

could be undertaken there using Canadian environmental technology or services, either alone or in partnership with a Finnish company.

Given the importance of identifying sources of international funding for environmental projects in Russia, PHL also decided to visit the offices of the Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission in Helsinki. The Commission was in the midst of preparing a list of appropriate environmental projects in the Baltic region for consideration by international funders at a conference to be held in Gdansk, Poland in March, 1993.

In addition to these visits to Helsinki and St. Petersburg, PHL was invited to attend the October annual meeting of Russian Socio-Ecological Union (SEU), the largest umbrella organization of environmental NGOs in the Russian Federation. PHL's invitation came from the Coordinator of the SEU, who is a senior advisor to President Yeltsin's principal advisor on ecological issues. Attendance at this meeting enabled PHL to learn about the influence and abilities of Russian NGOs, and to determine if the priority projects identified by the SEU could benefit from the involvement of Canadian companies.

Finally, PHL decided that meetings should be held with environmental officials of the Russian Federal government, in order to obtain current intelligence respecting how environmental projects are evaluated and approved, and how operating permits are issued, given the current political instability of the Federation.