



news release

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CANADA DONATES MEDICAL EQUIPMENT TO UKRAINE

Some \$250,000-worth of medical laboratory equipment and supplies were donated today to Children's Hospital #1 in Kiev as a gift from Canada. The presentation was made during a visit to the hospital by the Governor General, His Excellency the Right Honourable Ramon John Hnatyshyn.

Included in the donation is a critically required blood analyzing machine known as the Kodak Ektachem 500. It was supplied by Kodak Canada of Toronto, Ontario at approximately half its cost. Private fundraising efforts generated some \$110,000 and \$70,000 were made available by External Affairs and International Trade Canada (EAITC). The equipment will be used to establish a western standard clinical laboratory at Hospital #1 to assist pediatricians in diagnosing blood disorders and to serve as a quality-control laboratory for other hospitals throughout Ukraine.

Children's Hospital #1 is the site of a Canadian technical assistance project known as Chernobyl's Children. Headed by the University of Alberta in Edmonton, the project is working to establish a model pediatric training hospital offering comprehensive pediatric care services and education programs for Ukrainian physicians and medical personnel. Launched in February 1992, Chernobyl's Children is the first permanently based Western medical clinic established in Ukraine. Some 60 Canadian medical personnel have already volunteered their services to the program.

In addition to today's donation, the project has received \$780,000 support from EAITC's Task Force on Central and Eastern Europe and a one-year supply of basic medicines and supplies from Canada's \$1.5 million humanitarian assistance package to Ukraine.

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