



were the three realities of life facing a young Ukrainian growing up in the north end of Winnipeg", says Walter. "I never thought that the Ukrainian language classes my parents made me attend on Saturdays as a child would benefit me in my work. I'm glad I stuck it out."

Muzyczka also got an overview of the electrical energy situation in Ukraine by touring numerous thermal electric stations. Thermal electric generation accounts for about two-thirds of the electrical generation capacity in Ukraine. The present thermal electric stations are in need of major repairs. Most thermal plants are suffering from deficiencies in control and instrumentation systems, aging turbine parts, emission control systems, and boiler problems. About 60 percent of the thermal plants are over 20 years old.

Although the Ukrainian Ministry of Power has developed a plan for the rehabilitation of the thermal power units in phases, the plan has not been based on the application of cost-benefit criteria. In contrast, however, Ukraine is advanced when it comes to transformer oil containment systems at their substations and generating stations. "Canadian electrical utilities could derive environmental benefits from their methods of outdoor oil spill containment systems

Last winter, Ukraine suffered a severe energy crunch. The potential for energy efficiency improvements are great. Ukraine could benefit from energy conservation initiatives such as Manitoba Hydro's POWER SMART Program.

Muzyczka is currently writing a paper on "Canadian Engineering Opportunities in Ukraine" which will be presented at the 1995 Canadian Society for Civil Engineering Conference in Ottawa. Also, a slide presentation for his experience has sparked much interest. "My goal is to inform Canadian engineers of the tremendous opportunities which await them in Ukraine."

Muzyczka further reports that, "Ukraine is a country that has a very capable and highly educated work force. Combined with western aid and management assistance, the benefits could be mutually advantageous. Meetings with LvivEnergo, one of eight Ukrainian power utilities, have shown me that the utility is anxious for western

investment and joint ventures". Muzyczka hopes to stimulate management interest at Manitoba Hydro in such a joint venture.

In Lviv, he introduced the State Administration to the global computer network, INTERNET. "To be able to move ahead and be effective, organizations need good communication and access to information" said Muzyczka. "Now the Lviv State Administration can exchange information with Canadian, U.S. and international research networks, and this gives them worldwide electronic mail capabilities".

Muzyczka also explored alternate sources of energy such as bio-gas production, ethanol and canola additives in gasoline and wind energy.

He spoke to an English speaking class of gifted high school mathematics and physics students at the Lviv Lyceum which is affiliated with the Lviv State Polytechnic University. His latest project is to seek out financial assistance to help ship discarded English language textbooks from all subject areas to Ukraine to help students learn English.

Muzyczka is an engineer with the Transmission & Civil Department of Manitoba Hydro; he also acts as a project advisor on Manitoba Hydro R&D projects at the University of Manitoba.

Credit Unions in Ukraine: Canadian Assistance Ensures Success

During the summer months of 1994, Yarko Skrypnyk, a member of the Board of Directors for Credit Union Central and Capital City Savings and Credit Union, travelled to Ukraine with Kenton Eggleston, Canadian Co-operative Association (CCA) Regional Director for Central and Eastern Europe. The purpose of the trip was to assist Eggleston in monitoring CCA's 18-month-old credit union development project.

Ukrainian Credit Union Development Assistance is a joint project between the CCA and the Council of Ukrainian Credit Unions in Canada. The \$1.4 million, 30-month project is also supported by Canada's Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Bureau of Assistance to Central and Eastern Europe, and its goal is to help re-introduce credit union operations in Ukraine.

Skrypnyk lobbied both CCA and the Canadian government on behalf of this project, and was instrumental in promoting the partnership between CCA and the Council. He is now a member of the CCA-Council Ukrainian Project Working Group, commissioned by both partners to oversee the implementation of the project.

Skrypnyk and Eggleston have travelled extensively throughout Ukraine, visiting new credit unions, meeting with Canadian government representatives in Ukraine and representatives of the National Bank of Ukraine. A number of Ukrainian credit union interns who participated in a seminar will shortly be coming to Canada.

The project is enjoying some early success - almost 40 credit unions have been registered in virtually all parts of Ukraine. Notwithstanding an extremely difficult economic environment, these new credit unions are accepting deposits and making loans to ordinary Ukrainian citizens. In fact, except for these credit unions, there is virtually no place for an ordinary citizen to go for credit in Ukraine. They are providing a much needed service and bringing some hope to people in very trying circumstances.

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