

with sister municipalities in Canada or abroad. Vancouver, our gateway to the Pacific, for example, has been twinned with Odessa in your country since 1944, a link that has facilitated contacts between citizens of the two cities and developed East-West understanding in the process. Winnipeg, our great Prairie City, is twinned with Lvov, Thompson with Aldan, and Kingston is preparing to twin with Yaroslov. The greatest benefit of twinning, in my view, is the building of international cooperation and understanding at the municipal level, and the easing of tensions and mistrust between countries. Whether focusing on cultural exchanges or trade opportunities, twinning becomes a practical learning experience.

As I travel through your country, the question of the "human dimension" in the international situation, particularly as it applies to our bilateral relations and to the overall East-West situation, is especially important. As Mr. Clark said during his visit to the Soviet Union last year:

"My visit to the Soviet Union bears witness to the depth of the Canadian government's certainty that through such contacts our respective interests will be promoted, mutual confidence enhanced, and a contribution made to easing international tensions. It would be naive to deny the depth of the differences between Canada and the Soviet Union, but these differences themselves provide compelling reasons why we should seek to increase our efforts to understand each other."