



Pekka Kallioniemi @P_Kallioniemi

Nov 28, 2024 · 22 tweets · [P_Kallioniemi/status/1862091620285301111](#)

In today's #vatniksoup, I'll introduce a Canadian journalist and alleged Soviet/Russian spy, David Pugliese (@davidpugliese). He's best-known for his articles about "Ukrainian Nazis", and for allegedly being a spy for both the Soviet Union and later Russia.

1/21



Several months ago I was anonymously sent a pile of documents from the mid-80s originating from the KGB archives in Kyiv. These documents outlined a KGB recruitment into "Stuart", or David Pugliese who "works in foreign mass media" and who is...

2/21

«УТВЕРЖДАЮ»

Совершенно секретно

Начальник 3 направления 1 отдела

(должность)

1 Управления КГБ УССР

(звание)

подполковник *Левченко А. М.*

(фамилия) (подпись)

А. М. Левченко 1984 г.

ЗАРЕГИСТРИРОВАНО
под № 8827
Ст. учетной групп. 1
<i>А. М. Левченко</i>
1984

ПОСТАНОВЛЕНИЕ

О заведении дела предварительного расследования «Стюарт» № 7 от 7 августа 1984 г. Я, оперуполномоченный 1 отдела 1 Управления КГБ УССР ст. Левченко А. М.

рассмотрев материалы оперативной подборки № 92 (ДОП № 5544) на Тулосе Дэвиде, 1957 г.р., уроженца Канады, канадца, активиста, журналиста в г. Оттаве.

Нашел: «Стюарт» представляет интерес по линии работы в среде зарубежных СМИ, изучается в плане возможного оперативного использования. Для концентрации и накопления материалов в соответствии с приказом КГБ СССР № 00229 от 13. XII. 83 г.

Постановил: завести на «Стюарта» ДПИ, приобщив к нему материалы оперативной подборки № 92. Дело зарегистрировать в установленном порядке в учетной группе 1 Управления КГБ УССР

А. М. Левченко
(подпись)

«СОГЛАСЕН»

(должность, отдел—управление, звание)

пол. № 41-7190
(подпись)

(фамилия)

зак. 868—1975 г.

..“studied with the perspective of possible operative use”. Another document described “Stuart’s” contact “Ivan”, who allegedly became his handler. Some have speculated that “Ivan” is Fred Weir, a correspondent of the Christian Science Monitor. He’s lived in Moscow since 1986.

96
113

2.км

Секретно
акз. № 2

Лично

I/328I

Начальнику IО отдела Управления
"С" ПГУ КГБ СССР
полковнику Душаку Р.М.

20 июня 90

На № I50/IО-IО546 от 7.05.90 г. г.Москва

О "Старте"

При этом направляем справку на связь "Старта" с "Иваном".

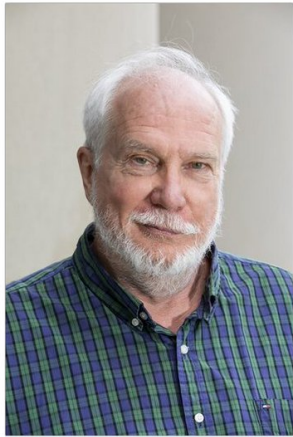
Приложение: Справка № I/3282 на 2 л., секретно.

Начальник I отдела УКГБ

полковник *n/n*

В.И.Семенов

Fred Weir, Special correspondent



Follow Fred Weir on



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Fred Weir has been the Monitor's Moscow correspondent, covering Russia and the former Soviet Union, since 1998. He's traveled over much of that vast territory, reporting on stories ranging from Russia's financial crash to the war in Chechnya, creeping Islamization in central Asia, Russia's demographic crisis, the rise of Vladimir Putin and his repeated returns to the Kremlin, and the ups and downs of US-Russia relations.

Fred holds an honors B.A. in European history from the University of Toronto and a teaching degree from the Ontario College of Education. He was once also a journeyman Ironworker in Toronto's Local 721. He moved to the Soviet Union in 1986 and has lived there permanently ever since. He previously wrote for outlets such as Canadian Press, the Hindustan Times, The Independent, and the South China Morning Post. He is married with two children and lives in a small village near Moscow. Fred is the co-author of *Revolution from Above: Russia's Path from Gorbachev to Putin*, Routledge, 2007.

Stories by Fred Weir

- [Trump is back. Parents worldwide hope and fear for children's futures.](#)
- [Putin has ruled Russia for 25 years. How did he last so long?](#)
- [At BRICS summit, Russia tries to build a world without the US](#)
- [Why Putin's nuclear saber-rattling on Ukraine sounds different this time](#)
- [Donald Trump for president? This time, Russia says, 'No thanks.'](#)

[View all](#)

Fred & his uncle John were active in the Communist Party of Canada, and both of them also worked for the Canadian Tribune.

The documents concerning Mr. Pugliese themselves were proven to be authentic by experts, but they don't clearly show...

Weir, John

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print

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Weir, John [Вивюрський, Іван; Vyvjurs'kyj, Ivan; pseudonyms: Ivan Fedorovych, Davis, A. Brock, Frank Evans, Frank Brant], b 23 October 1906 in Broad Valley, Manitoba, d 23 November 1983 in **Toronto**. Journalist, publicist, **translator**, and community leader. Born in rural **Manitoba** to a Polish/Ukrainian family who were recent emigrants from **Galicia**, Weir first moved with his family to the Fraser Valley in **British Columbia** and then to **Ontario**. He joined the Young Communist League (YCL) in 1924 and became member of its National Executive Council in 1927. In 1927, he joined the **Communist Party of Canada** (CPC). He began his journalistic career under **Myroslav Irchan** who edited the Ukrainian-language periodical *Svit molodi* in 1927–9 in **Winnipeg**. Between 1928 and 1930, Weir attended the Lenin School in **Moscow**. He moved to Calgary in 1932 and in 1933, became an activist organizing the unemployed in **Montreal**. He was elected to the CPC Central Committee in 1934 and to the CPC National Executive in 1937. After returning to Toronto, he edited *The Worker* (1935–6) and *The Daily Clarion* (1936–9) and was an organizer of the Toronto Labor College. He became secretary of the Toronto (Commercial) Artists' Union and was elected for two terms to the Toronto Board of Education in 1937. At the end of 1939, he became editor of *The Western Clarion* and moved to **Winnipeg**.

After the CPC was banned in 1940, Weir was arrested and interned in the camp at Kananaskis, **Alberta** and later at the Hull Jail (Gatineau, **Quebec**). Following his release in September 1942, he resumed his political activities and in 1943, joined the national executive of the Artists', Writers' and Broadcasters' War Council. He worked for *The Canadian Tribune* (1943–6) and became the first editor of *The Ukrainian Canadian* (1947–54) and a member of the editorial board of *Ukraïns'ke zhyttia (Winnipeg)* (1954–8). He wrote a 26-part series 'Notes on Canadian History' in *The Ukrainian Canadian* between 1949 and 1951. Weir was involved in electoral politics and stood as candidate from the Labor-Progressive Party in the 1945 and 1957 federal elections and in the 1959 provincial elections; and as the CPC candidate in the 1972 federal elections. As national secretary of the Canadian Slav Committee in 1958–61, he attended the Fourth World Congress of Slavists in **Moscow** in 1958. He served on the National Executive Committee of the **Association of United Ukrainian Canadians** in 1961–64 and 1974–83, and was also member of the CPC Central Committee. He continued to work as a union activist and worked as business agent for the Artists Union in **Toronto**. He served on the National Committee of the Canadian-Soviet Friendship Society.

Weir was a staff member of *The Canadian Tribune* and in 1962, he visited **Moscow** as this paper's correspondent. During that period, he also wrote articles critical of the Canadian federal government that were published in the Soviet press. In 1967–9, he was head of a team of translators working on the English volume of *Ukraïns'ka radians'ka entsyklopediia*. He was also involved in **Kyiv** with the production of the bi-lingual periodical *News from Ukraine*. Having returned to **Canada** in 1969 after eight years in the USSR, he worked as production manager at *Canadian Tribune* and was its editor from 1972 to 1973. In 1973, he began to research and write a history of the **Communist Party of Canada**. From 1974, he was the Moscow correspondent of *The Canadian Tribune* and *The Ukrainian Canadian* and became a citizen of the USSR and member of the **Communist Party of the Soviet Union**. Weir continued to work in **Kyiv** as a **translator** and author. He wrote **poetry**, short stories, and **literary criticism** in Ukrainian and translated into English numerous works by **Taras Shevchenko**, **Ivan Franko**, **Lesia Ukrainka**, **Vasyl Stefanyk**, and other Ukrainian authors. His **translations** were published in Moscow, **Kyiv** and **Toronto**.

Myron Momryk

[This article was updated in 2022.]

Communist Party of Canada

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print

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Communist Party of Canada. The Communist Party of Canada (CPC) was founded in 1921, with Ukrainians **Matthew Popovich**, J. Boychuk, and **Ivan Navizivsky** participating. By the early 1930s Ukrainians were the largest group in the CPC after the Finns, forming approximately one-third of the membership. Most also belonged to the pro-Communist **Ukrainian Labour-Farmer Temple Association** (ULFTA). CPC control was exercised through sections within the party until 1925 and through direct party representation in organizations like the ULFTA until 1935. Between 1928 and 1931 Ukrainian and other CPC leaders clashed over Ukrainian reluctance to accept the intensification of the class struggle. During the 1930s the CPC's failure to question the **Famine-Genocide of 1932-3** and **Stalinist purges** in **Soviet Ukraine** led to the defection of Ukrainians under **Danylo Lobai**. Since 1945 Ukrainian membership in the CPC has decreased, although liaison between the CPC and the **Association of United Ukrainian Canadians** (AUUC),

which succeeded the **ULFTA**, has been maintained by such key AUUC functionaries in the CPC as **John Boychuk**, Navizivsky, **John Weir**, **Peter Krawchuk**, and **Petro Prokopchak**. In 1967 the CPC, at **AUUC** insistence, sent a delegation to investigate **Russification** in Soviet Ukraine; its critical report was withdrawn under Soviet pressure, over the objections of Ukrainian-Canadian **Communist** leaders. The 1968 invasion of **Czechoslovakia**, officially supported by the CPC, and restricted travel in Soviet Ukraine have further alienated Ukrainians from the CPC, which continued to maintain a pro-Soviet position.

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Avery, Donald. *'Dangerous Foreigners': European Immigrant Workers and Labour Radicalism in Canada, 1896-1932* (Toronto 1979)

Kolasky, John. *The Shattered Illusion: The History of Ukrainian Pro-Communist Organizations in Canada* (Toronto 1979)

Kolasky, John (comp, ed, trans). *Prophets and Proletarians: Documents on the History of the Rise and Decline of Ukrainian Communism in Canada* (Edmonton 1990)

Vasyl Markus

[This article originally appeared in the *Encyclopedia of Ukraine*, vol. 1 (1984).]

...that Pugliese was a Russian agent. A leading expert on KGB operations stated that the documents confirm Pugliese was recruited by 1984, meaning that he was accepting conspiratorial methods of work and taskings directly from Moscow, and by 1990 he was also receiving money.

5/21

The president of Docufraud Canada, Dwayne Strocen, said he analyzed the papers, examining the typewritten entries, handwriting and stamps and determined they were real.

"It was our determination, through microscopic examination, that they were all written from that time period," he said. "It's our professional and expert opinion that these documents are all genuine and authentic."

He said it was possible to fake documents. But he said in this case, "if this was an elaborate hoax, it would be an elaborate hoax beyond all reasonableness."

Several experts on KGB documents said the papers appeared to be legitimate but did not suggest the reporter was ever a Russian agent, only that the Soviets looked at him.

"The KGB approached many people, and in many cases, it didn't go anywhere," said Seva Gunitsky, an associate professor of political science at the University of Toronto.

Simon Miles, an associate professor at Duke University in North Carolina, said the documents were consistent with those held at the KGB archives in Kyiv, but they revealed very little.

"All they say is that an individual by this name came to the attention of KGB officials, not even necessarily very senior ones, and that they were interested in exploring him as a potential target of recruitment," he said.

As is tradition in democratic countries, Mr. Pugliese had the possibility to defend himself against these strong claims. He stated that the documents had "factual errors and falsehoods" about his personal life. For example, he claimed that he didn't live in Ottawa in 1984.

6/21

Pugliese said the documents are full of "factual errors and falsehoods" about his personal life.

The documents suggest Pugliese lived in Ottawa in 1984 and had been a student activist; he told MPs that both of those assertions are false. He said that during the 1980s he worked for a U.S. military publication that covered topics that wouldn't have shed a positive light on the Soviet Union.

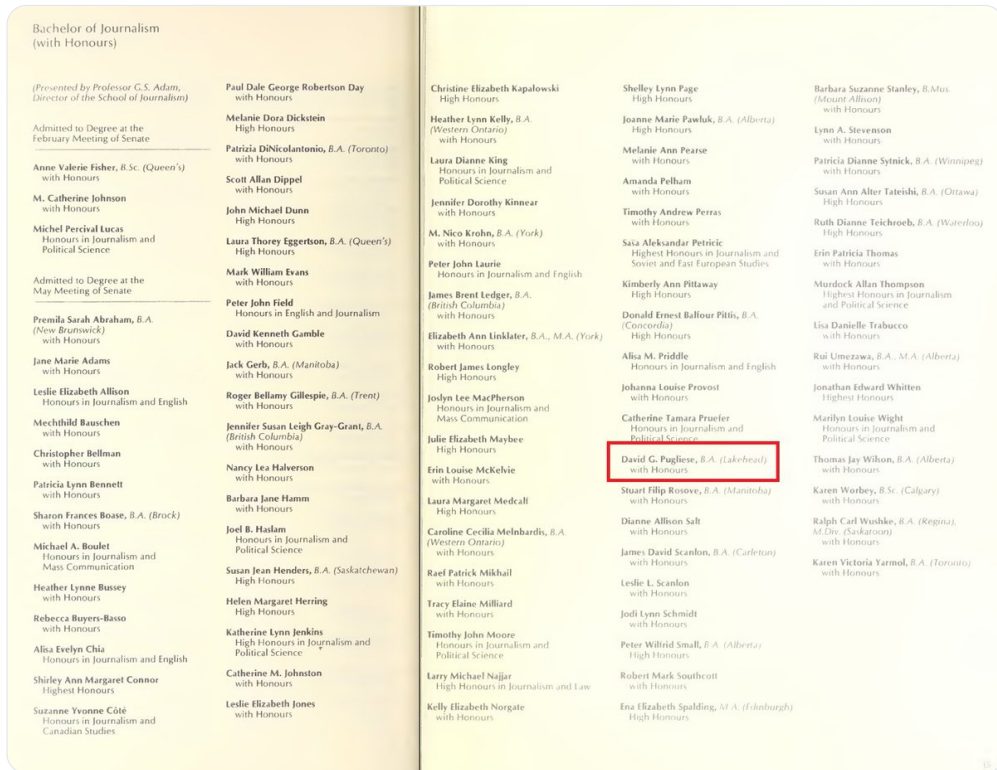
"We were writing stories about how to nuke the Soviets off the face of the earth. How to get more weapons. The need for NATO expansion, that type of thing," he said.

Interestingly, the journalism school, where David graduated in 1986, is at Carleton University in Ottawa - the records of his graduation are from their convocation. Considering this takes about 4 years of studies, this would imply he was living in the region during that time.

7/21

1986 Spring Convocation

Convocation at Carleton University	3
Thursday, June 12, 2:00 p.m. Master of Journalism; Master of Arts (International Affairs and Public Administration); Master of Social Work; Diploma in Public Administration; Bachelor of Commerce; Bachelor of Journalism; Bachelor of Public Administration; Bachelor of Architecture; Bachelor of Industrial Design; Certificate in Public Service Studies; Certificate in the Teaching of English as a Second Language; Certificate in Law Enforcement Studies; and Certificate in French Language Studies.....	7
Friday, June 13, 10:00 a.m. Doctor of Philosophy from the Faculties of Science and Engineering; Master of Science; Master of Engineering; Master of Computer Science; Bachelor of Science (Honours); Bachelor of Science; Bachelor of Engineering; and Bachelor of Computer Science.....	21
Friday, June 13, 2:00 p.m. Doctor of Philosophy, Master of Arts, Bachelor of Arts (Honours), and Bachelor of Arts from the Faculty of Arts; Bachelor of Music	33
Saturday, June 14, 10:00 a.m. Doctor of Philosophy, Master of Arts, Bachelor of Arts (Honours), and Bachelor of Arts from the Faculty of Social Sciences for those whose surnames begin with the letters A to M	43
Saturday, June 14, 2:00 p.m. Doctor of Philosophy, Master of Arts, Bachelor of Arts (Honours), and Bachelor of Arts from the Faculty of Social Sciences for those whose surnames begin with the letters N to Z.....	55
Medallists in the Graduating Class	61
Recipients of Honorary Degrees	63



His BA in psychology is from Lakehead University, which is still in the province of Ontario, but 1500 km from Ottawa. Strangely, in his bio at SpaceNews David claims that he has a Bachelor's degree in political science from the same university.

This is so confusing!



Lakehead University CONVOCATION 1985

*KAYZER, Sylvia Lois
General Program
KELLAR, Luella M.
English
KEMPTON, Leslie Ann
General Program
KIBIUK, Janice Ann
English
*KING-PAYSHEGOBE, Conrad
General Program
*KIRYCHUK, Katherine
History
*KOSKI, Mark Pentti
Psychology
KRAEMER, Richard Alexander
Geography
KULMATYCKI, Michael James
Psychology
*KUPPINEN, Henry Kalevi
Geography
LAFRANCE, Diane
Psychology

*MAYER, Theresa
English
MAZUR, Tanya Claire
Psychology
McGUIRE, Dorothy Kathryn
English
McHALE, Wendy Anne
General Program
*McINTYRE, James Mitchell
Economics
McLEAN, Kathrynne Susanne
Geography/BOR(Hons)
*MEADY, William Felix
Psychology
MERKLEY, Charlene Dianne
Sociology
MIELE, Tony
Geography
MOK, Valerie Mui Whay
Economics
*MORGAN, Selma Isabel
General Program


*PUGLIESE, David
Psychology
*RAPLEY, Mary Catherine
General Program
READ, Sandra Katharine
Philosophy
*RENDALL, Beverly Esther
General Program
*REYNOLDS, Victoria Ann
English
*RICHTER, Elsie-Carine
General Program
*RITSON, Gina Rita
General Program
**RODDY, Jacqueline A.
Economics/Sociology
ROSS, Bette Carol
General Program
ROSS, Gail Elizabeth
General Program
*RUSYN, Paul John
Sociology

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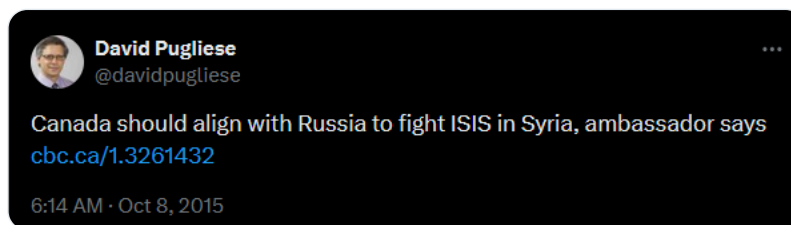


David Pugliese

David Pugliese covers space policy and developments in the space industry in Canada. He has a bachelor's degree in political science from Lakehead University in Thunder Bay, Ontario, and a degree in journalism from Carleton University in Ottawa, Ontario.

To be fair, all this happened a long time ago and it's almost impossible to say whether David was indeed recruited by the KGB, but as a reporter at a Canadian newspaper with a relatively small circulation, David really seems to like writing about the "Ukrainian Nazis".

9/21



David Pugliese
@davidpugliese

Canada should align with Russia to fight ISIS in Syria, ambassador says
cbc.ca/1.3261432

6:14 AM · Oct 8, 2015



David Pugliese
@davidpugliese

Follow



This is a very interesting analysis from Scott Ritter. It provides some views you won't hear or see in western media.



Sid Shniad @SidShniad · Mar 13, 2022

Former UN Inspector Scott Ritter on What The Hell Is Happening in Ukraine
youtube.com/watch?v=rRFjln...

5:14 PM · Mar 13, 2022



David Pugliese
@davidpugliese



Western news media coverage of the war has been interesting. Almost all information from Russian sources is dismissed as disinformation. Almost all information from Ukrainian sources is being accepted as fact.



Reg Whitaker @regwhit1 · Mar 20, 2022

Replying to @davidpugliese

We have to be very sceptical about such stories coming from one side in the midst of war. Sounds great, though!

10:12 PM · Mar 20, 2022

A quick Google search brings up dozens of articles he wrote about Ukraine, and in the last eight years, there are many articles written by him either attacking Ukraine or Canada's support of Ukraine and referencing "Ukrainian neo-Nazis".



[News](#) / [Defence Watch](#)



Canadian officials who met with Ukrainian unit linked to neo-Nazis feared exposure by news media: documents

A year before the meeting, Canada's Joint Task Force Ukraine produced a briefing on the Azov Battalion, acknowledging its links to Nazi ideology.

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David Pugliese • Ottawa Citizen

Published Nov 08, 2021 • Last updated Nov 09, 2021 • 4 minute read



Defence Watch



Ukrainian unit accused of Neo-Nazi links wants Canada's help



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David Pugliese • Ottawa Citizen

Published Jun 26, 2015 • Last updated Jun 02, 2020 • 4 minute read

Join the conversation



Fighters from the Azov volunteer battalion ignite flares during the march marking the 72th anniversary of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army in Kiev, Ukraine, Tuesday, Oct. 14, 2014. The Ukrainian Insurgent Army initially collaborated with the Nazis, believing Hitler would grant Ukraine independence, but then went on to fight both Nazi forces and the Red Army. PHOTO BY SERGEI CHUZAVKOV / AP



Defence Watch



Canada failed when it trained Ukrainian troops linked to the far right, says Nazi hunter

The Canadian Forces says it had no obligation to be entirely certain of the backgrounds of those soldiers it trained in Ukraine.

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David Pugliese • Ottawa Citizen

Published Apr 13, 2022 • Last updated Apr 13, 2022 • 3 minute read



Kirill Kalinin, a former employee at the Russian embassy who also ran their social media platforms and acted as their spokesman, often shared Pugliese's articles and tagged him in tweets. After Kalinin was kicked out of Canada, he gave an exclusive interview to Pugliese.


 **Russia in Canada**  @RussianEmbassyC


It was great talking to @djclimenhaga about the the work the Russian Embassy in Canada does on social media!


Best of luck to you, David!


Cheers to @rabbleca! Really liking your motto: "News for the rest of us"



See: rabble.ca/blogs/bloggers...



 **Esprit de Corps Magazine**
In this photo
 Publishing since 1988, Esprit de Corps is Canada's premier national military magazine. We're the one that's read.

 **David Pugliese** @davidpugliese Follow
 Ottawa Citizen journalist writing on military issues since 1982. RT is FYI, not endorsement. Trolls are blocked. Email: dpugliese@postmedia.com

 **rabble.ca** @rabbleca Follow
 Join the resistance to corporate media: linktr.ee/rabbleca

 **David Climenhaga** @djclimenhaga Follow
 Old newspaper guy; author of the AlbertaPolitics.ca blog; unapologetic social democrat; Canadian patriot. He/him






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 **Russia in Canada**  @Russian... · 4/19/15

🚩 Russia government organization

Notable recognition, but reality is different with Neo-Nazis in #Ukraine

ottawacitizen.com/news/politics/... article by @davidpugliese

  1   



News / Canadian Politics



Exclusive: Russian diplomat booted from Canada has some advice for Trudeau – it won't work

Good-bye Kirill Kalinin, the Russian press secretary who outed the Foreign Affairs minister's grandfather as a Nazi collaborator

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David Pugliese • Ottawa Citizen

Published Apr 06, 2018 • Last updated Apr 06, 2018 • 4 minute read

Join the conversation



In one of his articles, Pugliese cited the director-general of the Ukrainian Jewish Committee, which was then led by Oleksandr Feldman, a former member of a pro-Kremlin party, Opposition Platform – For Life, founded by the grandfather of Putin's daughter, Viktor Medvedchuk.

12/21

First came a grossly distorted report titled "Canadian officials honor Nazi collaborators in Ukraine, angering Jewish groups," published in the National Post, flagship of Canada's largest newspaper chain – PostMedia. The article by David Pugliese, who has quite a reputation for writing anti-Ukrainian drivel, was subsequently reprinted in a number of other PostMedia papers. Using very selective snippets of information, Mr. Pugliese quoted Eduard Dolinsky, director-general of the Ukrainian Jewish Committee, to back up his contention that Jewish groups are supposedly angered by the ceremony. The Ukrainian Jewish Committee is a marginal group and not representative of Ukraine's Jewish community at large. Its president, Oleksandr Feldman, is a member of Parliament for the pro-Russian Our Land party that was created as a refuge for former members of the Party of Regions headed by Viktor Yanukovich. Mr. Dolinsky himself is a contributor to the separatist website, Nova Rossiya Today

Within a 1½ year period before Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine and continuing for a few months into the invasion, David used the words "Nazi" and "Ukraine" more than two dozen times, basically just copying the Kremlin's "Nazi" narratives.

13/21

However, within a year-and-a-half period immediately before the all-out invasion of Ukraine and continuing for a few months into the invasion, Pugliese used the words “Nazi” and “Ukraine” more than two dozen times, which is one of the reasons that some said that they find it hard to believe that his articles and social media posts so often parrot what the Kremlin has been promoting purely by chance.

The Russian government, as the full-scale invasion was beginning, increased the trope about Ukrainian Nazis. Some found Pugliese's own repetition of the trope on social media to be peculiar, in that despite never mentioning "Ukraine" "Nazi" in a single tweet between October 2010 and October 2021. In 2022 alone, he wrote the terms together more than two dozen times, particularly between January and May 2022.

OTTAWA CITIZEN

Service Defence Watch Longreads Shopping Puzzmo Healthing ePaper Driving Remembering



Defence Watch



Canada has no way to track weapons donated to Ukraine despite concerns arms could end up on black market

The Canadian Forces confirmed it is not taking part in NATO discussions underway to try to deal with the potential issue of arms smuggling from Ukraine.

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David Pugliese • Ottawa Citizen

Published Jul 18, 2022 • Last updated Jul 18, 2022 • 3 minute read

David is also closely connected to Yves Engler, a well-known Grayzone reporter who also has ties to RT, and who has promoted various pro-Kremlin and pro-Assad narratives online. Pugliese and his wife even used to organize lectures together with Engler.

It's a peculiarity marked by a confluence of an extremist worldview uniting the far-right tendencies associated with Donald Trump — which defy conventional “conservative” values — with such nominally leftist groupuscules as the “Canada Files” website and the Hamilton Coalition to Stop the War. Among the most prominent pro-Putin apologists in the western world are the Canadian pseudo-journalists Aaron Maté, Yves Engler and Eva Bartlett. They congregate around “news” platforms such as the Greyzone and the Kremlin’s RT News and related digital operations, and routinely run interference for Syrian mass murderer Bashar Assad. And yet they purport to be “progressive.”


People promoting Kremlin viewpoints are often part of the Canadian “left” - a loose group of people in the fringes of the political spectrum. They often claim that the “Canadian foreign policy has been captured by the Ukrainian-Canadian community”, blame Putin’s...

15/21

spring a magazine of socialist ideas in action Articles Videos Even

Op-ed | April 10, 2023

Canadian ambassador defends terrorist bombing of blogger



By Yves Engler

What do you call it when a Canadian ambassador justifies the placing of a bomb in a café to kill a prominent member of the media and which injures dozens of others? Diplomacy? Last week Canada's ambassador to the UN excused blowing up a Russian café to kill a pro-war commentator. Bob Rae's statement highlights Ottawa's escalation of tensions.

...invasion on NATO, call for lifting of sanctions against Russia and blame inflation and price hikes on them, claiming that the war in Ukraine is actually a proxy war between Russia and the US... You know, the typical vatnik bullshit.

16/21

ENEMY

OF MY ENEMY

RUSSIAN
WEAPONIZATION
OF CANADA'S
FAR RIGHT AND
FAR LEFT TO
UNDERMINE
SUPPORT TO
UKRAINE

Brian McGuinn
Marcus Kolga
Cody Buntain
Laura Courchesne

MARCH
2023

A joint report by the Centre for Artificial Intelligence, Data, and Conflict,
University of Maryland College of Information Studies, and Digital Public Square

4) *Russia's disinformation is tailored to capture Canadian audiences.*

Previous research has shown how the Russian government's disinformation and propaganda ecosystem identifies audiences in a country and builds narratives that resonate within them. We found similar tactics used in Canada with messages and narratives tailored to far-right and far-left communities. Examples of those narratives include the following:

- "Canada's foreign policy is controlled by Ukrainian Canadians."
- "Canadian sanctions are responsible for inflation and rising energy costs."
- "Canadian sanctions are responsible for growing global food shortages."
- "If Canadians want to cooperate with Russia on climate and Arctic issues, then we must return to diplomacy."
- "Ukraine is corrupt and doesn't deserve our support."
- "Russia is de-Nazifying Ukraine."
- "NATO is responsible for the war."
- "Western support for Ukraine should stop because it will cause nuclear Armageddon."

One Canadian “independent digital news publication” called The Maple came to Pugliese’s defense. The paper published an “An Open Letter in Defence of David Pugliese,” which was signed by around 50 journalists, including Moss Robeson and Mark Ames:

17/21

 **Pekka Kallioniemi** 
@P_Kallioniemi · [Follow](#) 

In today's #vatnik soup I'll be introducing an American journalist, author and a podcaster, Mark Ames (@MarkAmesExiled). Ames is best-known for being the editor of the eXile tabloid in Moscow between 1997 and 2008, and for co-hosting the Radio War Nerd podcast.

1/16



7:18 PM · Feb 25, 2023 

 924  Reply  Copy link

[Read 27 replies](#)

An Open Letter in Defence of David Pugliese

Chris Alexander's allegation that David Pugliese has been a Russian and Soviet intelligence asset is ludicrous.

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
by Alex Cash
November 5, 2024 · 3 min read



Robeson is best-known for his work on The Grayzone, where he obsessively writes about “Ukrainian neo-Nazis” and “ultranationalists”. In Oct 2022, he also wrote a long article on #NAFO, framing it as a “far-right Ukrainian network”.

18/21


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MOSS ROBESON

Moss Robeson is an independent researcher reporting on the international OUN-B Banderite network and its lobby in the US.


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Top Ukrainian 'fact-checker' arrested for assault on Grayzone contributor

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Marko Suprun, an influential NATO state-funded Ukrainian 'fact-checker' with close ties to Nazi activists, was taken into police...



'Now, All of You Are Azov': 'openly neo-Nazi' Ukrainian delegation meets Congress, tours US

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After meeting with at least 50 members of Congress, soldiers of the neo-Nazi Azov Regiment toured the US...



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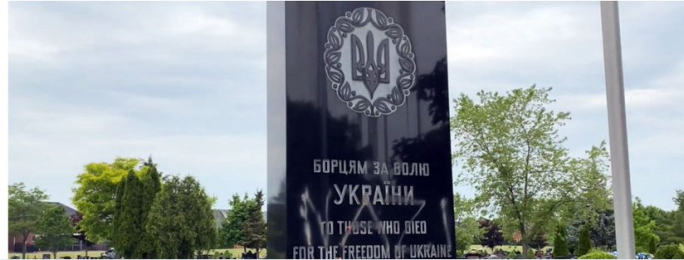
Demonstrating the power the ultranationalist Ukraine lobby has attained in Biden's Washington, the White House has withdrawn consideration...

Canadian Support For Ukrainian Nazi Collaborators Goes Beyond Statues

For decades, Canada has underwritten the cultish worship of Ukrainian Nazi collaborator war criminals.

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by Moss Robeson
August 11, 2020 · 4 min read



Ukes, Kooks & Spooks: #NAFO



Ukes, Kooks & Spooks · Follow

14 min read · Oct 14, 2022



AI-generated art inspired by NAFO

In recent weeks there has been a flurry of articles celebrating Twitter’s mostly anonymous “internet army” called NAFO, or the North Atlantic Fellas Organization. This “social media movement” of dogmatic pro-Ukraine keyboard warriors with customized Shiba Inu avatars is all about ridiculing, gaslighting, and piling on those labeled by the “fellas” as enemy combatants in their information war with Russia, which many have assumed that NAFO is helping Ukraine to win. But it’s increasingly obvious that is not necessarily the case.

EURASIA

NAFO troll operation founded by Nazi: Researcher exposes far-right Ukrainian networks

The vociferously pro-Ukraine, anti-Russia troll operation NAFO was founded by a Hitler-admiring anti-Semite. Independent researcher Moss Robeson discusses far-right NATO-backed networks, as well as the fascist LaRouche cult.

By Ben Norton Published 2022-10-29



Pugliese's viewpoints are also very similar to Ivan Katchanovski's, who's also exaggerated the role of far-right and neo-Nazi involvement in Ukrainian politics and in the Russo-Ukrainian War:



Pekka Kallioniemi ✓
@P_Kallioniemi · Follow



In today's #vatniksoup, I'll introduce a Ukrainian-Canadian political scientist, Ivan Katchanovski (@I_Katchanovski). He's best-known for exaggerating the role of far-right and neo-Nazi involvement in the Ukrainian politics and in the Russo-Ukrainian War.

1/22



10:14 AM · Jun 14, 2023



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4 Apr, 2019 07:33 / Home / Shows / Worlds Apart

New dawn, old life? Ivan Katchanovski, political scientist at the University of Ottawa



Ivan Katchanovski, political scientist at the University of Ottawa © RT

Pugliese has been one of Canada's most prolific journalists covering defence for over three decades, where he has smeared countless people, operations and procurement projects. Wouldn't this be exactly the type of person Moscow would seek to recruit?

20/21

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 Defence Watch






Canadian Army needs to spend \$220 million to replace gear donated to Ukraine, says general

Meanwhile, the firm which manufactures the M777 howitzers is not planning on running a production line for the guns until 2028.

Get the latest from David Pugliese, Ottawa Citizen straight to your inbox [Sign Up >](#)

David Pugliese • Ottawa Citizen
Published Dec 12, 2023 • Last updated Dec 12, 2023 • 3 minute read

To conclude, it's hard to say if the Soviet intelligence ever managed to recruit Mr. Pugliese. But the signs are there - parroting of Kremlin's viewpoints, promotion of "Ukrainian neo-Nazis" narratives, and criticism of Canada's military aid to Ukraine.

What do you think?

21/21

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 **Defence Watch**

Canadian government comes to the defence of Nazi SS and Nazi collaborators but why?

Get the latest from David Pugliese, Ottawa Citizen straight to your inbox [Sign Up >](#)

David Pugliese • Ottawa Citizen
Published May 17, 2018 • 7 minute read



Above: SS leader Heinrich Himmler inspects SS Galizien Division.

My book titled "Vatnik Soup - The Ultimate Guide to Russian Disinformation" has been published, you can order it here:

<https://kleart.eu/webshop/p/vatnik-soup>

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