

SBEDIF Project Lease/Loan Program in Ivano-Frankivsk

The SBEDIF project (Small Business and Economic Development for Ivano-Frankivsk) has successfully implemented a lease/loan program. This past summer, twelve loans were approved, whereby successful loan applicants lease-to-own equipment for value added businesses that meet local economic needs.



SBEDIF Project Manager Don Domansky with bakery manager in Tysiv.

Two of the recent successful candidates include a bakery in Tysiv (northern region of the Oblast) and an ice-cream/bakery/restaurant in Kolomyia (southern region). The bakery in the village of Tysiv (3000 inhabitants) is a new businesses that within a month has employed 8 full time employees and is producing 950 loaves of bread a day. The ice-cream producing restaurant in Kolomyia has had its total sales volume increase by 50% since the loan/lease which effectively gave more stability to the female owners-entrepreneurs as well as full time jobs to two new employees.

Other successful loans include a door maker in Broshniv (10 new employees), a new bakery in Kosiv (8 new employees), a new ladies garment sewing business (2 new employees), and a new paint maker in Ivano-Frankivsk (2 new employees). Loans approved and being implemented include a roof repair business, milk processing, wood processing, and a dentistry bureau.

Note: According to Eastern Economist/Dilo, Sept. 8, 1997, Ukraine has 300,000 small and medium-sized businesses, of which only a third are actually trading, and the number could be as high as 2.5 million. Development of small business has come to a standstill in the last two years. As a result, their contribution to the country's GDP stands at a paltry 7%. Union of Entrepreneurs of Small, Medium and Privatized Vice President Viacheslav Bykovets blames lack of government support, and has proposed that the state ease the tax burden and pass a law on the development of small businesses.



UKRAINIAN ECHO/HOMIN UKRAYNY

Ukrainian army officers training at the Canadian Forces Base in Camp Borden joined the Toronto celebrations of Ukrainian Independence.

Brief Summary of Articles in the Ukrainian-Language Section

Pp. 19-20 The lead story is the same as the English-language feature, covering the **Government of Manitoba's Trade Mission to Ukraine**, led by Premier Gary Filmon. An MOU was signed to work in partnership in areas such as economic development, education and culture (see pp. 2-3).

P. 21 This story covers the **Third Annual Canada-Ukraine Strategic Seminar**, illustrating the ongoing broad military cooperation between Canada and Ukraine (see pp. 13-14).

Pp. 22-23 **Embassy Activities:** The endeavors of the Ambassador and staff of Canadian Embassy in Kyiv, and the Ukrainian Embassy staff in Ottawa, basically as described on pages 38-39, but also including the visit of Ukraine's Minister of Emergency Preparedness to Canada (see p. 16).

P. 24 **Ukrainian Journalists Study Canadian NGOs:** This feature focuses on the growing number of non-governmental organizations in Ukraine and the lack of understanding of their roles. A delegation of Ukrainian journalists and media reps visited Canada for a two-week study tour of Canadian NGOs and social service agencies (see pp. 7-8).

P. 25 **Exporting to Canada - Apparel:** Description of the clothing industry in Canada, and basic information for potential Ukrainian exporters on how to enter and be competitive in the Canadian market, as well as where to turn for further assistance. Previous issue of the MONITOR described the Housewares and Textiles sectors.

Pp. 26-27 **Focus on Ontario:** A regular MONITOR feature, this time we zero in on the province of Ontario, describing population, geography, industrial base, importance in the Canadian economy, and particularly business potential for Ukraine. MONITOR cover photo: Toronto skyline.

P. 26 **Diplomatic Missions and Contacts:** As on p. 45, a listing of Canadian and Ukrainian contacts for readers.

Pp. 30-35 **Special Feature:** Bilingual listing of current CIDA projects in Ukraine.