

Backgrounder

CANADIAN ELECTORAL ASSISTANCE IN UKRAINE

Canada's \$2.5-million assistance program is designed to assist Ukraine with the organization and conduct of its first-ever multiparty elections, March 27. The assistance is not designed to influence the outcome of the elections. It is intended to help Ukraine ensure the integrity and transparency of the electoral process and to motivate Ukrainians to vote.

The Canadian assistance package is the largest and most comprehensive among international donors and underscores Canada's commitment to democratic reform in Ukraine. The package has four components:

1) **Technical and Material Assistance for the Electoral Process**
(Elections Canada, CODE International)

At the request of the Ukrainian government, Canada is supplying 445 tonnes of specialized paper to Ukraine's Central Electoral Commission (CEC) to be used in printing ballots. The paper has special security features to prevent fraud and tampering. The paper is being shipped to Kiev for distribution to the local level where the printing and assembly of ballots will occur.

Canada has also provided the CEC with a Canadian elections expert who is providing technical, policy and administrative advice for a three month period. In addition, a "training for trainers" session, offered by officials from Elections Canada, is being organized.

2) **Voter/civic Education**
(Elections Canada, Ukrainian Legal Foundation)

Working with the Ukrainian Legal Foundation, Canada will assist the printing and distribution of the new Elections Law, a Citizens Guide to the Law and a Guide to Campaign Organization. The goal is to counteract voter apathy and lack of knowledge about Ukraine's new electoral law.

Elections Canada officials will conduct a seminar with the CEC on getting out the vote and the importance of public participation.