

Ukraine's electoral commission will soon be receiving our offer of training, assistance in voter education and advice on media coverage.

We now have the tools for managing our growing relationship: Canada's Embassy in Kiev is up to full strength, operating from its renovated chancery and supported by a Canadian Co-operation Office to assist with technical assistance projects.

The Ukrainian Embassy is well-established in Ottawa. We were honoured to have as first Ambassador, the distinguished human rights activist Levko Lukianenko. Today, I can tell you that we have given agreement to his successor, Mr. Victor Batiouk, currently Ukraine's Ambassador to the UN.

Recognizing the importance of the Ukrainian-Canadian community to developing our relations with Ukraine, I have asked my Department to hold special consultations as soon as possible.

Today I outlined what we are doing, bilaterally and with our Western partners. You know now how this government wants the Canada-Ukraine relationship to develop. We cannot do it on our own. Reform is ultimately up to Ukraine and its people. Canada has a unique advantage in helping to make that happen -- your energy, experience, commitment and ideas.

I wish you all every success.