



MANITOBA, SASKATCHEWAN,  
ALBERTA JOIN CIDA PROJECT

# CANADA TO HELP STRENGTHEN DEMOCRATIC AND ECONOMIC REFORM IN UKRAINE

## Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies (CIUS) receives \$2.2 million grant for legislative project

Natural Resources Minister Anne McLellan announced on April 12 that the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies (CIUS) at the University of Alberta would receive a total of \$2.2 million as the Canadian agency responsible for planning and implementing the Canada-Ukraine Legislative Education (CULE) Project. The funding is to be delivered through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

At a press conference held at the U of A in Edmonton, McLellan said that the CULE Project is intended to support continuing economic and democratic reform in Ukraine by strengthening the decision-making capacity of its legislative and executive institutions, and to enable them to develop "effective reform-oriented legislation and policies."

During the 3.5 year term of the project, customized educational programs in six policy or legislative-related areas are to be organized for up to 120 Ukrainian legislators and government officials. The minister noted that the governments of Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba, as well as the Speaker's Office of Canada's House of

Commons, support the project and will participate in organizing workshops for the Ukrainian officials, some of whom are members of Ukraine's parliament (Verkhovna Rada) and Cabinet of Ministers, members of their staffs, legal experts and local government officials.

"The Government of Saskatchewan looks forward to participating in this worthwhile project designed to strengthen the capacity of Ukraine's national and local legislators and their staff to develop effective legislation which embraces the principles of democratic and economic reform," said Myron Kowalsky, MLA for Prince Albert-Carlton.

"We look forward to offering our expertise to this program and feel we have much to offer, particularly in the area of energy management. We can provide advice on the establishment of fiscal and regulatory regimes for the oil and gas sector, as well as in the areas of budget planning, social sector reform and agriculture."

The educational programs will be organized around policy or legislative themes indicated as priorities by Ukrainian participants in areas where Canada can make specific contributions. Training in two policy or legislative-related thematic areas will be undertaken each year. A total of six training programs will be conducted over the project's lifetime.

The project originated with the recognition that democratic and market reforms in Ukraine would depend in large part on the policies followed by the Ukrainian government and the types of laws passed by Ukraine's parliament. Much reform legislation still remains to be developed in order to support the development of a democratic, law-based state and market economy in Ukraine. For instance, in the area of economic legislation, many laws remain to be passed that would stimulate economic activity, including foreign investment. McLellan noted at the press conference that "the



Dr. Zenon Kohut and Lawrence Decore present Natural Resources Minister Anne McLellan with a CIUS award.

legislative and structural weaknesses within Ukraine's economic sector are cited time and again by Canadian firms as major barriers to economic investment in that country."

In Ukraine, CIUS's partner in managing the project will be the International Centre for Policy Studies (ICPS). The ICPS, whose Board of Directors chaired by Dr. Bohdan Krawchenko, former director of CIUS, is an independent, non-profit organization that was established by presidential decree in 1993 to assist the Ukrainian government in developing and implementing a market economy reform program. In its management duties, the ICPS will work closely with the Council of Advisors to the Parliament of Ukraine (COA), whose Board of Directors is chaired by Dr. Bohdan Hawrylyshyn, professor emeritus and former director of the International Management Institute in Geneva, Switzerland. The COA, which was created by the Presidium of the Verkhovna Rada in March 1991, is comprised of 11 international personalities from Canada, Germany, Great Britain, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United States, who advise Ukraine's parliament on legal and economic matters as well as on international politics.



The CIDA project announcement. L-r: Canada's Natural Resources Minister Anne McLellan; Hon. Len Derkach, Min. of Rural Dev't, Govt. of Manitoba; Myron Kowalsky; Dr. Marta Piper; Ed Stelmach; Taras Sokolyk; Andrew Beniuk, MLA Edmonton-Norwood; Dr. Zenon Kohut, Director of CIUS; and Hon. Stanley Shumacher, MLA.

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