



UKRAINE - ALBERTA OVERVIEW

Albertans have had a century-long relationship with Ukraine, dating from the first Ukrainian settlers to Canada in 1890. The Ukrainian community in Alberta and the Alberta Government were in the forefront in calling for Ukrainian independence, and urged Canada to be the first Western nation to recognize that independence in December 1991. Since then, Alberta contact with the new republic has developed in many areas, from business to health care, and agriculture to education.

COMMERCIAL RELATIONS

Alberta's visible exports with Ukraine are improving. (\$80,000 in the first half of 1994). Ukraine has a wide range of needs for Alberta goods, services and expertise, but lacks a convertible currency to pay for Alberta exports. However, it is hoped that the recent agreement reached with President Kuchma and International Monetary Fund for \$360 million will assist Ukraine in its planned reforms, thereby increasing the country's foreign cash flow.

In the midterm, sectors which are likely to be of interest to the Alberta business community include: tourism/hotels; telecommunications; the manufacture of products that can be sold into third markets for "hard currency"; infrastructure for which international financing may be made available; the oil and gas sector; agricultural equipment; and consulting services in land management public service management health care, agriculture, marketing, etc.

Since Ukraine's independence in August 1992, Alberta has led four trade missions into the country. Areas of interest include, the Torrens land survey system, natural gas and crude oil transmission, rural gasification, and enhanced methods of hydrocarbon recovery.

TORRENS LAND SURVEY SYSTEM

Essential to Ukraine's privatization policy is developing a system of land survey for land titles. The Torrens system is one of the most effective in the world and Alberta is an international leader in applying this technology. On October 24, 1994, UMA Engineering, in association with DMR Canada Ltd., Intergraph Canada Ltd., the Government of Alberta, and the Government of Canada, announced the introduction of a land registration and land information management system to Ukraine commencing immediately. The project will be located in the Kosiv Rayon, of the Ivano Frankivsk Oblast of Ukraine and is scheduled for completion in 1996.

ENERGY

The high pressure natural gas pipelines from Russia feed through Ukraine en route to Western Europe. Opportunities do exist for exploration in Western Ukraine near the Moldova border and the Black Sea. Existing producing fields in the Carpathian mountains and Dnieper-Donets Basin require extensive rehabilitation but are thought to be of marginal production value. There are several Alberta oil and gas companies presently active in Ukraine.

ENVIRONMENT

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed in October of 1992, with the Ukrainian Ministry of Environmental Protection to facilitate future cooperation between Ukraine and Alberta. Presently, the Ukrainians are interested in Alberta's environmental legislation and our structure of administration and regulation enforcement. Pending the availability of financing from international institutions, Ukraine will offer good opportunities in waste water treatment, hazardous waste disposal, sulphur removal from coal and bio-remediation of contaminated soils.

AGRICULTURE

To date, trade between Alberta and Ukraine has been limited. However, a number of opportunities exist in the area of consulting services related to crops, machinery, land management, labour management and marketing. Alberta's current priorities are in beef and dairy industry development services (consulting, training, etc.) and crop preservation and handling. Alberta assistance is best channelled toward areas such as grain storage and distribution, upgrading of agri-food processing technologies, establishment of

a marketing infrastructure, and curriculum development to meet Ukraine's immediate needs. Highlights of Alberta's activities include:

- a cooperation agreement signed by Alberta Agriculture and Ukraine in September 1991;
- projects by Grant MacEwan Community College involving farmer training, agricultural curriculum development farm management and small fruit production;
- a joint venture that Heritage Foods Ltd. has with the Sumy region to manufacture perogy equipment; and
- five previous Alberta government agricultural trade missions to Ukraine in the areas of cattle genetics, livestock management potatoes, and to attend the Agrotech'93 trade show in Kyiv.

HEALTH

Alberta Health has worked with the Bureau of Assistance for Central and Eastern Europe to provide support to Albertans in the private and public sectors who are involved with health related projects in Ukraine. A number of Alberta health professionals have travelled to Ukraine to provide assistance in specific health or medical areas and in developing health care systems, their activities include:

- the OSVITA Medical Project administered by the University of Alberta to provide medical care, consultations and teaching services for the treatment of mothers, fetus and children who were either exposed to, or are living in areas made radioactive by, the Chernobyl disaster;
- a conference "Canada's Strategy for Education of Health Professionals in Ukraine" was held on April 8-9, 1994 in Edmonton. This conference was designed to enhance the quality of Canada's health education assistance provided to Ukraine; and
- on September 13-14, 1994, a delegation of senior medical administrators from OSVITA visited Alberta. Their objective was to learn about Alberta's health care system and how it is administered.

EDUCATION

- Ukrainian has been offered as a language of instruction in 14 Alberta schools since 1974, and approximately 1300 students are currently enrolled in the bilingual program. In addition, over 550 Alberta students study Ukrainian in Alberta as a second language.
- In 1990, the Alberta-Ukraine School Twinning program was established, and presently, there are three Alberta schools twinned with schools in Ukraine.
- The Alberta Government provides two Alberta Ukrainian Centennial Commemorative Scholarships, one for a student from Ukraine to study in Alberta and the other for a student from Alberta to study in Ukraine.
- In 1992, Grant MacEwan Community College established an office in Kyiv to provide on-site administration for the college's projects in Ukraine. The office offers college services and expertise in the area of consultation and training as well as translation administration and office support services to Canadian individuals, organizations and companies.
- In 1976, the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian studies was founded at the University of Alberta as a centre for scholarly research and publication for Ukraine and Ukrainian Canadian studies. In addition to the OSVITA Medical Project, the University has an agreement of cooperation with the State University of Lviv.

CULTURE

- Contact between Ukraine and Alberta Community Development's Historic Sites and Archives Service, in particular the Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village, date back to 1978.
- The Alberta Provincial Museum is presently involved with the Ukrainian Museum of Canada to develop the exhibition, "Treasures of Ukraine". If negotiations are successful, the exhibition will open in Edmonton in April 1996.
- Albertans of Ukrainian descent total approx. 250,000 individuals and constitute the third largest ethnic community in the province. There are over 200 Ukrainian community groups active in Alberta spanning cultural, linguistic, commercial and religious activities.