Victoria Times Colonist of November 30, 1986, is to be mentioned, viz.:

(As far as name changes are concerned) "where new information has come to light and people who survived the horror he /Stalin/ perpetrated are still alive, the change is not just desirable but imperative"

And here are some other reactions:

- It is both morally and politically incumbent upon the current government to change the place names of geographic features in Canada honoring Stalin. The argument that one must remain true to the historical record of the Soviet Union as Canada's war-time ally is specious. To continue honoring Stalin is to ignore the very same historical record. There is no attempt at historical revision here. What is being asked is that the role of Stalin's Soviet Union be examined more closely.

Leaving aside the question of the genocidal Ukrainian famine, there is the record of the war itself which is fundamentally at issue here. Lest it be forgotten, it was the Nazi-Soviet pact which opened the way to the global conflict. It was the Soviet Union with the tacit approval of Nazi Germany which attacked Finland, annexed the neutral Baltic States and in tandem with its Nazi ally dismembered Poland in September 1939.

Two million Poles, Ukrainians and Byelorussians were immediately deported by Soviet forces from the occupied territories to Siberia. Intelligence reports in Canada's archives revealed at that time that only 11% survived the deportations, the vast majority of whom were women and children. 14,000 allied Polish officers were executed by Soviet forces in the Katyn Forest. The millions incarcerated in Nazi concentration camps or who served as slave labor in Nazi Germany were sent to the Gulag upon the return for having glimpsed the barbed wire West. This is also part of the war record of Canada's Soviet ally: hidden and unenviable.

But there is another important dimension. In 1940, Canada's initial response to the historical reality of the time was to agree to an Al-

lied plan to send Canadian troops to fight the Soviet Union on the northern front. After June, 1941 when the Soviet Union was forced to align itself with the liberal democracies, this and much of the other evidence was salted away in Canada in order "not to create" in the words of one official who was writing at the time "any misunderstanding between Canada and the Soviet Union." This is the source of historical revisionism and part of Canada's own unenviable role. The duplicity in government behavior culminated directly in such outrageous acts as the naming of mountains and townships after Stalin. It is this duplicity which needs to be unmasked and stands correcting.

There is also a political side to this. Canada professes a policy which encourages tolerance and a sympathetic understanding of the concerns of Canada's ethnic minorities. Any attempt to ignore the broad reality of the Soviet role in the war is to trivialize the experiences of hundreds of thousands of Canadians who escaped the persecution of Stalin's regime. It denies them the fundamental right to preserve some dignity in the light of the horrors they experienced. To ignore this concern would demonstrate

the hypocrisy and self-serving nature of government policy. As for those who attempt to trivialize and minimize this concern, it shows a gross denial of the historical record, or worse yet, the harboring of an incidious form of racism. This is objectionable and unacceptable if only because it denigrates the memory of countless millions of innocent victims. Indeed, lest we for-

get, place names honor or acknowledge the specific deeds of individuals. There is nothing honorable in the murder of millions and only official insensitivity and hypocrisy would be acknowledged by retaining Stalin's name.

Dr. Dmytro Cipywnyk  
President  
Ukrainian Canadian Com.

---

**FRATERNAL VOICE, No. 45.**

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Відгодовані кати України: Лазар Каганович, Йосип Сталін і Павло Постишев.





THE UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA

THE CENTRE FOR UKRAINIAN CANADIAN STUDIES  
ЦЕНТР УКРАЇНСЬКИХ КАНАДСЬКИХ СТУДІЙ

St. Andrew's College  
475 Dysart Road  
Winnipeg, Manitoba  
Canada R1T 2M7

February 6, 1986

Dr. J. B. Rudnyckyj  
Suite 404, 5790 Rembrandt  
Cote St. Luc  
Montreal, Quebec H4W 2V2

Dear Dr. Rudnyckyj:

Thank you for the abstract which you recently submitted for the conference of the Canadian Society for the Study of Names. After the program has been finalized (probably not until mid-April), I shall advise you of the time of your presentation.

I look forward to seeing you at the conference.

Yours sincerely,

Natalia Aponiuk  
Director and  
Program Chairperson  
Canadian Society for  
the Study of Names

NA/pz

КОМІТЕТ СПРІЯННЯ РОЗВИТКУ УКРАЇНСЬКОЇ  
СПІЛЬНОТИ

UKRAINIAN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE  
COMITÉ DE DÉVELOPPEMENT DE LA COMMUNAUTÉ  
UKRAINIENNE

202, 10852 - 97 STREET, EDMONTON, ALBERTA T5H 2M5  
(403) 426-4329

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7 July 1986

The Honourable David Crombie  
Secretary of State  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0A6

Dear Mr. Crombie:

It has recently come to our attention that one of British Columbia's topographical features continues to be identified with the name of Joseph Stalin.

Information obtained from the province's Division of Historic Sites indicates that the name of Generalissimo Stalin was proposed in 1944 by the Government of British Columbia as a possible place name for an elevation in the 94k area of B.C.'s northern Rockies or more specifically in the Peace River region. The name was formally submitted on behalf of the provincial government by the then Minister of Lands, Mr. Kenny, and accepted in December 1944 as the geographic place name designating the said elevation.

This act, of course, was inspired at the time by the spirit of an imminent Allied victory over fascism and more particularly to honour the significant contribution made by Soviet forces in the defeat of Nazism.

Since then, however, the historical record has shown that the regime of Joseph Stalin has been identified with genocide and unparalleled brutality. Even in the Soviet Union, the "excesses" of Stalin's rule were recognised and steps were taken to expunge the name and memory of the former ruler from public consciousness. This included redesignating areas associated with his name.

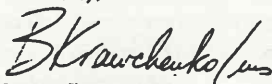
It is astonishing, therefore, that in British Columbia the memory of one of the world's great tyrants remains immortalised. It is offensive not only from the point of view of the memory of millions of Soviet citizens who were victimised by his brutal regime but it also callously ignores the living memory of those who involuntarily migrated to Canada to escape persecution. It would be inexcusable if this situation were to remain unchanged.

The only parallel which comes to mind immediately is the monument to Adolph Hitler erected by the equally notorious Idi Amin. We would think the Government of British Columbia would wish to distance itself from such unfortunate comparisons by taking measures to rectify the situation.

Moreover, we would hope that you, as the newly-appointed Secretary of State and Minister of State (Multiculturalism), would impress upon the Government of British Columbia the necessity of doing so. We trust that you will take these views into consideration and that the matter will be discussed with your provincial counterpart.

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you on your appointment and wish you all the best for future success.

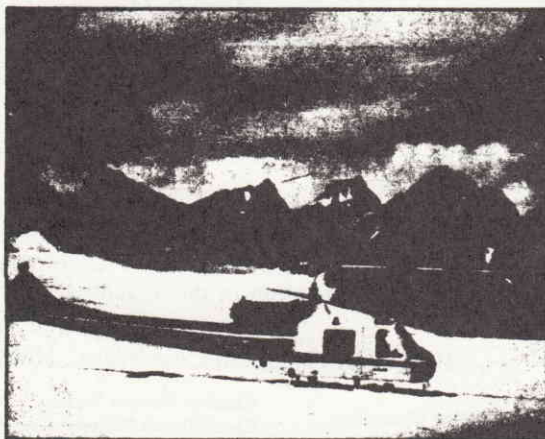
Yours truly,



Bohdan Krawchenko  
Chairperson  
Ukrainian Community Development Committee  
Prairie Region

cc: Members, Alberta P.C. Caucus  
Mr. Sergio Marchi, M.P.  
Mr. Ernie Epp, M.P.  
Mr. Andrew Wiler, M.P.  
Ukrainian Canadian Committee, National Executive  
Ukrainian Canadian Committee, British Columbia Provincial Council  
Ukrainian Canadian Committee, Manitoba Provincial Council  
Ukrainian Canadian Committee, Ontario Provincial Council  
Ukrainian Canadian Committee, Saskatchewan Provincial Council  
Ukrainian Canadian Committee, Montréal Branch

### The contentious Mt. St. Helens



COLLEEN GATENBY

Courtesy : Western Report, November 17, 1986

## V O X P O P U L I

*Following bureaucratic advises, in particular that of Alan Rayburn, then Secretary General of the Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical Names in Ottawa, the present writer approached "general public" in support of his endeavours. It was immediately after his lecture in Winnipeg that he paid an official visit to the Ukrainian Canadian Committee (2.VI.1986) trying to persuade its Presidium that his planned "toponymic destalinization" of Canada was not his private affair but a general public issue. He found there a full understanding and promise of support. Few months later a resolution was passed by the Ukrainian Canadian Congress in Winnipeg which read as follows:*

**"BE IT RESOLVED** that the 15th Congress of the Ukrainian Canadian Committee urges the government of Canada to ensure that any geographic places named in Canada after perpetrators of crimes against humanity, such as Joseph Stalin be renamed."

*Moreover, the Ukrainian Canadian Committee undertook a widely publicized action in 1986-1987 with regard to the above resolution. The following is a Copy of letter sent to national presidents of various ethnocultural groups \* requesting support in the Ukrainian Canadian Committee's Mt. Stalin name change drive.*

The Ukrainian Canadian Committee is persisting in its efforts to have Mount Stalin in British Columbia renamed. Enclosed please find a copy of a telepost sent to Premier William Vander Zalm in this regard.

Since your organization's support proved greatly effective in having Stalin Township renamed in Ontario, we ask you to likewise endorse our Mount Stalin efforts in British Columbia by sending a telegram of support to Premier Vander Zalm.

Thank you once again for your cooperation in this urgent issue of common concern.

Dr. Dmytro Cipywnyk, President  
Ukrainian Canadian Committee, Headquarters

\* Canadian Polish Congress  
Byelorussian Canadian Co-ordinating Committee  
Estonian Central Council in Canada  
Slovenian National Federation

Croatian Peasant Society  
Czechoslovak National Association  
Canadian Hungarian Federation  
Afghan Association of Ontario (Can.)



Province of  
British Columbia

Ministry of  
Environment

Parliament Buildings  
Victoria  
British Columbia  
V8V 1X4

OFFICE OF THE MINISTER

June 16th, 1986.

Professor J.B. Rudnyckyj,  
5790 Rembrandt Avenue, Apt. 404,  
MONTREAL, Quebec.  
H4W 2V2.

Dear Professor Rudnyckyj:-

My secretary advised me that you  
had called at my office last Friday, relative  
to a mountain in British Columbia, named Stalin  
Mount.

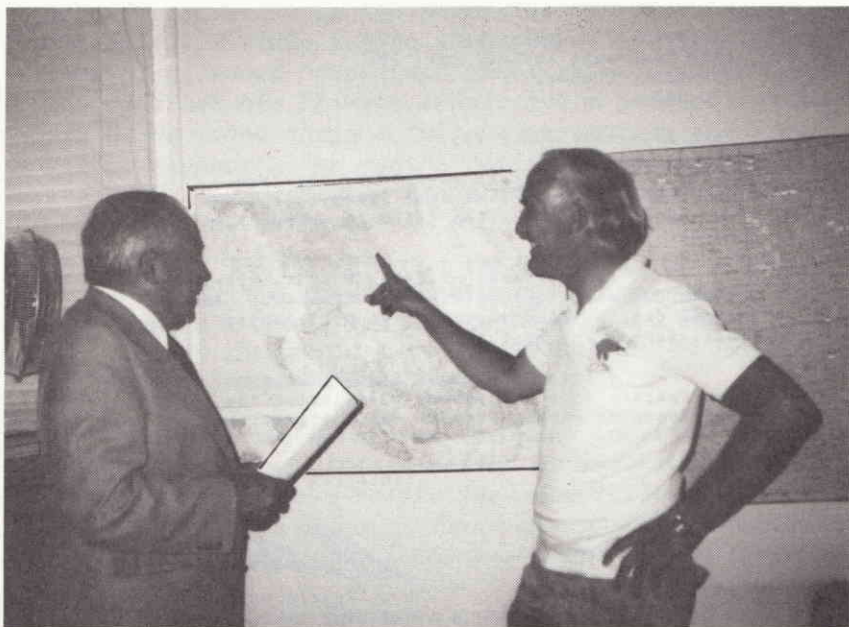
As a veteran of World War II, myself,  
I can certainly appreciate your viewpoint, and I  
shall discuss your presentation with senior  
officials of my Ministry.

I trust that your meeting with Mr.  
Don Pearson of our Toponomy Division of the Surveys  
and Resource Mapping Branch was informative.

Sincerely yours,

F.C. Austin Pelton,  
MINISTER.

## "ДЕСТАЛІНІЗАЦІЯ КАНАДИ"



J.B.Rudnyckyj informed by D.F. Pearson, B.C. Representative  
of C.P.C.G.N.,  
about the exact location of the oronym Stalin Mount in B.C.

Інтервенція в справі "Гори Сталіна" в Вікторії Б.К.

13.6.1986

June 23, 1986

Mr. Don Pearson, Head,  
Toponymy Division, Ministry of Environment,  
Victoria, B.C. V8V 1X4

Dear Mr. Pearson,

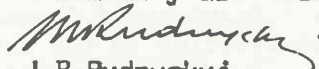
Following our discussion of June 13, 1986, I am sending you some materials re Joseph Vissarionovich Stalin, including a very objective assessment of his tyranny by H. Carriere d'Encausse and comparison of him to Hitler (whose ally he was in 1939-41). There is no doubt in my mind, that Stalin was a top WWII criminal and for this reason he should not be glorified in Canada by Mount Stalin in your Province.

I wish herewith once more recommend the abolition of this oronym from B.C. map and to substitute it with a more appropriate one.

With best wishes and

sincere greetings

I remain yours truly

  
J.B. Rudnycky

*The text of the UCC telepost to Premier William Vander Zalm was as follows:*

*MEDIA RELEASE*

The Honourable William Vander Zalm  
Premier  
Province of British Columbia

Dear Premier Vander Zalm

Further to our telepost of November 5, 1986, concerning the renaming of Mt. Stalin, B.C. in honour of an outstanding Canadian, such as Mr. Rick Hansen or Mr. Steve Fonyo, we would like to inquire what action your government has taken on this matter.

As we are certain you can appreciate, this matter is of continuing interest to many Canadians of East European and Jewish origins, both in your province and across the country. The leading organizations representing these many communities have been in communication with us recently wondering what developments have taken place in this regard.

Since Mr. Hansen is presently in Saskatchewan on his way to British Columbia, we trust your government will pass the required legislation to resolve this issue before Mr. Hansen reaches your province.

Sincerely,

Dr. Dmytro Cipywnyk, President  
Ukrainian Canadian Committee, Headquarters

\* \* \* \*

*To mobilize public opinion in this issue J.B.Rudnyckyj organized a public meeting in Vancouver on June 15, 1986 and, with help of the local leaders V.Dziubenko, F.Bogdan a.o., submitted an official petition to the Government of British Columbia re "Stalin Mount" in B.C. In the following the first page of this petition - J.B.R's holograph with autentic signatures of those present - is reproduced:*



To the Government of British Columbia

The undersigned Canadian citizens of Ukrainian descent request the abolishment of the name "Stalin Mount" in B.C. considering Josef Stalin the greatest war criminal in the modern history and, as such, a person that does not deserve any glorification by name in Rocky Mountains.  
Vancouver, B.C., June 15, 1986.

Signed By:

Mary Gordon	3504 / 11 <sup>th</sup> Avenue Victoria
John Woods	Kamloops B.C.
Yaroslava Woods	11
Peter Witruk	Waterloo.
Mary Witruk	Toronto, Ont
Al Woytowich	Abbotsford B.C.
Napier Tsongas	A. Thorsheim
Napier Cimacil	Neville Dunphy
Robertson Hildebrink	Napier Tsongas B.C.
Walter Adams	Barnes B.C.
Anne Adams	Kelowna, B.C.
Antonia Antun	Kelowna B.C.
Mary Antun	S. Tschirner
Alexa Chorny	B. Kozak
	(Antonia) Zolubniak - K. H. H. H. H.

etc.

(Total: 50 signatures  
of those present  
at the meeting )



Province of  
British Columbia

Ministry of  
Environment

SURVEYS AND  
RESOURCE MAPPING

Parliament Buildings  
Victoria  
British Columbia  
V8V 1X5

DSO  
86

86-07-07

Our File: T-4-65

REC. JUL. 10.

Mr. F. Bogdan  
3236 East 47th Avenue  
Vancouver, British Columbia  
V5S 1C6

Dear Mr. Bogdan:

This will acknowledge, with thanks, your letter of July 2nd, together with the copy of the Dictionary of Ukrainian Surnames in Canada.

I am currently in the process of collecting information on Mount Stalin, and when it is in hand it should be possible to prepare a brief on application of this toponym in British Columbia.

I am sure that you are aware of the broad interest this issue has generated and of its linkage to that of Stalin township in Ontario, which is, of course, another jurisdiction.

Yours sincerely,

*Don F. Pearson*

D. F. Pearson  
B. C. Representative  
C.P.C.G.N.

DFP/cgk

c.c. Mr. Alan Rayburn



Province of British Columbia  
OFFICE OF THE PREMIER

July 15, 1986

Mr. V. Dziubenko, Chairman and  
Mr. N. Nychyporuk, Secretary  
Ukrainian Self-Reliance Association  
Vancouver Branch  
154 East 10th Avenue  
Vancouver, British Columbia  
V5T 1Z4

Dear Mr. Dziubenko and Mr. Nychyporuk:

In the absence of the Premier, I would like to acknowledge and thank you for your recent letter and enclosed petition in which, on behalf of the members of the Ukrainian Self-Reliance Association, you raised a number of points of interest and concern to you regarding Mount Stalin in the Province of British Columbia.

Mr. Bennett will appreciate you taking the time to share your members' views with him, and you may be assured that your correspondence will be brought to his attention at the earliest opportunity.

In the meantime, I am taking the liberty of forwarding a copy of your correspondence to the Honourable Austin Pelton, Minister of Environment, under the jurisdiction of whose portfolio this matter comes, and am asking him to kindly contact you direct in regard to the points you have raised.

Again, thank you for writing.

Yours sincerely,

Norah Laity (Miss)  
Information Officer

cc: Honourable F.C. Austin Pelton

Parliament Buildings, Victoria, British Columbia V8V 4R3

Excerpts from  
Canadian press:

1)

Outside the Georgian Soviet Socialist Republic, there are very few admirers of Josef Stalin — for good reason.

In the process of making the Soviet Union a world superpower, Stalin starved, exiled and executed millions of Soviet citizens during his three decades of power.

The subsequent “de-Stalinization” of the Soviet Union saw, among other things, the renaming of the city of Stalingrad — the site of a crucial battle in the Second World War — to Volgograd. The Soviets, in typical revisionist style, were out to erase Stalin’s existence.

This penchant for revision now threatens Canada, where a mountain in B.C. and a rural township in Ontario are named after Stalin. Jaroslav Rudnycky, professor emeritus of the Slavic Studies Department at the University of Manitoba, wants Canada purged of these references to the Man of Steel.

Dr. Rudnycky’s motives are sincere — he equates Stalin with Adolf Hitler — but the logic of his campaign is flawed. Instead of erasing the name of Stalin, Canadians who visit the mountain or township should ponder the inability of this country to see through the man while he was our ally. It’s a lesson of history worth remembering, not forgetting.

Where does revisionism end? If Mount Stalin and Stalin Township are to be renamed, why not do the same with Czar, Alberta? The czars were a nasty bunch as well.

Best to get rid of Louisbourg, Nova Scotia, named after that profligate feudal oppressor, The Sun King. The same with Kingston: George III wasn’t a champion of the masses either.

Placenames don’t always reflect favorably on Canadians but they are a reminder of a bygone age. They shouldn’t be casually tossed into the garbage bin of history.

The Edmonton  
**Journal**

**Publisher: William Newbigging**

**Editor: Stephen Hume**

**Editorial Page Editor: Roy Cook**

Published daily by the proprietor, Southam Inc.,  
at The Journal Building, Edmonton Alta., P.O. Box 2421 T5J 2S6.

Edmonton, 3.VI.1986

2)

Recently Prof. Emeritus Jaroslav Rudnytsky proposed that place names in Canada commemorating Joseph Stalin be changed because of the horrible acts of criminal genocide the man committed. *The Edmonton Journal*, in a perfect example of the kind of twisted logic we have learned to expect from its editorial board came out against the proposal, bringing in such ludicrous arguments that we may then have to change places named after Louis XIV as well. That is such an utterly stupid comparison that we don't even want to get into it.

Certain Canadian places were named after Stalin during World War II when the Soviet Union was our ally. This, in the first place, was due to a historical fluke. In 1940, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill even considering declaring war on the USSR, however, Britain and Canada alone would not have been able to handle the combined might of both Nazi Germany and Soviet Russia. When Hitler decided to doublecross his former ally and invade the Soviet Union, they became our allies. Had that not happened they never would have been. As our allies, the Soviet Union repaid western generosity exemplified by the lend-lease agreement by spying on us and trying to steal our secrets. This was proven by Igor Gouzenko.

\*

Wartime ally or not, Joseph Stalin is a man whose record of mass murder equals that of Adolph Hitler. Commemorating Stalin is the same as commemorating Hitler and let's get that straight. Even the USSR itself has decided to eradicate his memory by changing the name of places such as Stalingrad into Volgograd. If the USSR itself decides to change place names, surely Canada should not commemorate Stalin.

Ukrainian News, Edmonton, 25.VI.1986

3)

Finally, an unpublished letter to the Editor of the Montreal Gazette should be here reproduced in order to reveal the editorial policy of this daily and its rather sad attitude to real Canadian issues of the day. The text of this unpublished "letter to the Editor" read as follows:

Whatever the results of the Deschênes inquiry will be, one certain fact of the presence of "war criminals" in Canada remains undisputable, namely the presence of two toponyms "in honour" of the greatest war criminal - Joseph Vissarionovich Stalin. He is glorified in Canada till today by Mount Stalin in British Columbia and Stalin Township in Ontario. Both names exist in Canadian gazetteers, atlases, geographical manuals, etc. Meanwhile J.V. Stalin, Adolph Hitler's ally in 1939-1941, exterminator of millions of Ukrainians, Jews and other people in Eastern Europe, was not only a war criminal, but also a major pre-war criminal, having on his account the infamous purges like Yezhovshchina, the premeditated genocidal famine in Ukraine in 1932/33 and others. What is astonishing is the fact that nobody ever in Canada questioned the presence of Stalin-geographical features, even when in the Soviet Union such names as Stalingrad and similar were changed to Volgograd, etc. Toponymic Staliniana are tolerated in Canada though they are connected with the name of a great WWII criminal, if not the greatest in modern history.

Unfortunately my submissions to the Deschênes Commission, to the PM Brian Mulroney and other responsible people in Canada were unsuccessful.

Stalin is further glorified by Canadian toponymy.

Dr. J. B. Rudnycky j,

March 3, 1986.

Côte St. Luc, Q.



## "F I N A L   S O L U T I O N"

*Thanks to a highly diplomatic and unprecedented move of Ukrainian Conservative MPP Yuri Shymko in the Provincial Legislature in Toronto on November 6, 1986, the name Stalin in Ontario was changed to "Hansen Township" to honor the famous Canadian wheel-chair athlete Rick Hansen who was on his world tour to raise money for spinal cord research, and witnessed passing of the Shymko's private bill from the Legislative gallery in Toronto:*

*Hansen Township will now stand as a permanent gesture of recognition by the people of Ontario to Rick Hansen, a great Canadian hero whose doubtless pursuit of a humanitarian goal should serve as an example not only to all Canadians, but to the entire world - said Shymko after the toponym Stalin was officially changed.*

*It is selfevident that this change evoked a positive reaction among the people of Ontario and of Canada in general.*

*J.B.Rudnyckyj phoned Mr.Shymko congratulating him upon the success. Many of the other Canadians expressed their satisfaction. The Ukrainian Canadian Committee made the following press release on this occasion:*

*The Ukrainian Canadian-Committee and other ethno-cultural groups in Canada applaud the initiative of all three leaders of the Ontario Provincial Legislature in the unanimous passage of a private members bill introduced by Yuri Shymko, M.P.P. for*

*High Park-Swansea to have Stalin Township renamed to Hansen Township, and call upon the Premier of British Columbia, The Honourable-Bill Vander Zalm, to follow suit in the renaming of Mount Stalin in British Columbia.*

*The expected "destalinization" of British Columbia followed suit. Out of several documents to this effect the following official letter is quoted:*



Province of  
British Columbia

OFFICE OF THE MINISTER

Ministry of  
Environment  
and Parks

Parliament Buildings  
Victoria  
British Columbia  
V8V 1X4

May 19, 1987

Dr. J. B. Rudnyckyj  
President  
Academia Scientiarum  
Mohylo-Mazepiana Ukrainensis  
404 - 5790 Rembrandt  
Montreal-Cote St. Luc, Quebec  
H4W 2V2

Dear Dr. Rudnyckyj:

Your letter of March 11, 1987, concerning the renaming of Mount Stalin has been shared with me by the Honourable William N. Vander Zalm, Premier of British Columbia.

I am pleased to inform you that on April 24, 1987, a Province of British Columbia news release was issued through my office renaming the mountain Mount Peck, to commemorate the late Mr. Don Peck (1920-1980), who was a well known and respected Peace River guide, rancher, and conservationist whose big game guiding territory lay in its vicinity.

In closing, I would like to thank you for your continued efforts to have the oronym Mount Stalin removed from the official geographical nomenclature of British Columbia.

Yours sincerely,

Bruce Strachan  
Minister of Environment and Parks

c.c. The Honourable W. N. Vander Zalm, Premier

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Help British Columbia Celebrate Canada's Wildlife Centennial



A F T E R M A T H

May 11 1987

Dr. L. Y. Luciuk  
68 Nelson Street  
Kingston, Ontario  
K7L 3W8

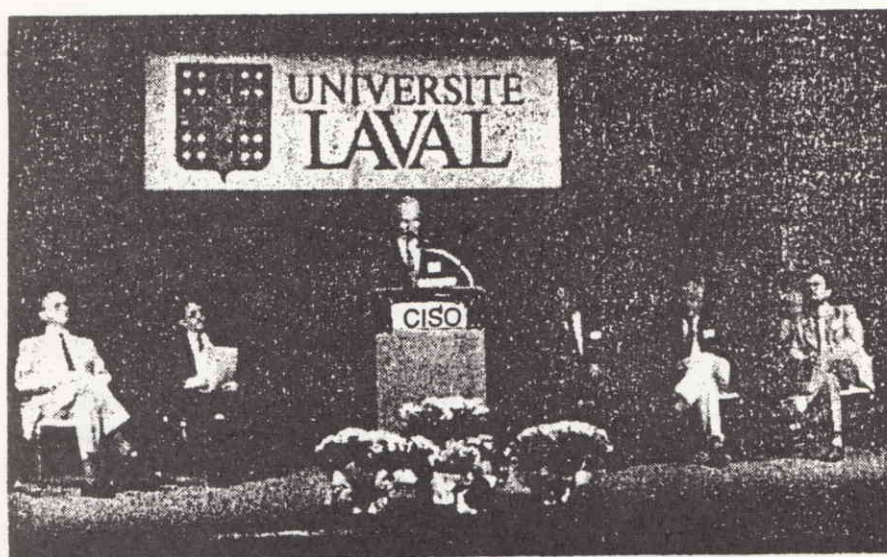
Dr. J. B. Rudnyckyj  
5790 Rembrandt, #404  
Montreal, Quebec  
H4W 2V2

Dear Dr. Rudnyckyj:

Now that Stalin Township has been changed to Hansen Township and Mt. Stalin renamed Mt. Peck, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the fine effort you have made over the past few years to see these changes done. While a number of us, like Bohdan Kordan in Edmonton, and Mrs Oksana Rozumna in Winnipeg, as well as the Civil Liberties Commission, did what we could, I believe this issue was first raised by you. Alone, and, perhaps surprisingly, without much general support, you continuously raised this matter until others picked up your 'call' and acted upon it. I think you truly deserve congratulations and credit for your initiative, persistence, and efforts in this regard. Keep up the good work!

*/L.Y.Luciuk/*

ON TOPONYMIC DESTALINIZATION OF  
CANADA



16-ий Міжнародний Конгрес назвознавства. Проф. Яр. Рудницький  
(центр) доповідає.

XVI<sup>e</sup> CONGRÈS  
INTERNATIONAL  
DES SCIENCES  
ONOMASTIQUES

16-22 AOÛT 1987

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## SLAVISTICA

A multilingual series relating to Slavic and East European languages and cultures, was founded in Augsburg, West Germany, in 1948 by J.B. Rudnyckyj, then Director of U.V.A.N. - Institute of Slavistics. In the years of 1948- 1990 92 issues were published.

They are obtainable:

**SLAVISTICA No. 1-3, 8 and 77** on xerox or microfilm from the Photoduplication Service of the Library of Congress, Washington, D.C., 20540.

**SLAVISTICA No. 5-7, 9-76** from Ukrainian Free Academy of Sciences - UVAN, 456 Main Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada.

**SLAVISTICA No. 78-92** and following issues from:  
Association de la langue ukrainienne  
A.L.U. 5790 Rembrandt Ave. #404, Montréal  
- Côte St. Luc, Québec, Canada.