

## **Backgrounder**

### **NEW CANADIAN ASSISTANCE PROJECTS FOR UKRAINE**

The projects announced today are part of Canada's ongoing program of assistance with Ukraine. Comprising technical, nuclear safety and humanitarian assistance, the program has three primary objectives: to support the transition to a market-based economy; promote democratic development; and increase Canadian trade and investment links with Ukraine. With today's announcement, the Canadian assistance program has committed close to \$65 million to some 80 projects. The program is managed by the Bureau of Assistance for Central and Eastern Europe, Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade.

Canada's technical assistance program concentrates its activities in five priority sectors which match Canadian expertise with Ukrainian economic and political reform priorities. The priority sectors are democratic development and good governance, private sector development, health, agriculture and environment. In addition, a \$15-million nuclear dismantlement package supports activities related to nuclear dismantlement and enhanced civilian nuclear safety systems in Ukraine.

The new projects include:

#### **Private Sector Development**

A \$10-million strategy will provide support to Ukraine's emerging private sector with an emphasis on small and medium-sized enterprises. Canadian assistance will focus on micro-loan programs and supporting business advisory services for small business, support for grassroots business advocacy organizations and economic development commissions, and practical business education programs. The package will be designed to foster enhanced trade and investment links between Canada and Ukraine.

#### **Economic Management Training**

Canada will contribute \$1.5 million to the World Bank's Economic Development Institute to support economic management training programs in Ukraine and other countries of the former Soviet Union. Over two years, some 500 enterprise and bank managers, government officials and educational trainers will receive instruction in the areas of market economics, enterprise restructuring, privatization, and financial institutions and systems. Some of the advanced training sessions will be held in Canada, utilizing Canadian experts as trainers.