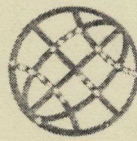


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CANADIAN STUDIES 2000 REPORT COMPENDIUM

Rafal Domisiewicz, Brian Moore, and Sonja Vojnovic.

April-June 2000.

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HISTORY OF THE CENTRE OF CANADIAN STUDIES

An interest in French-Canadian literature surfaced in the 1980s. In particular, in 1985, Professor Iana Badescu began teaching an optional course in Quebec literature in the French Department. Six years later, the Department of Journalism and Sociology of the University of Bucharest established institutional cooperation with the Department of Communication at the University of Quebec at Montreal (UQAM). Since 1993, a graduate-level course in English-Canadian literature has been taught by Professor Monica Botez in the English Department. Both Professor Badescu and Professor Botez helped achieve interest in Canadian cultural achievement thanks to their numerous translations from Canadian literature and radio presentations of various Canadian writers. In the 1990s, a number of students in the Departments of French, English and Journalism chose to write their doctoral papers on Quebec topics. There was also a main research project which resulted in the publication of several studies and a book of the Project Universitaires du Quebec, *Le roman de la France (1995)*, authored by Romanian and Canadian specialists.

Report on the Promotion of Canadian Studies at the University of Bucharest, Romania

by

Rafal Domisiewicz

April-June, 2000

Canadian Centre for Foreign Policy Development

The following professors have been affiliated with the program:

- * Iana Badescu, Dean of the French Department and Director of the Centre of Canadian Studies;
- * Daniela Frangescu, Dean of the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication and Director of the Centre of Canadian Studies;
- * Monica Botez, Associate Professor, Department of English, Romanian Representative in the Central European Network for Canadian Studies;
- * Mihai Coman, Department of Journalism and Mass Communication;
- * Ion Dragan, Department of Sociology;
- * Gina Stoichu, University of Quebec at Montreal;
- * Nicolae Perpete, Department of Sociology;
- * Andrei Stoichu, University of Bucharest.

Many of the professors have enhanced their expertise in Canadian Studies thanks to fellowships, research grants or visiting professorships at Canadian universities. Professors

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In recognition of the demand for and the need to promulgate knowledge about Canada as well as systematize the study of Canadian affairs in Romania the Romanian Centre of Canadian Studies (CREC - Centre Roumain d'Études Canadiennes) was set up at the University of Bucharest in 1996. In October 1997, the Masters Program in Canadian Studies was inaugurated with the participation of four departments of the University of Bucharest: French, English, Journalism and Mass Communication, and Sociology. The Canadian Studies Program is the only graduate-level, interdisciplinary program in Canadian Studies in Romania.

THE FACULTY

The following professors have been affiliated with the program:

- Irina Badescu. Dean of the French Department and Director of the Centre of Canadian Studies;
- Daniela Frumusani. Dean of the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication and Director of the Centre of Canadian Studies;
- Monica Botez. Associate Professor, Department of English. Romanian Representative in the Central European Network for Canadian Studies;
- Mihai Coman. Department of Journalism and Mass Communication;
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Many of the professors have enhanced their expertise in Canadian Studies thanks to scholarships, research grants or visiting professorships at Canadian universities. Professors

Badescu, Frumusani, Coman, Dragan and Botez have participated in the Canadian Government-sponsored Faculty Enrichment Program. Professor Frumusani is the director of a cooperation program initiated in 1991 between the University of Quebec at Montreal and the University of Bucharest. Some of the faculty members have translated many Canadian works from English into Romanian. Dr. Irina Badescu has translated works by Anne Hebert, Kamouraska (1987), and Antonine Maillet, Pelaghia-Canuta (1989). Dr. Monica Botez has translated Margaret Atwood's The Handmaid's Tale in 1995.

In addition, the Centre has benefited from the Canadian Government-sponsored lecture series by visiting professors. Professor Donna Patrick from the University of Toronto, Canada, was the visiting professor at the Centre of Canadian Studies, from February 19 till March 3, 2000. Professor Konrad Gross from the University of Kiel, Germany, was the visiting professor, from March 20 till April 2, 2000. Both taught a course on Multiculturalism in Canada. The Canadian Studies Centre also benefits from the contribution by Canadian graduate student interns thanks to the support of the Canadian Centre for Foreign Policy Development.

THE CURRICULUM (1999-2000)

The Masters Program in Canadian Studies is one-year long (2 academic semesters) and consists of 8 courses. All courses consist of one 2-hour lecture and one 1-hour seminar per week. The only exception is a methodological course -- *Interdisciplinary Research Techniques* -- which consists of one 1-hour lecture and one 1-hour seminar per week. All courses are one semester long (14 weeks) and normally require one term paper and one final exam. Graduation from the Masters Program is contingent on the completion of a Masters Thesis, written under the supervision of one of the participating professors.

The 1999-2000 course schedule was structured in the following manner:

- *English-Canadian Literature and Civilization* (semester I). Dr. Monica Botez;
- *French-Canadian Literature and Civilization* (semester II). Dr. Irina Badescu;
- *Anthropology and Communication* (semester I). Dr. Mihai Coman;
- *Feminism and Mass Media* (semester II). Dr. Daniela Frumusani;
- *Confederative and National Ideology in Canadian Society* (semester I). Dr. Andrei Stoichu;
- *Interdisciplinary Research Techniques* (semester II). Dr. Ion Dragan;
- *Management of New Technologies in Canada* (semesters I & II). Dr. Ion Dragan;
- *Multiculturalism in Contemporary Canada: Inter-ethnic Studies* (semesters I & II). Drs. Gina Stoichu, Donna Patrick and Konrad Gross.

The 2000-1 Masters Program is expected to include a new course - *Introduction to Canadian History and Economic Geography*.

THE GRADUATES

Entry into the Masters Program in Canadian Studies is on the basis of competitive examination. The Program graduated 10 students in its inaugural year (1997), and 13 in its second year. In 1999-2000, there were 8 students enrolled in the program (Mihaela Arion, Joana Constantinescu, Elena-Aura Munteanu, Adina Georgeta Ruiu, Carmen Letitia Stanila, Magdalena Talaban, Manuela Adriana, Aurelia Buzdrug).

RESOURCES

The students in the Canadian Studies Masters Program benefit from access to both the libraries and computer facilities of each of the four participating departments. The Canadian Studies Centre's own library holdings approach 650 titles, including novels, journals, anthologies, and literary criticism. Most of these acquisitions have been made through the International Council of Canadian Studies-sponsored Library Support Program, and through the support of the Canadian Embassy in Romania. Some of the professors allow students access to their private *Canadiana* collections.

THE AIMS OF THE PROGRAMME

- *Socio-economic*: the management of an efficient transformation of Romanian society in keeping with contemporary new technologies and comparative theoretical and empirical approaches;
- *Didactic*: the development of creative, autonomous thinking of students through active learning and research;
- *Scientific*: stimulating research initiatives in domains only incidentally explored before, such as anthropology of communication, gender studies, multiculturalism, inter-ethnic studies, and impact of new technologies;
- *Institutional*: developing the didactic and research potential of the respective four departments aiming at an extension and diversification of doctoral studies (including a new doctorate in communication sciences, under the joint supervision of the Department of Communication at UQAM and another appropriate department); as well as promoting the international recognition of Romanian Canadianists and their affiliation with existing regional and international networks.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

The Centre of Canadian Studies is a member of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade-sponsored International Council of Canadian Studies (ICCS), based in

Ottawa. It is affiliated with the Association de la Littérature Québécoise and the Central European Network for Canadian Studies. As mentioned, the Masters Program has a formal relationship with the University of Quebec at Montreal.

The Canadian Embassy in Bucharest supports the endeavours of the Canadian Studies Centre. The Centre has benefited from a one-time grant by the Soros Foundation. An establishment of cooperation with the Canadian Business Association in Romania is planned for the 2000-1 academic year.

In recent past, delegates of the Romanian Centre of Canadian Studies have participated in the 1st International Conference of Central European Canadianists in Brno, Czech Republic, on November 13-15, 1998; and the 21st Annual Conference of the Association for Canadian Studies in the German-Speaking Countries, in Grainau, Germany, on February 18-20, 2000.

Romania will be hosting the next conference of European Canadianists. The Canadian Studies Centre is involved in the organization of the conference. The Canadian Embassy is also involved.

THE CONTRIBUTION BY RAFAL DOMISIEWICZ

Between April 24 and June 7, 2000, I worked at the Centre of Canadian Studies in Bucharest as a Canadian teaching assistant-intern. The main areas of my activity were:

1. Conducting seminars

I gave a series of seminars on Canadian affairs in a comparative context. These consisted of lectures followed by discussions, and usually took place twice a week. The lecture themes were:

- *Introduction to Canada*
(including national symbolism, foreign and security policy in the global context, mutual Canadian-Romanian perceptions, multiculturalism, media, culture, gender relations, Canadian-American relations, the role of the Canadian Centre for Foreign Policy Development);
- *Canadian Government and Politics*
(democracy, political culture, political development, institutional structure, bureaucracy, legislative process, federalism and regionalism, federal-provincial relations, Quebec);
- *Canadian Education and Economy*
(economic development, structure of the economy and the labour market, globalization, the role of the state in the economy, educational system (primary, secondary and tertiary), student life, structure of the workforce, economic opportunities, women in the educational system and in the workforce);
- *History of Canada*
(the Native people, arrival of the Europeans and colonization, New France, the British conquest, War of 1812, the struggle for responsible government, unification of Canada, World War I, Quebec, modernity);
- *Canada in the World*

(human rights agenda in foreign policy, Canada's participation in UN and NATO, foreign aid and development, CCFPD).

2. Building the Centre's website

Together with Mr. Dan Pop, University of Bucharest's Local Area Administrator and Webmaster, I built the Centre of Canadian Studies' webpage. It includes information on the background of the Centre, the faculty (including links to short biographical notes), curriculum, graduates, resources, aims of the programme, international cooperation, links to additional resources and ways to contact the Centre. It is expected to include pictures reflecting the activities of the Centre. I was mainly responsible for the compilation of database and design of the webpage, while Mr. Pop took overall responsibility for the technical aspects of the creation of the webpage.

3. Lobbying the Canadian Business Association in Romania

I initiated a contact with the Canadian Business Association in Romania and lobbied the group for the establishment of cooperation with the Centre of Canadian Studies. I established a potentially fruitful relationship with the President of the Association, Mr. Georges Bergeron.

The promotional leaflet -- *A proposal for Cooperation with the Canadian Business Association in Romania* -- which I produced for lobbying purposes read:

"... A development of cooperation between the Centre of Canadian Studies at the University of Bucharest and the Canadian Business Association holds great promise for both parties. The multi-faceted examples of potential joint projects and benefits of cooperation for the Canadian and Roman-Canadian business community in Romania include:

- *access to a venue, which enjoys international recognition and the support of the Canadian Embassy, for promoting business interests in Romania;*
- *utilizing the graduate students, educated in the realities of the Canadian socio-economic environment, as full-time employees, consultants or interns in the Canadian companies operating in Romania;*
- *setting up corporate-sponsored lecture series, or ad hoc feature lectures by senior company CEOs and managers on visits from Canada or working in Romania and seeking to communicate their message to Romanian public;*
- *investing in long-term human-resource development by setting up a scholarship fund for graduate students or augmenting the operational infrastructure of the Canadian Studies Centre;*
- *enriching the library collection of the Centre with publications on Canadian business, including promotional materials illustrating corporate activities in Canada or Romania;*
- *assisting in the curriculum development of the Masters Program, so that it reflects the expectations of the Canadian business community in terms of preparing graduate students for the labour market of the 21st century, integrating both Romanian and Canadian experiences;*

- *raising the company's profile in Romania thanks to a corporate patronage of a Romanian academic venture..."*

2. Cooperating with the Embassy of Canada

I met HE Mr. David Collins, the Canadian Ambassador to Romania, and communicated to him the purpose of my stay in Bucharest. As well, I established a working relationship with Mr. Michael Walma, First Secretary at the Embassy, and Mr. Claude Charland, Commercial Counsellor, who advised me on lobbying the business association. I communicated on the daily basis with an Embassy staffer, Mrs. Elena Filipoiu, in charge of Public Affairs, Cultural and Academic Relations, which primarily involved looking after the needs of the Canadian Studies Centre. I acted as a liaison between the Embassy and the Centre, enriching the library holdings with printed materials newly arrived at the Embassy and communicated the needs of the Centre and the venues for assistance that the Embassy offered.

One of the most useful cooperative endeavours was a roundtable on Canada's foreign relations, which I organized at the University of Bucharest. Mr. Walma and Mrs. Filipoiu took up my invitation to present the perspectives on Canada's international involvement, especially Canadian-Romanian relations. The roundtable was attended by the faculty members and the students in the Canadian Studies program.

I also assisted during the preparations for a cultural event -- a reading of poetry by a visiting Canadian poet, also a CIDA program manager, Mrs. Evelyn Voigt -- organized at the residence of the Canadian Ambassador.

3. Other activities (advising students, public relations, networking, fact-finding , etc.)

Because the students in the Canadian Studies program were most interested in the facts about every-day life of Canadians, I spent a lot of time with the students -- organizing social events, for instance, thus incidentally helping integrate the group. As well, I inquired through my own channels about opportunities for study and scholarships in Canada for interested students.

I gave some advice to the faculty members regarding curriculum development and the opportunities for funding. Through my own channels, I tried albeit unsuccessfully to interest German Canadian Studies Centres in enhancing cooperation with their counterparts in Romania. As well, I assisted the faculty members in applying to the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade for a grant from the International Council for Canadian Studies in the academic year 2000-1. The future projects of urgency that need Canadian Government's financial support include: the acquisition of equipment for the development and computerization of a database and library resource materials; the augmentation of library resources through the Library Support Program; and financing lectures on Canadian multiculturalism delivered by two visiting professors from Canada.

EVALUATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Centre of Canadian Studies and the Canadian Studies Masters Program:

I am well aware that the main problem faced by the Canadian Studies Centre is the shortage of funding. However, moving beyond this issue, I would like to offer the following advice:

- ❑ Lobbying the Canadian Business Association in Romania by representatives of the Centre should continue until a mutually fruitful cooperative program is established.
- ❑ The Canadian Studies Masters Program should be better promoted in the academic and student community in Romania. One simple method would be to keep in touch with the graduates of the program and use their "success stories" to attract new entrants.
- ❑ The curriculum of the Masters Program should be radically restructured in order to enlarge the scope of Canadian Studies in order to bring in lecturers on Canadian economy, history and polity. Thus, the Foreign Languages Department and the Sociology Department must establish a cooperative relationship with other departments and incorporate Canadian political and economic issues into the core curriculum. Thus, the profile of the graduate students enrolled will change, and the Program will be better reflective of the issues faced by modern Canadian society. The possibility for linking with a privately-run Canadian Masters in Business Administration Program in Bucharest should be pursued. If the Program continues its almost exclusive focus on literature and sociological issues it risks losing relevance to the demands of the modern economy.
- ❑ The Public Affairs, Cultural and Academic Relations of the Canadian Embassy in Canada should be more active in supporting the Centre. This particularly pertains to the critical need to enrich the library holdings of the Canadian Studies books, and research possibilities for scholarship programs in Canada for Romanian students. Romanian students wishing to continue their studies in Canada should be assisted. A scholarship program or an opportunity for a study visit to Canada would be a perfect incentive for entrants into the Masters Program. The Embassy should also encourage cooperation between the various Canadian Studies branches in Romania.
- ❑ Professors involved in the Canadian Studies Centre should cooperate. There should be at least bi-weekly strategic planning and review meetings by the faculty members in order to manage the Program effectively.
- ❑ Canadian Studies Centres/Programs in Romania should cooperate with each other instead of competing for sources of funding or academic linkages in Canada. Regional networking should be pursued.
- ❑ More effort should be put into exploring sources of funding whether institutions (EU, UNESCO for instance) or private individuals.

The teaching assistantship-internship:

- ❑ The intern should have a clear mandate and a formal support of the managing institution (DFAIT, ICCS, CCFPD, or university). Lines of communication with the managing

institutions must be maintained at all times.

- The amount of financial support should be raised.
- The internship should be longer-term (about 3 months), so that the intern can engage in projects of lasting value to the university.
- A longer briefing period in Ottawa would be helpful before departing for Romania. This would involve assessing the respective role of Canadian organizations involved in supporting Canadian Studies programs abroad; and obtaining information from Romanian professors regarding their needs, particularly regarding the need for more *Canadiana* materials;
- A reciprocal internship exchange should be considered. For example, a Romanian student might do a similar internship in Canada and undertake a research project there or assist the host organization.
- Before deployment, a young Canadian intern should be thoroughly briefed about the cultural specificities of Romania in order to enable him/her quickly adjust to the country and overcome socio-cultural barriers (an East European background helps).

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT CANADIAN STUDIES IN ROMANIA

- International Council for Canadian Studies:
<http://www.iccs-ciec.ca/>
- Central European Canadian Studies Network:
<http://www.phil.muni.cz/angl/CANADA/index.htm>

CONTACTING THE CENTRE OF CANADIAN STUDIES IN BUCHAREST

Mailing address:

CENTRE OF CANADIAN STUDIES

University of Bucharest

Edgar Quinet 5-7

77202 Bucharest

Romania

Directors of the Romanian Centre of Canadian Studies:

Professor Irina Badescu.

Professor Daniela Frumusani.

Telephone (home): (+ 401) 230-10-93

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(home): (+401) 628-69-57

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Activities of the Canadian Studies Centre

The most visible activity of the Canadian Studies Centre at Comenius University is the course offering in Canadian literature. The course is run by Maria Hubova who also heads the centre. In addition to that course, the centre promotes public lectures and excursions relating to Canada. An example during the Spring of 2000 was the visit by Lloyd Axworthy in late May. The Canadian Studies Centre also has some library resources to assist students in research. However, there are also a few such resources outlining the various possibilities in participating in exchanges. To a certain extent, the centre is connected to other Canadian studies centers in the region. In particular, it is in touch with the more established centre at Masaryk University in Brno, Czech Republic.

In the Spring of 2000, preparations were being made for a new course regarding multiculturalism in Canada. A syllabus was drawn up in correspondence with the available resources. That is to say, the syllabus is in line with the research materials available.

Report on the Promotion of Canadian Studies at Comenius University, Bratislava, Slovakia

with expertise on the various aspects of Canadian multiculturalism. Prof. Hubova, the aforementioned head of the centre, is an expert in the field of literature. However, Canadian multiculturalism also involves history, sociology, political science and other disciplines. To overcome this obstacle, it has been planned to invite guest lecturers on a weekly basis. The course is planned for the term beginning in February of 2001.

by

Brian Moore

April-June, 2000

Activities of the Intern

Canadian Centre for Foreign Policy Development

I arrived a week before the end of classes, in late April. This helped determine the scope of possible functions I could fulfill. I gave a lecture, introducing the topic of multiculturalism in Canada. I was also made available for consultations with students. Within a week, three students approached me regarding the possibilities of going to Canada as exchange students. I tried to facilitate the process of applying to these exchange programmes, as well as providing information regarding study at the two universities in Canada with exchange relations with Comenius (Carleton and the University of Ottawa).

The major duty during my stay consisted of reviewing the available resources in the Centre's library and assessing its value regarding the upcoming course in Canadian multiculturalism. This also involved drawing up a proposal for a syllabus for the course. Steps were also taken towards cataloguing the holdings of the library at the centre.

Assessment and Recommendations

The small library of the centre is surprisingly diverse. It has sufficient breadth and depth for the upcoming course in multiculturalism. However, it does have a few shortcomings which should be kept in mind. Firstly, although it has much regarding Quebec, the library is heavily in

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In the Spring of 2000, preparations were being made for a new course regarding multiculturalism in Canada. A syllabus was drawn up in correspondence with the available resources. That is to say, the syllabus had to take into consideration the research materials available at Comenius. Another limiting factor was the availability of lecturers or professors with expertise on the various aspects of Canadian multiculturalism. Prof. Huttova, the aforementioned head of the centre, is an expert in the field of literature. However, Canadian multiculturalism also involves history, sociology, political science amongst other disciplines. To overcome this obstacle, it has been planned to invite guest lecturers on a weekly basis. The course is planned for the term beginning in February of 2001.

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English with materials written by anglophones. Secondly, the materials are becoming somewhat dated. With roughly 200 000 immigrants arriving annually, the make-up of Canadian society is in constant change. Many of the books refer to Canadian society of the early 1980s or earlier. If the library does not acquire new materials, it will be very much out of date and fail to provide the students with studies of contemporary Canada. Thirdly, the centre has none of the rich literature by Canadian authors from the 1990s (egs. Michael Ondaatje, Rohinton Mistry, Carol Shields, etc.). However, it should also be remembered that Prof. Huttova is primarily interested in literature and, as such, the centre has heavy leanings in this direction, at the possible expense of other fields.

If at all possible, any interns who are sent to Comenius in the future should be sent during the school year. This runs from late September to December and from February to late April. During these times, the intern is of much better use than during the summer break, when the university is virtually closed down. The presence of a Canadian intern during the school year helps to raise the profile of the centre amongst the student. It also helps make Canada a little more tangible to students taking courses from the centre. During the summer, the intern is all but invisible.

In the future, further support for the intern (from both Ottawa and Comenius) would be very helpful. Fortunately, I was already familiar with Bratislava and had a few contacts. However, had I not had this advantage I would have been very much lost and confused. The providing of contacts in Bratislava would have been very helpful. Furthermore, knowing where other Canadian studies centres exist in Central Europe would undoubtedly help the intern.

Overall Comments

Sending an intern to the centre is certainly a worthwhile undertaking. In a small way, it encourages Slovak students to pursue Canadian Studies. The presence and assistance of an intern this past Spring directly encouraged one student to write a thesis in Canadian Studies. At least two students are currently writing such theses and a Canadian intern would undoubtedly deepen both their interest and knowledge. If this were to be on an annual basis, it would undoubtedly raise the profile of Canadian Studies in Slovakia. Canada is regarded in a very favourable light by most Slovaks. Unfortunately, Canada has a minimal presence in Slovakia, reflected by our failure to have an embassy or even a full fledged consulate in Bratislava. In such a situation, I firmly believe that the Canadian Studies Centre at Comenius University, if further developed, can play a valuable role in promoting both Canada and Canadian-Slovak relations.

Political Background in Croatia

Croatia has undergone numerous political changes during the past year. In January, two opposition parties won more than 50 percent of the seats in Croatia's lower house of parliament. In addition to this, the presidential election held in May elected the first Croat leader, the Croatian People's Party (HNS) candidate, Vukobrat Tomić. This opposition triumph offers the country an unprecedented opportunity to attract international aid, which has been "frozen" by the late President Franjo Tuđman and the Yugoslav Government. The Party's goal is to make it the only legal

NDI in Croatia

The National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI) is a Washington-based organization, which aims to promote democratic practices around the world. Since its arrival in Croatia in 1995, NDI has greatly contributed to the country's development.

Report on the Promotion of Democratic Development through the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI), Zagreb, Croatia.

by

Sonja Vojnovic

April-June, 2000

Author's Work in Croatia

Throughout my two-month internship in Croatia, I worked very closely with NDI and its numerous programmes. One of my first projects involved the reorganization of its resources and personnel. NDI Croatia has a wealth of information packages in order to better conduct its political trainings. These include political party materials, electoral examples, and campaign strategies from a variety of established democracies around the world. In particular, NDI Croatia has a vast number of sources from Canada, in fact, the majority of its sources are from Canada. These include documents from the Library of Parliament, Elections Canada, the Status of Women Canada, and various political parties in Canada. In addition to that, there is much information about Canada's international relations policies, policies on the advancement of women, and the like. Thus, NDI Croatia is in a position to strongly verify and encourage Canadian examples for the political development of Croatia.

One of the highlights of this internship was the Parliamentary trip to Canada. This was a joint venture between NDI and the Canadian Embassy in Croatia. A group of women parliamentarians travelled in Ottawa at the end of May beginning of June. There, they met with various Canadian Members of Parliament (MPs), civil servants, and other persons involved in the political development of Canada. The purpose of the trip was to familiarize members of the Croatian Parliament (Sabor) with political processes in Canada in an effort to advance the

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NDI in Croatia

The National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI) is a Washington-based organization, which seeks to promote democratic practices around the globe. Since its arrival in Croatia in 1995, NDI has greatly contributed to facilitating the transition process within this country. Due to the efforts of Karen Gainer, a Canadian attorney and one of the two directors at NDI Croatia, the branch in Zagreb has taken on an increasingly Canadian slant. Through its Political Party and Parliamentary Development Programmes, NDI has continuously offered a Canadian model for many groups that it works with.

Intern's Work in Croatia

Throughout my two-month internship in Croatia, I worked very closely with NDI and its numerous programmes and initiatives. In order to better familiarize myself with the organization, one of my first projects included the re-organization of its documents and resources. NDI Croatia has a wealth of information packages in order to better conduct its political trainings. These include political party materials, electoral examples, and campaign strategies from a variety of established democracies around the world. In particular, NDI Croatia has a vast number of sources from Canada; in fact, the majority of its sources are from Canada. These include documents from the Library of Parliament, Elections Canada, the Status of Women Canada, and various political parties in Canada. In addition to this, there is much information about Canada's multiculturalism policy, racism policy, policies on the advancement of women, and the like. Thus, NDI Croatia is in a position to strongly support and encourage Canadian examples for the political development of Croatia.

One of the highlights of this internship was the Parliamentary trip to Canada. This was a joint venture between NDI and the Canadian Embassy in Croatia. A group of women parliamentarians travelled to Ottawa at the end of May-beginning of June. There, they met with various Canadian Members of Parliament (MPs), civil servants, and other persons involved in the political development of Canada. The purpose of the trip was to familiarize members of the Croatian Parliament (*Sabor*) with political processes in Canada in an effort to advance the

parliamentary process in Croatia. For this endeavour, my responsibilities included the creation of a briefing package for all of the delegates; attending a briefing meeting at the Canadian Ambassador's residence in order to talk with the delegates about Canada; scheduling various activities/reservations for the tour; and assisting in the writing of the final report of the trip.

In addition to these projects, my work at NDI included various other activities. For instance, I travelled to Eastern Slavonia (specifically, Osijek, Vukovar, and Vinkovci) in order to participate in NDI's political party training seminars. The primary focus of those seminars was on building and managing a successful local branch office. I also participated in a training session for the SDP (Social Democratic Party) Youth Forum in Ivanic Grad, which focussed on communication and teambuilding.

Additionally, part of my responsibilities with NDI included translating various materials for the office (mainly, from Croatian to English) as well as editing and proofreading reports and follow-up materials (in English) for the organization.

Finally, one of my last responsibilities, which, unfortunately, came right at the end of the internship, was assisting one of Croatia's MPs with her correspondence in English. Sanja Kapetanovic was one of the delegates on the trip to Canada. She is also one of the youngest MPs in the Croatian *Sabor*. During her visit to Canada, she made many contacts with young leaders in Canadian society; however, she has some difficulties communicating in English. Thus, I was asked to help her in her correspondence with the people she had met in Ottawa.

Assessment and Recommendations

Croatia is presently undergoing a serious attempt at a transition to democracy and a market-style economy. Through NDI and its close collaboration with the Canadian Embassy in Croatia, Canada is in a position to offer a strong influence to the new government and political groups, and, subsequently, to Croatia's political development. For this reason, I strongly recommend continuing this internship in the future.

On a personal note, this internship has given me a greater understanding and appreciation for Canada and its influence throughout, and importance to, the rest of the globe. For this reason, I encourage the continuation of these internships for Canadian students in order to create better ties between Canada and other countries. Furthermore, these internships are important because they provide the necessary skills and experience for young Canadians to be active members in Canada's political environment.



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