

AT WORK IN RUSSIA...

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC)

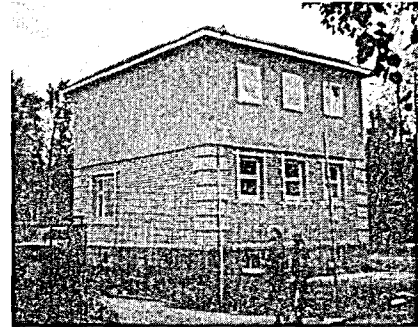
In 1994, CMHC and the World Bank signed a formal agreement to set up a pilot program for evaluating proposals to transfer housing construction to the Russian private sector.

One of CMHC's projects, in partnership with the Bayswater Consulting Group, and Drerup Armstrong Limited, was the cons-

truction of the first Canadian-style wood-frame demonstration house. In 1995, CMHC approved funds to complete the landscaping and interior of the house in conjunction with Russian firms, BETIZ and STROITEL, and work is expected to be completed in June 1996.

With funding from Environment Canada, CMHC launched a project to reform Russian building codes and standards to facilitate the adoption of energy-efficient and environmental building methods and technologies.

A group calling itself *Team Canada: Housing in Russia*, made up of government and industry, has been active in many housing projects and initiatives. Apart from advising on the demonstration project, these activities include:



Housing a top priority

- preparing the first design, blueprints and construction manuals for a Russian heritage-style wood-frame dwelling;
- assessing Russian educational and trades-training facilities;
- developing the first curriculum and teaching methods for light-building construction in Russia; and
- preparing a plan for future training in house construction.

CBAR Canadian Business Association in Russia

The CBAR was founded in 1995 to provide Canadian companies operating in Russia with their own local Chamber of Commerce.

The CBAR allows Canadian companies based in Russia or doing business in Russia to network and share their experience of doing business in the market.

The CBAR is also meant to be a forum to liaise with other business communities and to make representation, vis-à-vis, Russian government bodies.

Although a young organization, CBAR already has 50 members and is growing rapidly.

Companies wishing to obtain more information about the CBAR can enquire with the trade section at the Embassy in Moscow.

Russian-Canadian Fuel and Energy Business Centre

In its fourth year, the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT), in partnership with CIDA and the Russian Ministry of Fuel and Energy, provides business and technical training to Russia's oil and gas industry.

What started as a CIDA project to help the Russian Ministry strengthen its technical education system grew rapidly into a wide range of programs and seminars for current and future managers. In the past three years, more than 200 fully sponsored students from all parts of Russia have studied business, petroleum technology and mechanical engineering at the Calgary-based SAIT.

Now, CIDA, SAIT and the Ministry have entered a new phase with the opening of the Russian-Canadian Fuel and Energy Business Centre in Moscow. The Centre is a modern technical college, operating in the English language, which trains Russians in Moscow and also prepares them for more advanced courses in Canada.