



Saskatchewan educators Cathy Berlad and Alvin Bodnarchuk conducting the Healthy Schools seminar.

### Nutrition! Hygiene! AIDS Prevention! Anti-Smoking!

These four themes were the subject of an educational seminar for forty Ukrainian teachers, school administrators, teacher institute and university instructors, conducted by three Saskatchewan educators, September 22-30, 1996 in Kyiv. The themes run across the Ukrainian Education Ministry's proposed new "Wellness" (Valcology) Education curriculum for Grades 1-11.

The Healthy Schools Project, as the joint venture is called, aims to contribute to Ukraine's initiatives in improving the health status of its population.

Phase One involved joint planning (Saskatchewan & Ukraine) and development of a teachers' manual and student workbooks for each of the grade levels -- materials containing thematic information, student activities and exercises; and

# Saskatchewan Healthy Schools Project

an assortment of visual aids to accompany them.

First, five Ukrainian education and health officials visited Saskatchewan in May-June, 1996, to study Canada's Health education system and to work with Saskatchewan teachers and consultants in co-developing student and teacher materials on health themes ranging from "educational foundations" to "educational psychology" to "health education teaching strategies".

Later, three Saskatchewan educators (C. Berlad, A. Bodnarchuk, G. Zerebecky) travelled to Kyiv and conducted a 40-hour implementation workshop with teachers, principals, oblast and city education administrators and instructors from teacher training institutes and universities representing nine oblasts (provinces), as well as with representatives from the Ministry of Education. The workshop focused on practical applications of teaching strategies and techniques, including "mock teaching" lessons.

The Ukrainian and Canadian partners developed a time-frame for the pilot phase and prepared a questionnaire for assessing various aspects of the field-test. Over 1,000 Grades 4-7 students from nine oblasts are participating in this initial field-trial. The oblasts include: Kyiv, Ivano-Frankivsk, Lviv, Cherkassy, Odesa, Dnipro-

Petrovsk, Kharkiv, Chernivtsi and Ternopil.

The Healthy Schools Project is part of a much larger Partners in Health Program (PIH), financed by CIDA. The Ukrainian partners include the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Health and the Ukrainian Health Centre, while the Saskatchewan Teachers of Ukrainian (a Saskatchewan Teachers Foundation affiliate) is the lead Canadian partner with Saskatchewan Education acting as project facilitator.

The project is rather unique, because it has necessitated international cooperation between government officials at the educational policy and programming levels; practising teachers, school administrators, teacher training instructors and professors at the program delivery levels. Although international in scope and "Ukraine-centred" in focus, nonetheless, it has provided resource materials usable in Canadian Ukrainian bilingual schools and in other in-school and out-of-school Ukrainian language programs. Also, the materials and learning strategies reach the youth in Ukrainian schools, that segment of society with the best potential to embrace new skills, attitudes and knowledge and to adapt these learnings to Ukraine's changing social and economic milieu.

Phase Two will include an examination of the results of the pilot evaluations, and a visit to Saskatchewan by Ukrainian education and health specialists. Tentative dates are Feb.-May, 1997.

## Learning for Life

by Larissa Talpash Zyla, Exec. Administrator, OSVITA

A historical landmark was achieved in Kyiv on May 14 - 16, 1996 with the first Ukrainian-Canadian Collaborative Continuing Medical Education (CME) Conference, "Learning for Life". The main conference theme was maternal-child health, and emphasized to Ukrainian physicians the necessity of participating in CME throughout their careers in order to stay current with developments in health care.

A world-class Ukrainian and Canadian faculty attracted 225 Ukrainian senior medical administrators, policy makers and physicians to this first "western-style" CME Conference held in Ukraine. Dr. Ehor Gauk, Chairman of OSVITA, outlined the history and possible future directions of the medical project; Dr. Paul Davis, Director of Continuing Medical Education, University of Alberta, discussed Canadian CME conference structure, the necessity and value of Continuing Medical Education. The Dean of the Faculty of Medicine & Oral Health Sciences, University of Alberta, Dr. D. Lorne Tyrrell, an expert in the fields of immunology and virology, offered an overview of health care reform in Canada and also lectured on new approaches to management and treatment of Hepatitis B. Dr. Nina Hoida, Assistant Deputy Minister of Health, Ukraine, outlined current state policy and principle direction of maternal and child health care in Ukraine. Dr. David Reid, OSVITA's, Director of Maternal and Neonatal Care, gave an overview and future directions of obstetrical and neonatal care in Canada, and the development of interdisciplinary approaches to medical care in these specialties. Amb. Christopher Westdal and Ukraine's Minister of Health Dr. Andriy Serdiuk opened the conference.



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OSVITA alumni with members of the Canadian Conference Faculty: Dr. Andriy Serdiuk, Minister of Health of Ukraine; Dr. Nina Hoida, ADM of Health; Dr. David Reid, OSVITA Dir. of Maternal & Neonatal Health; Dr. Svetlana Blogodareva, DM of Health; Dr. Bohdan Budzan, International Renaissance Foundation; Amb. Christopher Westdal; Dr. Elena Dudina, Deputy Head, Kyiv City Department of Health; Dr. Ehor Gauk, Chairman, OSVITA Project

OSVITA continues to actively participate in medical education exchange programs and, to date, has provided the opportunity for 57 Ukrainian physicians to study in Canada.

The ten Canadian physicians who participated in the CME conference were overwhelmed by the keen interest shown by their Ukrainian colleagues and by the success of the Conference. Financial support for the Conference was provided by CIDA, the Ukrainian Ministry of Health, International Renaissance Foundation, the Government of Alberta, University of Alberta, Ingram & Bell, Homecare & Surgical Inc., Hoechst Marion Roussel Canada Inc. and Merck Frosst Canada Inc.