



As Ukraine marked an important development in its transition to a democratic society, a team of 13 Canadians served as official observers of the first round of Ukraine's legislative elections on March 27, 1994.

"We have been strong supporters of Ukraine since their independence in 1991 and are pleased to assist in these multiparty elections in Ukraine," stated Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet in a press release issued on March 21, the day the delegation left for Kyiv. These elections in Ukraine were of particular interest to Canada since over one million Canadians have family and historical ties to the region.

CANADIANS PLAY IMPORTANT ROLE AS ELECTORAL OBSERVERS IN UKRAINE

Story and photo arrangement by Oksana Kowalchuk and Nina Romas (Oksana Kowalchuk participated in the March 27 elections, accompanying her spouse, Andriy Hluchowecy, and Member of Parliament André Caron to the Poltava region. Nina Romas joined her spouse Orest Dubas and Member of Parliament Walter Lastewka to monitor elections in the Donetsk region.

The delegation, led by Parliamentary Secretary for Foreign Affairs Jesse Flis (Parkdale-High Park), included Liberal Members of Parliament Walter Lastewka (St. Catharines), Carolyn Parrish (Mississauga West) and John Loney (Edmonton North), Senator Marcel Prud'homme, Bloc Québécois Member of Parliament André Caron (Jonquière),

Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC) President Oleh Romaniw (Winnipeg), UCC Information Bureau Director Andriy Hluchowecy (Ottawa), *Ukraine-Canada Policy and Trade Monitor* Editor Orest Dubas (Ottawa), Alexandra Chyczij (Toronto), Victor Nakonechny (Edmonton), Patricia Sembaliuk (Edmonton) and Myroslav Tracz (Winnipeg). Two Canadian elections monitors, William Mukanik and Donald Slobodzian were already stationed in Ukraine for several months.

Given the importance of the elections to the democratic process in Ukraine, and the priority that Canada has placed on relations with this newly-independent country, the Canadian government had provided a \$2.5 million electoral assistance package to help ensure the integrity of the elections. In addition to sending observers, Canada had supplied 445 tonnes of specialized ballot paper, placed an Elections Canada advisor, André Bouchard, with the Ukrainian Central Electoral Commission and assisted with voter education and media training.

The Canadian assistance was not designed to influence the outcome of the elections. It was intended to help Ukraine ensure the integrity and transparency of the electoral process and to motivate Ukrainians to vote. The Canadian assistance package was the largest and most comprehensive among international donors and underscores Canada's commitment to democratic reform in Ukraine.

The 10-day electoral mission from March 21 to 31 saw the Canadian observers delegated to separate assignments and destinations throughout Ukraine for election day. The cities monitored by the Canadians

BREAKDOWN BY PARTY AFFILIATION ELECTED TO THE NEW PARLIAMENT

	SEATS	
LEFT	118	35%
Communist Party of Ukraine	86	
Agrarian (Peasant) Party of Ukraine	18	
Socialist Party of Ukraine	14	
CENTRE / REFORM	43	13%
RUKH	20	
Ukrainian Republican Party	8	
Labour Party	4	
Party of Democratic Revival of Ukraine (Inter-regional reform block)	4	
Democracy Party of Ukraine	2	
Civic Congress of Ukraine	2	
Social Democratic Party of Ukraine	2	
Christian Democratic Party of Ukraine	1	
RIGHT	7	2%
Congress of Ukrainian Nationalists	5	
Ukrainian Conservative Republican Party	2	
INDEPENDENTS	170	50%
TOTAL	338	100%

Source: International Foundation for Electoral Systems; Ukrainian Election Centre
Note: 170 seats remained vacant in the 450-seat parliament after two rounds, for which a new series of elections is set for July 1994.