



process and to engage the electorate in their first-ever multi-party election.

Several activities have already begun, including the manufacture in Canada of special paper which will be used in the printing of ballots, the arrival of a Canadian elections expert in Kyiv and the holding of a seminar for media and political journalists on the role of the media in multi-party elections coverage.

This is in addition to existing projects, including assistance in setting up a modern legal and judicial system, and training for a new generation of public servants.

- *There has always been a tendency to put Ukraine with the rest of the former Soviet Union and instead of dealing with, let's say, Canada-Poland or Canada-Hungary, Canada-Ukraine relations they tended to put Ukraine with the former Soviet Union. We have seen that there has been a concerted effort on the part of this government to have a separate foreign policy towards Ukraine.*

*In your speech to the Quebec-Ukraine Business Council you stated that you are ready to sit down with members of the Ukrainian Canadian community to see what role that they can play in*

*the whole relationship between Canada and Ukraine. Canada is in an excellent position to take advantage of the more than one million Canadians of Ukrainian origin, who can contribute not only their skills and resources, but also their linguistic capabilities and cultural understanding of Ukraine. Your office has communicated with our President Oleh Romaniw in Winnipeg, and consultations are being held in February. Where do you see the community playing a role in helping your department and improving relations between Canada and Ukraine?*

The Ukrainian community in Canada can play a major role in assisting us in implementing some of the elements of the program of cooperation that we want to have with Ukraine. The federal government can play a leading role, but our officials alone cannot implement the programs. The involvement of the individuals or organizations in Canada could be significant. There is no doubt that knowledge of the language by so many Canadians who could go to Ukraine, is a tremendous asset - one that we should take advantage of. The knowledge of the culture is important and it could facilitate preliminary contact and create a

spirit of cooperation and a level of understanding that is crucial to implementing measures more quickly. Ultimately we want Ukraine to move toward a market economy, towards respect for rights of the individuals, towards free democratic elections, and so on. The implementation of these programs would be much easier if the people who are there assisting us and helping to put some of these programs in place, are people that have the confidence of those with whom they are working.

None of our plans for an enhanced relationship with Ukraine can really succeed without the help of the Ukrainian-Canadian community. It is our greatest asset. We rely already on countless Ukrainian Canadians to deliver our assistance programs. Government-to-government contacts aren't enough: revival of the Ukrainian economy, for example, is going to require investment by dedicated private citizens. Ukrainian Canadians are uniquely placed to help: comfortable in the language and often with family ties still strong despite decades of separation. I hope to consult often with the community and to build your ideas and concerns into our policy. I will be meeting with leaders of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress next month to launch these consultations. I will also seek the views of Canadian business people before I go to Ukraine.

- *Finally, our readers would also be pleased to hear any specific message that you and your government would like to give.*

I want to underline this Government's strong commitment to Ukraine. I believe that a prosperous and democratic Ukraine is important, for its people and for European stability. I want our relationship to reflect the strong ties between our two countries, and will put every effort into seeing that it does. ■



*Canada's newly appointed Senators from Saskatchewan attended a reception at the Embassy of Ukraine co-organized with the Ottawa Ukrainian-Canadian Professional and Business Association. Left to right: Modest Cmoc, President of the Ottawa UCPBA, Ambassador Victor Batyuk, Senator Raynell Andreychuk and Senator David Tkachuk.*