

# Policy Options: Ukraine

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## Executive Summary

The following policy recommendations were generated by a symposium sponsored by the Canadian Bureau for International Education and the Canadian Centre for Foreign Policy Development on December 3, 1996 at the National Press Club. The recommendations fall into two general categories: 1) Canada's relationship with Ukraine and 2) Ukraine's technical assistance needs.

### *Canada's Relationship with Ukraine*

Ukraine is important to Canada's foreign policy initiatives because of its role as a relatively stable democracy in a volatile part of the world. It also has significant economic potential. Domestic political interest in Ukraine is generated by over one million Canadians, mostly in central and western Canada, who claim some Ukrainian heritage.

Canada is perceived to be an important player in Ukraine with an influence greater than its monetary commitments. This influence, while desirable and worth preserving, implies a certain responsibility on Canada's part, especially with regard to how it manages its programs in Ukraine. The following measures would serve to strengthen and sustain Canada's special relationship with Ukraine:

- establish a cooperation house that would house shorter-term projects to give a message of consistency and commitment;
- provide on-going support to Ukrainians who have visited Canada on a study tour or internship;
- provide Canadian advisors to reform-minded ministers;
- increase Canada's representation on IFIs in Ukraine.

### *Ukraine's Technical Assistance Needs*

Ukraine is facing some daunting challenges at this juncture in its development. Canada can help with the following initiatives:

- make loan guarantees conditional upon specific reform benchmarks;
- promote small business development through management training, small business loans and policy advice to the Ministry of Economic Development;