

## **Democratic Development and Good Governance**

**Parliamentary Training Initiative:** This 21-month, \$750 000 project is managed by the Parliamentary Centre for Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade in co-operation with the Canadian Parliament; it is strengthening the professional capacity of the staffs of the Russian Duma, Federation Council, President's Office and Institute of Law. A three-month parliamentary training course is currently under way in Moscow, providing instruction in such areas as the principles of democratic institutions, management of the economy, the legislative process and federal-regional relations. Transcripts and videotapes of all the training sessions will be made available to regional governments and other organizations in Russia, as well as to other countries with nascent democracies. In addition, 25 middle- and senior-level managers will undertake individually tailored training programs ranging from two to six weeks at the Canadian Parliament over the duration of the project. The initial six trainees selected from the ongoing training course will begin 12-week working internships early in 1995.

**Yeltsin Democracy Fellowship Program:** Under this program approximately 40 Russians travel to Canada annually to receive training in areas critical to economic and political reform. The most recent group of Fellows included representatives of Russian banks, the private sector, and regional and municipal governments; they completed custom-designed eight-week training programs across Canada in November. The next group of Yeltsin Democracy Fellows will begin programs focusing primarily on environment, finance and youth in April 1995. The program is funded through the investment proceeds of a \$20-million repayable contribution from the Government of Canada to the Yeltsin Democracy Fellowship Fund, managed by the University of Saskatchewan.

## **Private Sector Development**

**Zhukovsky Community Futures Program:** The North Okanagan Development Corporation (NODC) of Vernon, British Columbia, is managing a two-year, \$480 000 project to introduce a community economic development program in the Russian city of Zhukovsky, some 40 kilometers from Moscow, which has been particularly hard hit by the military conversion process. The project has established a business development centre, which offers training and counselling to small businesses and entrepreneurs. In addition, an \$85 000 revolving loan fund for small business is in operation. The first \$10 000 loaned from the fund has directly contributed to the creation or maintenance of some 35 jobs. As a result of the project's success, the Moscow Region Federal Employment Service has contracted NODC to establish the basic framework for this economic development model in four other centres in the Moscow oblast.