**LLED 361: Assignment 3**

**Acrostic Poem: Ukrainian Migration to Canada 1990-WWI**

An acrostic poem is a type of poetry where the first, last or other letters in a line spell out a particular word or phrase. The most common and simple form of an acrostic poem is where the first letters of each line spell out the word or phrase. The word or phrase acts as the theme or message of the poem.

**P** olitical and social oppression in the Soviet and Austro-Hungarian Empires

**U** krainians flee their homes by the hundreds of thousands

**S** eeking relief from unemployment and starvation

**H** omeless in need of a home

**E** migration, evacuation, exodus

**D** esperate measures to escape desperate circumstances

**O** ver land and sea they migrated

**R** eaching distant lands: Canada, South America and Western Europe

**P** ublished promises of free, fertile land in the prairies

**U** rged by relatives to join them in the True North Strong and Free

**L** ured by stories of prosperity and liberty

**L** iving legacies of their choices

**E** stablished and establishing communities of immigrants

**D** welling and becoming part of the draw to Canada

**Text:**

**Excerpt from an article written by historian Jaroslav Petryshyn entitled “Sifton’s Immigration Policy,” published in 1991.**

... Compelling arguments can be put forth to establish that Ukrainian immigration to Canada had less to do with Canadian efforts ... and more to do with what was occurring in the homeland. In the 1880s Ukrainians started to emigrate from the Austro-Hungarian Empire at an accelerated pace. At a conservative estimate about 800 000 left Galicia and Hungarian Transcarpathia between the mid-1990s and the First World War. This emigration was but part of a massive shift of some ten million eastern European peasants from their native lands to the United States, Canada, Brazil, Argentina, and parts of Western Europe.

The reason for such a dramatic movement of humanity was, by and large, economic or, as Ivan Franko aptly put it, “the bread question.” A case in point was the province of Galicia. It seemed that every patch of good soil was replete [full] with redundant [un-needed] peasants preoccupied with the realities of life—overpopulation, shortage of land, unemployment, political and social oppression, and starvation. For hundreds of thou- sands, emigration was “an absolutely natural, indispensable [necessary], and inevitable [unavoidable] phenomenon.”

[…] The Ukrainians who had settled in Canada also played an important role in the emigration process. In effect, they acted as immigration agents when they wrote home to their relatives and friends, describing conditions in the country, encouraging them to come, and often providing financial assistance for the journey.