



CANADA'S PARTNERS IN HEALTH PROGRAM FOR UKRAINE

The Partners in Health Program of the Canadian Society for International Health is one which places volunteer health professionals with host organizations mainly in Ukraine and to a lesser extent in Russia. PIHP began in January 1993 to provide assistance to the newly independent countries of the FSU through the transfer of knowledge and skills. PIHP is part of a broader Canadian government initiative, Partners in Progress, which is funded by External Affairs and International Trade Canada, Bureau of Assistance, Central and Eastern Europe. The Canadian Society for International Health (CSIH) is the executing agency for the Partners in Health Program.

September 1992, 1st mission: a CSIH delegation explored the health needs with the Ukrainian Ministry of Health, health institutions and agencies. The health needs identified were as follows:

- * health system administration, management, and financing
- * health administration education
- * education of health professionals
- * development of health service standards
- * epidemiological services and health information systems
- * independent associations for health professions
- * women's health services
- * environmental health services
- * AIDS related services

Targeted Placements are those which correspond to the areas of health care needs as identified with Ukrainian partners. Volunteer advisors are accessed through the International Health Human Resources Registry at the Canadian Society for International Health.

Responsive Placements are those in which the Canadian health professional initiates the partnership, collaboratively identifies the need for technical cooperation, then develops

and submits a proposal for review.

The operational goal for PIHP is 40 health professionals. To the end of 1993, 16 volunteer health professionals had been placed with various host organizations in Ukraine. Of these, 10 volunteers responded to requests for technical assistance from targeted host organizations. There are also 6 responsive placements, namely volunteer advisors working on four specific projects in Ukraine.

All these placements are expected to range approximately 2-6 months. Initial period of program placements will last through to March 31/94.

Eligibility Criteria for all placements:

1. One must be a Canadian citizen or have landed immigrant status;
2. One must have a minimum of five years of professional work experience, including two years of direct experience relevant to the proposal.
3. *Knowledge of Ukrainian or Russian* is a definite asset. If you do not possess knowledge of either of these languages, you must have an alternative plan for communicating with the host organizations.

Although there is a cross-representation of health professionals interested in PIHP, the CSIH database indicates a need for more people with public health expertise and academics in the medical field.

Pre-departure Training: All PIHP placements participate in a three day pre-departure training session in Ottawa. The purpose of the training is to prepare the participants for their work assignments in Ukraine or Russia. Also attending these briefing sessions are volunteers from the Human Resource Development Program, Agri-Food, and the Institute of Public Administration Canada.

Information from interim reports indicates pre-departure training is very valuable and important for all volunteer advisors. No one should plan to "leave home without it".

Advisory Committee: The PIHP Advisory Committee is actively participating with the program through monthly teleconferences. Teleconferences enable the members to share program information and to update the committee on the progress of volunteer advisors in the host countries.

Canadian Cooperation Office: The Canadian Cooperation Office (CCO) in Kyiv was set up to monitor the delivery of the Partners in Progress Program. The CCO provides field support services for all volunteer advisors.

To date, placements have been made with the following host organizations:

- * Ukraine's Institute of Social Hygiene and Management of Health Care Services;
- * National Aids Committee
- * Kyiv City Sanitation and Epidemiology Centre
- * Kyiv Post Graduate Institute of Physicians
- * Mid Medical Training School and Post Graduate Institutes in Lviv
- * Kyiv Oblast Department of Health

Responsive Placements:

- * Independent School of Social Work - Odessa
- * Sheptytsky Hospital - Lviv
- * Centre for Youth Social Services - Odessa
- * Pharmaceutical Association - Uzhorod

To obtain further information concerning the Partners in Health Program please contact Daria Wallsten, Program Officer at CSIH, at 613-230-2654, ext. 301.