



SASKATCHEWAN-UKRAINE: BUILDING ON THE PAST

Saskatchewan's Ukrainian community has not forgotten its roots.

Bonded with Ukraine through a common culture, history, language and tradition, Saskatchewan's substantial Ukrainian community maintains a profound interest in the political and economic reform underway in that country.

These century-long ties between Saskatchewan and Ukraine moulded the province's response to Ukraine in its struggle to build democracy and prosperity. Saskatchewan is now moving toward a partnership between government, community and business in expanding cooperative ties in business, training and joint ventures with Ukraine.

This partnership will soon be strengthened by a formalized Plan of Action, which the Government of Saskatchewan has proposed for Ukraine's consideration.

THE PAST

The Plan of Action, proposed by a community-based Saskatchewan Advisory Committee which consulted with the community and governments and made recommendations on the expansion of

relations with Ukraine, builds on programs and projects that have been developed over a number of years.

Past activities in the commercial and academic fields include:

Commerce

In 1992, 10 Saskatchewan businesses accompanied Economic Development Minister Dwain Lingenfelter to Kyiv to assess the political and economic situation in Ukraine, to network with economic decision-makers, and to facilitate the entry of Saskatchewan-based companies into the local markets.

In 1993 Saskatchewan Economic Development, with three private sector companies, participated in Ukraine's first international agri-food trade show, Agrotech Ukraine. The three companies subsequently formed a consortium and signed a Memorandum of Understanding to pursue Project Ukraine. Currently the consortium is doing a market study on agricultural machinery and services in Ukraine.

In the energy field, exchange visits to Ukraine and Saskatchewan in 1993 resulted in the identification of concrete areas of interest. In Ukraine, SaskPower

discussed possible cooperation in thermal generation and rural electrification and signed a Letter of Intent with the Ukrainian Ministry of Energy, laying out a number of specific opportunities for the exchange of technology and expertise, such as energy efficiency, environmental controls and power transmission/distribution technologies.

A delegation of Ukrainian Energy Ministry and electric utility officials visited SaskPower and later agreed to pursue the introduction of fibre optics into the energy sector of the Ukraine.

A second trade mission from Saskatchewan in 1993 arrived in Ukraine. This mission resulted in a Letter of Intent between SaskEnergy and Kyiv Gas to study the feasibility of a number of gas-related projects.

Follow-up visits from Ukraine officials that same year resulted in possible participation in a project which would adapt existing technology to extract more oil from the mature oil basins of Ukraine.

Ukrainian officials have also identified food processing as a priority for Ukraine, and this area is being explored by Saskatchewan Wheat Pool.

Education

The academic exchange activities of the University of Saskatchewan with the State University of Chernivsti began almost 20 years ago. Since 1991, the University of Saskatchewan's Centre for Second Language Instruction has offered the English for Business Purposes Program in Chernivsti. In 1993, the University established an International Office and announced the goal of further broadening the scope of its exchange program with Ukraine.

In 1990 the provincial Department of Education, Training and Employment signed an international educational agreement with the Ukraine Ministry of Public Education; the first such agreement between any Canadian department of education and Ukraine. The agreement has resulted in many varied joint educational projects between Saskatchewan and Ukraine. In the Spring of 1992 the first student exchange program between E.D. Feehan High School and schools in Chernivsti took place.



GOV'T OF SASKATCHEWAN

Members of the Advisory Committee on Saskatchewan-Ukraine Relations with Hon. Roy Romanow, Premier of Saskatchewan. L-r: Dr. Stephan Dershko, Deputy Chair; Myron Kowalsky, MLA - Prince Albert-Carleton; Christine Devrome; Premier Romanow; Adrian Boyko, Pres. UCC-Sask. Provincial Council; John Rozdilsky; and Ostap Skrypyk - Exec. Dir. UCC Sask. Provincial Council.