



news release

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QUELLET ANNOUNCES THE LAUNCHING OF A NEW PROGRAM TO SUPPORT REFORM IN UKRAINE

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet today announced the launching of the Canada-Ukraine Partners Program. The goal of this new program is to promote democratic development and support the transition to a market-based economy in Ukraine through the implementation of small-scale, practical, technical assistance projects. The Government will contribute approximately \$2.5 million to this one-year program.

"This new program is testimony to Canada's special partnership with Ukraine and our commitment to support the economic and democratic reform process in that country. The program will draw on the strong human links which underpin Canada-Ukraine relations," said Mr. Ouellet.

The main objective of the program is to strengthen Ukrainian institutions and organizations in the public and private sectors, which are active in the areas of public administration, health, agriculture and civil society. Approximately 160 Canadian volunteers will undertake short-term practical assignments in Ukraine and 40 Ukrainians will travel to Canada for short-term training.

It is estimated that over 50 organizations and institutions in Ukraine will be strengthened through the transfer of skills through this initiative. The program will also facilitate the creation of 25 to 35 ongoing institutional links between Canadian and Ukrainian institutions.

The program will be managed by the Ukrainian Canadian Congress, a non-governmental organization based in Winnipeg. It will also involve the Canadian Bureau for International Education, the Canadian Society for International Health, the Agricultural Institute of Canada, the Canadian Federation of Agriculture and the Institute of Public Administration of Canada.

This initiative is part of Canada's ongoing technical assistance program with Ukraine managed by the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade. More than \$27 million has been committed to date in support of some 60 projects. Funding for this program was provided for in the February 1994 federal budget and is therefore built into the existing fiscal framework.

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