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# news release

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## **CANADA ANNOUNCES \$3.7 MILLION PARTNERS IN PROGRESS INITIATIVE WITH UKRAINE**

Canadian volunteer advisors for Ukraine's public administration, agriculture and health sectors will be supported under a new two-year, \$3.7-million Partners in Progress initiative by the Government of Canada. The announcement was made today in an address by the Governor General, His Excellency, the Right Honourable Ramon John Hnatyshyn, to the Supreme Rada of Ukraine.

The Partners in Progress program is designed to assist Ukraine and other countries of the region in the transition to a market economy and in the establishment of democratic institutions. The Canadian advisors will be matched with Ukrainian private and public institutions through four program components:

- The Institute of Public Administration of Canada will manage an initiative to assist in the development of government administration in Ukraine and provide expert policy advice and training to Ukrainian public officials.
- The Agriculture Institute of Canada will administer a program designed to increase the efficiency of the agriculture and agri-food business sector and promote the concepts of market-based farming services.
- A Partners in Health initiative will support the development of an effective public health care system.
- A Human Resource Development Fund administered by the Canadian Bureau for International Education will sponsor short-term assignments of Canadians to deliver hands-on, practical training designed to promote reform in a range of sectors.

"The establishment of direct people-to-people links between Canada and Ukraine is important for closer relations between our two countries," noted Mr. Hnatyshyn following his speech. "Drawing upon the skills of the nearly one million Canadians of Ukrainian descent, we are working as partners with Ukraine in the critical restructuring of its economic and political systems."

The Partners in Progress initiative is part of Canada's ongoing \$30-million, three-year technical assistance program to Ukraine. Managed by External Affairs and International Trade Canada's Task Force on Central and Eastern Europe, the program is concentrating Canadian assistance efforts in the priority sectors of agriculture, health, public administration, democratization, and trade and investment. Some 25 projects valued at \$6.6 million have already been approved in Ukraine.

- 30 -

For further information, media representatives may contact:

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## BACKGROUND

### CANADA'S TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IN UKRAINE

Canada's \$30 million three-year technical assistance program to Ukraine has approved some 25 projects worth \$6.6 million in the priority sectors of public administration, agriculture, health, democratization, and trade and investment. The projects match Canadian expertise with priorities identified by the Ukrainian government. They provide practical, hands-on training focused on human resource development, management skills and technology transfer.

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Barbara McDougall, announced the technical assistance program in September 1991. This program is designed to support market-oriented reforms, democratic development and increased trade and investment links with the region. The technical assistance program is managed by External Affairs and International Trade Canada's Task Force on Central and Eastern Europe. The Task Force also co-ordinates Canada's humanitarian assistance to the region.

Technical assistance projects currently under way include:

#### **PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION**

##### Policy Advisors

The Ukrainian Canadian Professional and Business Federation is placing nine policy advisors with the Ukrainian government for a one-year period. They are providing policy and technical advice in the fields of public administration, taxation, financial institutions, international financial relations, legal reform, translation services, communications networks and information systems. Short-term training programs with Canadian government departments and institutions will also be offered to promising Ukrainian public officials as part of the \$772,000 project.

##### Civil Service Reform

The Alberta Ministry of Intergovernmental Affairs is assisting the Ukrainian Civil Service Reform Committee to develop new government structures and mandates. The Alberta Public Service Commissioner visited Ukraine in early September to provide advice on policy reforms and the drafting of public service legislation. Two senior Ukrainian officials will visit Alberta this year to study the province's public service. The Government of Alberta will also establish an information resource centre at the Institute of Public Administration and Local Government in Kiev.

## AGRICULTURE

### Agriculture Curriculum Development

Grant MacEwan Community College in Edmonton, Alberta, is leading a consortium of Canadian agricultural colleges and universities in a two-year project to train faculty at six Ukrainian post-secondary institutions in market-based agriculture curricula development. Launched in October 1991, the \$690,000 project is also instructing Ukrainian professors in advanced educational techniques. The development of curricula for courses on farm business management, and fruit and vegetable production and marketing is complete.

### Dairy Farm Extension Training

The International Livestock Management School of Kemptville, Ontario, is managing a \$1.1 million technical and business management training program for Ukrainian dairy farm extension specialists and veterinarians. Thirty extension workers and veterinarians have completed Canada-based training programs in farm and business management, herd health management and reproduction techniques. Canadian teams are now assisting the Ukrainian participants to organize and deliver a series of ongoing training programs for some 400 specialists in Ukraine. Six training sessions have been completed to date.

## HEALTH

### Chernobyl's Children Project

Headed by the University of Alberta in Edmonton, Alberta, the Chernobyl's Children Project aims to establish a model pediatric training hospital at Children's Hospital #1 in Kiev offering comprehensive pediatric care services and training programs for Ukrainian medical personnel. Launched in February 1992, three teams of physicians and lab technicians have rotated through the hospital and more than 60 Canadian medical personnel have volunteered their services to the project. The \$850,000 project will also bring selected Ukrainian pediatricians to Canada for eight-month training programs at various Canadian medical institutions.

### Cancer Registry

The National Cancer Institute of Canada and Atomic Energy of Canada Limited are establishing a computerized cancer registry linking 26 oblast hospitals across Ukraine. The registry will provide an integrated medical records system and will serve as a basic tool in ongoing medical needs assessments and long-term health planning. The Task Force's \$50,000 contribution to the project will primarily support hands-on training of Ukrainian personnel in the use of the registry.

## DEMOCRATIC DEVELOPMENT

### Campaigns and Elections College

McMaster University of Hamilton, Ontario will stage a two-week Campaigns and Elections College in Kiev in December 1992. The \$126,000 non-partisan training session will deal with the basic elements of campaigns and elections, electoral law and regulations, and the role of the media in a democratic society. Approximately 500 participants including parliamentarians, academics, journalists, policy makers and bureaucrats, are expected to attend. A series of educational videos based on the college will be produced and made available free of charge to broadcast authorities in Ukraine.

### Legal Internship Program

Six Ukrainian lawyers completed three-month legal internships with Canadian law firms and legal institutions in May 1992 as part of the Canadian Bar Association's ongoing \$332,000 Legal Internship Program. Entering its third year, the program is also open to lawyers from Poland, Hungary and the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic.

## TRADE AND INVESTMENT

### Industrial Collaboration

The University of Toronto, McMaster University and the University of Waterloo will launch a \$650,000 engineering management training program in co-operation with the Kiev Polytechnical Institute. Approximately 30 Ukrainian engineers will complete a program of studies in Canada followed by industrial internships with Canadian companies in the fields of metallurgy, environmental engineering, electrical engineering and electronics.

### Renaissance Eastern Europe

Some ten projects valued at approximately \$500,000 have been approved under the Task Force's Renaissance Eastern Europe (REE) program which is administered by External Affairs and International Trade Canada's Central and Eastern Europe Trade Development Division. The program is designed to assist Canadian companies to pursue trade and investment opportunities in the emerging free markets of Ukraine and other countries of the region.

With assistance from REE, Northland Power of Toronto, Ontario, is studying market opportunities to modernize and operate a co-generation power plant in Ukraine. Novacorp International of Calgary is undertaking a study of the efficiency of a natural gas pipeline compressor station at Uzhgorod to determine the feasibility of future capital investments. Located near Ukraine's western border with the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic, the station is a main transit point for natural gas destined for Western markets.