



КОНГРЕС УКРАЇНЦІВ КАНАДИ

UKRAINIAN CANADIAN CONGRESS

CONGRÈS DES UKRAINIEN-CANADIENS

February 22, 2019

Mr. Ellis Jacob
President and CEO Cineplex Inc.
1303 Yonge Street
Toronto, Ontario M4T 2Y9

RE: T-34 film screenings in Cineplex theatres

Dear Mr. Jacob,

The Ukrainian Canadian Congress would like to express concern about the film “T-34”, which is being screened in some of your movie theatres across Canada. We are concerned that Cineplex, which is a reputable entertainment company, is unwittingly being used as a tool of Russian propaganda.

The film glamorizes so-called “Great Russian” militancy and seems to reflect and support the current goals of Russian foreign and security policy. The film uses a narrative of World War II heroism to inspire a crusade of “true” Russians against “fascist” enemies. This is representative of the pro-Russian disinformation we see around the world, used to justify ongoing military aggression against Ukraine, which has taken the lives of over ten thousand Ukrainian citizens.

One of the films producers, Nikita Mikhalkov, has publicly supported the Kremlin's policy toward Ukraine since the 2014 Revolution of Dignity and annexation of Crimea by Russia. Another producer, Len Blavatnik, is currently being investigated by several US law enforcement agencies.

We call on Cineplex to review the film in question and to listen seriously to the concerns expressed about the film and its producers. Please do not allow your company to be used as a means to amplify Russian propaganda and reconsider the decision to screen T-34 at your theatres.

Sincerely,

Ihor Michalchyshyn
Chief Executive Officer