

## *Ukraine*

Canada has promoted a special partnership with Ukraine which includes high-level political contacts, economic assistance, and a network of links with Canadian businesses and Canadians of Ukrainian origin.

Canada has played a leading role in providing technical assistance to Ukraine. Since the program of technical assistance to Ukraine was first announced at the 1991 London Economic Summit, more than 60 bilateral projects valued at some \$27 million are either under way or have been completed, including projects under the Renaissance Eastern Europe program. During his visit to Ukraine in April 1994, Canada's minister of foreign affairs announced an expansion of Canadian assistance, including a \$15-million nuclear dismantling package and \$11.8 million in new technical and humanitarian assistance initiatives. Priority sectors for the program include democratic development and good governance, private sector development, health, the environment, agriculture, and nuclear and security issues.

**Canadian assistance in democratic development and good governance** focuses on strengthening democratic institutions, supporting the establishment of a modern legal and judicial system, and developing a professional public service. The \$2.5 million Electoral Assistance program helped Ukraine organize and conduct its first democratic parliamentary election in March of this year. Canada is also providing substantial public sector training and policy advice through its three-year, \$4.5 million Institute of Public Administration and Local Government initiative.

Canada is supporting the emerging Ukrainian private sector through joint ventures, development of credit unions, and assistance to small and medium-sized enterprises. The Renaissance Eastern Europe program has provided more than \$1 million in funding to Canadian firms, on a cost-shared basis, to support feasibility studies, establishment of joint ventures and training for specific enterprises.

**Canadian health assistance** focuses on maternal and infant health care, health sector reform and regulatory control for vaccines. Under the two-year, \$2.5-million Medical Project Osvida, 120 volunteer Canadian doctors provide training for Ukrainian physicians to improve health care for mothers and infants. Canada is also helping Ukraine to develop a national health sector reform strategy.

Canada's assistance for the environment is concentrated in the three-year, \$5-million Environmental Management Development program. The program will help Ukraine address its most pressing environmental priority, the rehabilitation of the Dnipro River.