



### MOVING INTO THE FUTURE: THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND THE PLAN OF ACTION

In 1993 the Advisory Committee on Saskatchewan-Ukraine Relations was established to recommend appropriate community-government partnerships to expand economic technologies and cultural relations between the province and Ukraine.

On May 6 1995, after thorough discussions both with President Leonid Kuchma and members of his Cabinet during their stay in Saskatoon in late 1994, and with the former and current Ambassadors of Ukraine to Canada, Saskatchewan's Premier Roy Romanow presented the resulting Plan of Action before the Saskatchewan Provincial Council (SPC) of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress.

The Premier told the UCC-SPC: "This Plan of Action gives us the basis on which we can offer the Ukrainian Government help in building the economic, social and political infrastructures inherent in a free and democratic nation. At the same time, the commercial cooperation as laid out in the Plan of Action opens opportunities to businesses, educational institutions and other organizations within Saskatchewan."

The Plan of Action, which will be sent to Ukraine for finalization and implementation in 1995, outlines major cooperative initiatives. These include initiatives in public administration, energy, agriculture, health, education, democratic development, environmental management, culture and business development.

**Public Administration:** A program of exchanges between Saskatchewan and Ukrainian civil servants is being developed in conjunction with the federal technical assistance program.

The program will be designed to improve Ukraine's capacity for administration, policy and program development and successful implementation of the other sectoral projects contained in the Saskatchewan-Ukraine Plan of Action.

**Energy:** The program encompasses technical assistance for Ukraine's energy

regulatory/fiscal structure; expansion of opportunities for Saskatchewan's oil and gas producers; and participation in the reform of Ukraine's conventional power plants.

**Agricultural Sector:** The Plan of Action proposes Saskatchewan participation in a Canada-Ukraine demonstration farm project at Khmelnytsky Pereyaslav to demonstrate modern farming techniques to Ukrainian farmers. Initial emphasis will

be on alfalfa and forage seed production, and on assistance in developing infrastructure and techniques for the production and marketing of agricultural products. A farm management training exchange program is also planned.

**Health Sector:** A technical assistance project in health management is part of the Plan of Action.

**Education:** In addition to high school exchanges, a joint curriculum development program for primary and secondary education in Ukraine would encompass an eight-month internship for those involved in Ukrainian language education either in curriculum development or teaching.

**Democratic Development:** Also planned is an academic/internship program for Ukrainian parliamentary officials in the administration of democratic legislatures.

**Environment Management:** A forestry resources management program will provide technical assistance related to the development of economic instruments.

**Culture:** Experts in cultural industries, such as film, video, broadcasting/television, live arts, etc., will exchange visits in order to promote joint ventures between Saskatchewan and Ukraine.

**Business Development:** Saskatchewan will explore the feasibility of a business development pilot project for western Ukraine, and there will be regular dissemination of information on business opportunities in Saskatchewan and Ukraine.

### BUILDING TOGETHER

Saskatchewan and Ukraine, already tightly bound by their pasts, are poised to move their relationship into the 21st Century, building economic, cultural and educational opportunities, that will have positive impacts in both the province and Ukraine.

EXCERPT FROM LETTER TO THE MONITOR:



*I was most pleased that the Canadian government was able to host the Special G7 Conference and to focus the attention and efforts of the other industrialized powers and international financial institutions on Ukraine.*

*The people and Government of Saskatchewan were also greatly honoured to receive President Kuchma, several members of his government and the Premiers of Chernivtsi and Donetsk. During their visit here I told the President and his delegation that Saskatchewan strongly supports Ukraine's desire to develop as an independent, democratic and prosperous nation. I said that we were prepared, to the extent possible for a small province, to work with Ukraine to achieve those objectives. President Kuchma's visit was an excellent opportunity to discuss Saskatchewan's strengths and the prospects for future cooperation in the context of the Ukrainian government's immediate plans and priorities. It also provided an opportunity for Saskatchewan's community of Ukrainian heritage to demonstrate its strong support for Ukraine's reform efforts.*

Roy Romanow  
Premier