

Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association

Calgary Office, 48 Woodcrest Close SW, Calgary, Alberta T2W 3P9 Tel: (403) 251 5594/Fax: (403) 238 4548

MEDIA RELEASE

VICTORIA CROSS RECIPIENT TO BE HONOURED IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

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A trilingual bronze plaque honouring the wartime valour of First World War **Ukrainian Canadian** Victoria Cross winner, **FILIP KONOWAL**, will be erected in the Armoury of the **Royal Westminster Regiment** in the spring of 1997, according to a spokesman for the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association and Toronto's Royal Canadian Legion Branch 360, Dr Lubomyr Luciuk.

Despite the initial reservations of some members of the Regiment about a trilingual historical marker, Dr Luciuk today reported that the Regiment's Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel R A Lee**, has announced that the Ukrainian Canadian community is now welcome to honour the only Ukrainian Canadian ever to have won the British Empire's most coveted and prestigious military award, the **Victoria Cross**. A trilingual (English, French, Ukrainian) plaque will be installed in the New Westminster Armoury. The unveiling is expected to take place in the spring of 1997. The Ukrainian Canadian community has also agreed to cover the costs involved in honouring another regimental Victoria Cross winner from the Second World War, **Major Jack Mahoney**.

After the announcement, Mr **Jerry N Gangur**, past president of the Royal Westminster Regiment Association, said, "The regimental family is delighted at being able to announce that one of the men who served the Regiment with such distinction will finally be honoured here in British Columbia and we are, of course, very grateful to the Ukrainian Canadian community for showing the initiative to so honour Filip Konowal and our other VC winner, Jack Mahoney. The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 360 is to be especially thanked for its generosity in placing two other plaques to Konowal's honour, one in the Drill Hall of the Governor General's Foot Guards, in Ottawa, and the other in Toronto, at the Branch, reminding all Canadians of the valour and contributions of this community in our nation's history."

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

Mr Jerry Gangur, past president, Royal Westminster Regiment Association (604) 929-5785

or

Mr John Gregorovich, President, Branch 360, Royal Canadian Legion, (905) 949-4920

or

Dr Lubomyr Luciuk, Director of Research, UCCLA, (613) 546-8364