



R E P O R T O F T H E

SASKATCHEWAN UKRAINE RELATIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MARCH 2010

Dear Deputy Premier Krawetz:

It is my pleasure to send you the first report of the Saskatchewan Ukraine Relations Advisory Committee following extensive deliberations of the Committee throughout 2009 that included input from community, government, and business related stakeholders.

During the past year we have met five times in Committee and received reports from six groups representing federal and provincial government departments and non-governmental organizations. In addition the Committee held two community based consultations in Yorkton and North Battleford. We facilitated direct member participation in a major Symposium in fall, 2009 held in Saskatoon that focused on potential opportunities for Saskatchewan Ukraine collaboration on science and technology advancement in medicine, energy and agriculture. As well, the Committee Chair took part in a consultation organized by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) regarding their recently approved country programming policy for Ukraine. The Committee was also privileged to meet and have detailed discussions with the Ukrainian Ambassador to Canada, Dr. Ihor Ostash.

The Committee has identified a number of emerging opportunities for advancing future cooperative activities pursuant to the 1995 Memorandum of Understanding between Saskatchewan and Ukraine. We are pleased to present you with some initial recommendations on actions that could be taken in this regard in the short term specifically in the areas of education, justice, agriculture, health, and immigration. As well, we would wish to flag community concerns about impacts of increased immigration to the Province of Saskatchewan and the concern for human trafficking issues.

Finally, we are proposing further directions for our deliberations that would be beneficial to Saskatchewan in the longer term in the foregoing areas of emphasis as well as on other emerging topics.

I look forward to the opportunity to meet with you and discuss these recommendations in the coming weeks.

Sincerely



Gerald Luciuk
Chair of the Advisory Committee

COMMITTEE MANDATE AND TERM

The Saskatchewan Ukraine Relations Advisory Committee was established by Order in Council of February 25, 2009 with a three year term ending on February 25, 2012.

The purpose of the Advisory Committee shall be to:

- Provide a community-based focal point for provincial residents interested in Saskatchewan-Ukraine relations;
- Continue to monitor and make any necessary recommendations regarding ongoing implementation of the articles of the 1995 Saskatchewan-Ukraine Memorandum of Cooperation; and
- Make recommendations to the Minister that propose either to modify existing initiatives or establish new ones;
- Explore and promote the expansion of relations between non-governmental organizations in Saskatchewan and Ukraine with the objectives of strengthening civil society in Ukraine.

REPORT ON ACTIVITIES

The Saskatchewan Ukraine Relations Advisory Committee has met five times in the past twelve months. Meetings were held at various Saskatchewan locales on April 27, June 25, September 23 and November 12-13 in 2009 and on January 21-22 in 2010. In its first phase of deliberations, the Committee reviewed its mandate, the 1995 MOU and earlier reports of activities and priorities to Government. Subsequently, it received reports from relevant federal and provincial government departments that are directly involved with cooperative and business initiatives with Ukraine. In addition it consulted with Non-Governmental Organizations and community interest groups that have on-going relations with Ukraine. In its most recent deliberations, the Committee has undertaken an assessment of information received to date and through working groups identified recommendations that would further the goals and objectives of the Saskatchewan Ukraine MOU and relations with Ukraine. These are presented in the ensuing sections by thematic category.

Direct input was received from the following:

- Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) – Chantal Labelle, Program Officer, reported on two occasions concerning CIDA Canada-Ukraine program initiatives and the recently approved country programming policy for Ukraine
- Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade – Larissa Blavatska, Program Officer, provided background update on bilateral relations with Ukraine, implications of Governor-General Michaëlle Jean's state visit to Ukraine, activities of the Canada Ukraine Advisory Committee and emerging political issues in Ukraine
- Office of the Provincial Secretary – Fredrick D. (Rick) Mantey, Deputy Provincial Secretary, outlined the background of recent Saskatchewan Ukraine activities and outcomes of Deputy Premier Ken Krawetz's mission to Ukraine and the completed Memorandum of Intent (MOI) on Education between Saskatchewan and Chernivtsi Oblast
- Enterprise Saskatchewan – Tony Baumgartner, Vice President Sector Development, reported on emerging business opportunities and interests in Saskatchewan and, in particular, the implications of labour supply for competitiveness of Saskatchewan-based commerce

- Advanced Education, Employment and Labour – Rupen Pandya, Assistant Deputy Minister, provided detailed background on Saskatchewan programs for foreign nominee employment immigrants and projected labour supply demands for the Province
- Canada Ukraine Centre Inc (CUC Inc) – Boris Kishchuk, Chair of CUC Inc, informed the Committee about the goals and recent activities of this NGO dedicated to promoting mutually advantageous science and technology collaboration with Ukrainian and Canadian partners
- Ukrainian Canadian Congress, Saskatchewan Provincial Council – through Committee member, Ed Lysyk, reported on organized Ukrainian community concerns for improved and innovative cultural and educational exchanges with Ukraine as well as the implications for Saskatchewan Ukraine relations of diminished support for language programs

The Committee was privileged to meet with the Ambassador of Ukraine, His Excellency, Dr. Ihor Ostash, noting his observations on Canada-Ukraine relations and particular issues of mutual interest including:

- Importance of commercial relations in a broad range of sectors – agriculture, nuclear reactors, equipment manufacture
- Medical stations and care
- Value of cultural and educational exchanges and mechanisms for fostering such exchanges including twinning of cities
- Importance of bilateral arrangement between universities
- Investment opportunities in tourism sector including importance to Ukraine of the 2012 Euro-soccer event
- Youth mobility, noting in particular the relatively small number of students from Ukraine studying in Canada

The Committee has now reviewed a significant amount of information relevant to on-going relations between Saskatchewan and Ukraine as well as emerging opportunities and political circumstances in both jurisdictions. The Committee has organized itself into specialty working groups to analyze the information received and to identify key action needs in the short and longer term. The following sections reflect a summation of the Committee consensus on the analysis and recommendations in various thematic areas. The areas presented are as follows:

- a) Education
- b) Justice
- c) Agriculture, Energy and Environment
- d) Health
- e) Immigration
- f) General and Cross-linked Issues

The final section outlines some further priorities for Committee study on medium term issues.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

The Committee identified a number of issues which it feels can be addressed or assisted by Government with limited financial impact. A number of these will be particularly assisted by confirmation of Provincial support to Ukrainian counterparts based on the 1995 MOU. As a general observation, most of the recommendations fall within the areas of cooperation specifically identified in the MOU even though contextual circumstance may have changed in the last fifteen years.

EDUCATION

BACKGROUND DISCUSSION:

The Province concluded a Memorandum of Intent (MOI) on Education with the Chernivtsi Oblast in late 2008. Other relevant contacts at the institutional level include:

- Letter of Intent for continued language courses in Ukraine through the Summer Session in Ukraine initiative with St. Thomas More (STM) – Ternopil National Pedagogical University (TNPU).
- Letter to Ukraine’s Ambassador to Canada, Dr. Ostash, from TNPU in September 2009 sharing information about their initiatives to establish a Ukrainian Language Learning Centre for Canadian language educators and students, as an extension of the STM Summer Session in Ukraine initiative.
- Communications between the Province of Saskatchewan and the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) supporting Saskatchewan’s request that Ukraine be added to the International Youth Program (IYP).

The Committee feels that the Education MOI and other institutional Ukrainian Studies networks provide an excellent platform for the development of closer collaboration and strategic partnerships with Ukrainian educational counterparts on a variety of education related topics. The Committee has identified specific short term initiatives that would foster such collaboration especially at the level of post-secondary institutions in the general areas of language training and Ukrainian studies. In addition, the Committee identified actions that would generally promote greater appreciation of and uptake of second language training. Recommendations are also offered that use “internship” initiatives as an educational tool in career development.

Educational partnerships were also identified as a major opportunity for building professional networks based on trust and mutual understanding which lay the groundwork for closer cooperation in the areas of justice, agriculture and energy, and health. Recommendations in this latter regard appear in subsequent sections.

One particular concern to the Committee was the general decline in language skills in the Ukrainian community of Saskatchewan and the implications that a lack of communication skills will have for future initiatives with Ukraine as well as community building with the new immigrant population. The Committee hopes that a longer term government commitment to this capacity remains in the Province and that recommendations for cooperation between Saskatchewan and Ukraine can augment that capacity as well as reinforce the value of Ukrainian language study among youth, in particular.

The Advisory Committee recognizes the potential benefits of creating an association of Saskatchewan university alumni of Ukrainian heritage. In the coming months, the committee plans to explore ways in which to engage this important target audience of professionals in education initiatives, projects, community development, business interests, and research ties with Ukraine.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Recommendation # 1

That the Province support academic research and professional initiatives which will promote international partnerships for educational, economic, social, and cultural benefits through the following actions:

- An invitation from Minister of Education to education officials from Chernivtsi Oblast to visit Saskatchewan as a reciprocal gesture of collaboration in education.
- Initiation of a Saskatchewan-Ukraine educational conference to map out educational interests and research initiatives which will have an impact on collaboration in the future, including such topics as: language standards, trilingual (Ukrainian, French, English) programming, culturally-responsive childcare, preschool education, environmental concerns, gender issues, folk wisdom, etc.
- Encouragement and support from Government of Saskatchewan, through its Education Ministries and community contacts, to the establishment of a Chair of Ukrainian History at the University of Saskatchewan campus, to provide stability for long-term planning and delivery of academic programs focused on Ukrainian studies, research projects, and educational collaboration with academic institutions in Ukraine.

Recommendation # 2

That the Government of Saskatchewan promote a focus on increased value of language skills to prepare students for expanding international possibilities for work, study, and travel through the following actions:

- An action plan from the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Advanced Education, Employment and Labour regarding the MOI and the role of government in facilitating student exchanges, professional seminars, education initiatives, distance learning projects, and academic research with the appropriate authorities in Ukraine.
- Collaboration between Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Advanced Education, Employment and Labour to recommend a requirement for all undergraduate degrees to 12 credits of second language training, to better position graduates for more choices and options within the international and local job market.
- Provision by Ministry of Education through a Ministry Certificate or other type of recognition program to show support for language skills gained in all types of language programs (e.g., in school, after school, language camps, student exchanges or study abroad programs).
- That increased value for all languages be supported by the government through grants or programs which promote language study and exchanges for students and educators, in order to build multilingual capacity in the province.

Recommendation # 3

That the Government of Saskatchewan explore ways to build greater capacity for mutually beneficial career and employment development opportunities for citizens of Saskatchewan and Ukraine by the following actions:

- Consideration to the creation of a Saskatchewan-Ukraine (or particular Oblast) Government Internship (Exchange) Program for students in both countries pursuing international law, political

sciences, agriculture, health, energy, public administration, business management or other professions. This would mirror the parliamentary internship program.

- Establishing short-term post-secondary exchanges for community service placements, career mentorships, or professional internships (e.g., health, education, law, agriculture).
- Development of mechanisms to support digital delivery of educational courses, career-work education, or academic information be encouraged and supported by government ministries ('Saskatchewan-House' online educational repository).

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JUSTICE

BACKGROUND DISCUSSION:

Strengthening the Rule of Law in Ukraine continues to be a fundamental objective of Canada's support of Ukraine's efforts to enhance its economic and political system. This reflects the reality that a free market economy, sustainable economic development and democracy itself all require a justice system securely founded on the Rule of Law. Thus, whatever initiatives Saskatchewan may choose to implement in relation to Ukraine should always have or be coordinated with a relevant justice component. In addition to such a general Rule of Law context to initiatives from non-justice based programs, the Committee also recommends the following specific justice related initiatives for consideration of mutual benefit to both sides.

Recommendation # 4

That the Government of Saskatchewan establish a dialogue with the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine to assess specific justice initiatives that would be of joint benefit including the following potential collaboration initiatives:

- Maintenance and further development by Saskatchewan Justice of an ongoing relationship with the Ukrainian Ministry of Justice at the ministerial and deputy level.¹
- Support and participation by Saskatchewan Justice in ongoing Canadian-Ukrainian justice-related programs.
- Study of the feasibility of complementary legislation for establishing a state-to-state (state-to-province) protocol for the adoption of children, for the enforcement of matrimonial and spousal support payments, and in the matter of wills and estates.
- Development of a Ukraine-Saskatchewan online resource to advise Saskatchewan and Ukrainian companies on business-related legal matters in their respective countries.

¹ The dialogue between the Government of Saskatchewan and the Government of Ukraine has already been initiated at the level of Justice Ministers of Ukraine and Saskatchewan with a letter from the Justice Minister of Ukraine in response to an outreach initiated by the then Deputy Minister of Justice for Saskatchewan, Doug Moen, Q.C..

Recommendation # 5

That the Government of Saskatchewan support the establishment of a Ukrainian consular office in Saskatchewan, to generally promote cooperation between Saskatchewan and Ukraine and more immediately to assist businesses and private citizens with matters related to the ongoing immigration of skilled workers from Ukraine.

BACKGROUND DISCUSSION ON SASKATCHEWAN UKRAINE JUSTICE RELATIONS IN AREA OF EDUCATION:

The University of Saskatchewan has a rich tradition of collaboration and exchange with Ukrainian scholars and academic institutions and the Government of Saskatchewan, especially through the Department of Justice and the Courts of Saskatchewan, has supported justice related initiatives such as the Canada-Ukraine Judicial Cooperation project. As a result, Saskatchewan has already established a relationship with the appropriate Ukrainian partners. New initiatives should build on these relationships and, where possible, integrate the new initiative with existing programs.

The coming generations of Ukrainian legal scholars, teachers and practitioners will be instrumental in strengthening Ukraine's development of the institutional framework to support its constitutional democracy and the further development of the Rule of Law.

Recommendation # 6

That the Government of Saskatchewan open discussions with the University of Saskatchewan in order to encourage and support the development of the following:

- An institutional protocol between the College of Law and an appropriate Legal Institution in Ukraine. (Comment: possible institutional links could be with schools of law in Ivan Frankivsk, or Odessa or Kyiv as these are regions that Canada has already established a working relationship with justice-related bodies, such as the judiciary.)
- Support the establishment of a permanent faculty position within the College of Law, University of Saskatchewan, in comparative law with a focus on Canadian and Eastern European legal systems.
- Support the establishment of a targeted graduate scholarship at the University of Saskatchewan, to provide Ukrainian law students with opportunity to pursue post-graduate studies in law at the University of Saskatchewan.
- An English-Ukrainian language journal, jointly edited by the College of Law and the Kyiv City Court of Appeal, dedicated to the study of court administration. Some discussions have already proceeded in this regard.
- Provide financial support and support in kind to the University of Saskatchewan for the development of these initiatives.

Recommendation # 7

That the Government of Saskatchewan support in principle and designate a lead Provincial agency to participate in the conceptual development of an international cooperation project that assists Ukraine in fostering equitable and sustainable economic development through the strengthening of Ukraine's legal and regulatory framework for economic governance. Such a concept proposal would be cross-cutting in nature with

input from science and technology but with a definite emphasis on the legal contribution to improving Ukraine's business environment.

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AGRICULTURE, ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

BACKGROUND DISCUSSION:

- a) **Agriculture** – The Committee noted that the Province has a long-standing involvement with agricultural initiatives in Ukraine primarily through the Saskatchewan Trade Export Partnership beginning as early as 1992. The most recent CIDA-funded project focused on agri-business and extension/farm management development with tri-Province Prairie involvement will end in March, 2010.

Agri-business and farm machinery interests are relatively well established in Eastern Europe including Ukraine. Delegations from Russia, Kazakhstan and Ukraine are regular participants in the Western Farm Progress and Western Canadian Agribition shows. Western Canada and Saskatchewan in particular remain very strong technological innovators in conservation tillage that affords environmental, sustainable production and energy benefits with strong linkages to on-going climate change adaptation strategies. However, this is a strength that is largely unrecognized in the Ukrainian market place. Similarly, the comparative advantages of the Saskatchewan livestock and forage sectors have not gained much success in collaborative efforts. However, longer term strategic indicators for potential development in livestock and forage in Ukraine remain. Russia has recently entered into agreements with Canadian interests for expanded development cooperation on livestock production.

Current trends in the transition of the agriculture sector of Ukraine are towards increased scales of economy in production with the emergence of increasing numbers of mega-farm and corporate based farm units. Such trends pose significant challenges for poverty alleviation and rural area development in Ukraine. On the other hand, Western Canadian entities such as Viterra are entering the Ukrainian marketplace based on its high natural productivity endowment and significance for global food security and trading considerations.

The recent CUC Inc Symposium noted the challenges of integrating sustainable economic development in agriculture that balances competitive economic efficiency with sustainable sociological and environmental considerations. Emphasis was placed on the need for development of institutional policy development capacity and grassroots participation. Both a conviction and commitment was expressed at that Symposium respecting the potential for Universities to make a longer term strategic contribution in this field through collaborative research and student training.

As the report is presented, emerging initiatives are underway to facilitate closer Saskatchewan Ukraine academic partnerships as well as to identify a potential broad-based consortium approach to a CIDA funded cooperation project that addresses the challenges of sustainable economic development in rural areas of Ukraine.

- b) **Energy and Environmental Sustainability** – The energy sector remains highly problematic for Ukrainian policy makers. The Canadian presence in Ukraine’s energy field is relatively small although the Committee did not have time to undertake any detailed analysis of the extent or potential for mutually beneficial cooperation in energy. Saskatchewan has (through the University of Regina) renewed and strengthened formal ties between University based petroleum and gas expertise and the Ivano-Frankivsk Institute of Petroleum and Gas.

With respect to environmental sustainability, Ukraine has on-going and significant environmental issues around water management, land utilization, and pollution from various sources including agriculture. These have been the subject of international cooperation projects including the River Dnipro, Global Climate Change and water management. However, Canadian participation in these has been minor. Again, recognized centres of excellence such as the Prairie Adaptation Research Collaborative at the University of Regina expressed an interest in fostering closer partnerships with Ukrainian counterparts. One common issue around closer academic cooperation and joint research has been hampered by systemic inability to develop accurate and timely assessments of equivalency of university training and/or professional accreditation standards.

Recommendation # 8

That the Government of Saskatchewan support a proactive approach to continued development cooperation with Ukraine in the agriculture, energy and environmental sectors through the following actions:

- A letter of support to relevant Ministries in Ukraine promoting collaborative initiatives in agricultural research and training between Saskatchewan led and based academic interests pursuant to both the Saskatchewan MOU with Ukraine and the MOI with Chernivtsi Oblast.
- Endorsement of further work by the Committee on recommendations towards strengthened commercial ties in agriculture especially those that capture Saskatchewan strength in technological innovation and a knowledge based bio-economy.
- Government of Saskatchewan support in principle to emerging international development project concepts that address CIDA priorities for economic development and food security using consortium-based proponents. The Saskatchewan leadership in such concept development should be identified in the nearest future and might include the University of Saskatchewan, Saskatchewan Trade and Export Partnership (STEP), or CUC Inc although all parties could be included as participants.
- Government of Saskatchewan support in principle to longer term expanded cooperation on energy and environmental sustainability by its provincial agencies and direction to the Advisory Committee to develop recommendations on specific initiatives in this area.

HEALTH

BACKGROUND DISCUSSION:

The Committee noted current trends in health issues in Ukraine associated with lifestyles, approaches to medical care and government management of health care. The National Security Council of Ukraine reports a 6 million person reduction in population since 1991. A major contributor to population loss is the decline in birth rate and increased mortality. The health status of the nation has been characterized by significant prevalence of chronic and socially dangerous diseases. In addition, health care delivery continues to be hampered by bureaucratic duplication and inefficiencies.

The Committee felt that mutually beneficial cooperation between Saskatchewan and Ukraine was a viable priority based on historic program initiatives with Ukrainian counterparts, Saskatchewan success stories in technological innovation for first line medical delivery and speciality areas such as occupational health care. However, the Committee was concerned that a definite need existed to renew dialogue between parallel government health officials and to establish more current priority concerns from the Ukrainian perspective. The Committee also noted the relative dominant Canadian presence of other jurisdictions such as Alberta in the medical field in Ukraine. As in the areas of justice and agriculture, the Committee concurs that partnership initiatives in the learning and education areas offer a particularly effective venue for collaboration between Saskatchewan and Ukraine on health issues.

Finally, updates were provided to the Committee on the status of A/H1N1 pandemic and its management in Ukraine. The Committee noted and commends the Canada Ukraine Foundation (CUF) and the Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC) for their timely and viable responses to the pandemic situation. The Committee felt that no further recommendations to the Province are warranted at this time in respect of international cooperation on the A/H1N1 pandemic.

Recommendation # 9

That the Government of Saskatchewan establish a dialogue with the Ministry of Health of Ukraine to assess specific health initiatives that would be of joint benefit including the following potential collaboration initiatives:

- Confirmation of health as a specific priority and support by Saskatchewan Health along with Health Canada to Ukraine through World Health Organization initiatives
- Education training initiatives with Ukrainian counterparts including but not limited to:
 - Expansion of earlier provincial health initiatives in Saskatchewan Ukraine programs to address alcoholism, women's health and human trafficking
 - Use of "experimental learning" and internships through respective medical schools (a longer term side benefit would be better approaches to standardized testing between Saskatchewan and Ukraine for health professionals)
 - Use of international student exchange models such as those of the International Student Pharmaceutical Students Federation

- Capturing Saskatchewan-based expertise of champions such as Canada Centre for Health and Safety to develop occupational health and safety models
- International development programs dealing with healthy living as impacted by food safety and security
- Short term initiatives with Ukrainian partners that could be cost effectively delivered using tele-health (video conferencing) training between care workers in Saskatchewan and Ukraine. Such initiatives could study innovative approaches to medical clinics and delivery of first line emergency and street care including pilot demonstration of Saskatchewan success with “mobile health buses”.

Recommendation # 10

That the Government of Saskatchewan examine potential partnerships with neighbouring jurisdictions on health care initiatives including participation on an advisory Committee to a funded Chair of International Health established at Grant McEwen University.

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IMMIGRATION

The Committee reviewed in some detail with Provincial officials the projected labour supply needs for continued economic growth and development in the Province. It commends the Province on its positive and proactive approach to use of the immigrant nominee program to address labour shortages and the contribution of Ukrainian immigrants to this end. The Committee agreed that the new “wave” of immigrants will be positive for the multi-cultural fabric of Saskatchewan and continued growth of future Saskatchewan Ukraine relations. However, as in previous immigration waves, integration of new immigrants into the workplace and community is facing numerous challenges.

Recommendation # 11

That the Government of Saskatchewan through its Ministries of Education and Advanced Education, Employment and Labour consider the following initiatives to improve the efficacy and long-term stability of immigration from Ukraine to Saskatchewan in fulfilling its economic and social development needs:

- Improved communication to employers on nominee programs and availability of related support services
- Added emphasis and resources for English language training for new immigrants
- Acknowledgement of and provision of Departmental resources for longer term support to education needs of immigrant children in the school system beyond acquisition of English language skills
- Acknowledgement of community volunteer contributions to the integration of new immigrant families into society and dedication of resources to development of a “best practices” manual based on success stories of these community workers

- Dedicated commitment to the further study of the problem of human trafficking and appropriate government responses to social dysfunction amongst new immigrant communities

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GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

The Advisory Committee during its deliberations noted the mutual advantages to Saskatchewan by virtue of its relations and cooperative undertakings with Ukraine. In particular, the Committee noted the potential for deepening an appreciation of the multi-cultural fabric of our Province as well as making a positive contribution to its vibrant evolution into new and unique forms of social expression. Such opportunities include sports, the visual and performing arts amongst a few. Some initiatives and concerns that are worthy of further study and/or formal Government of Saskatchewan action and support include:

- Use of sport to promote and facilitate contact between Ukrainian Canadians and Ukrainian athletes. Particular sports of common interest might include soccer and hockey. A 2009 MOU in Kyiv was signed with regards to sport.
- Establishment of a “youth day” event in partnership with Ukrainian community organizations in Saskatchewan that creates a focus on youth and that might be tied to counterparts in Ukraine.
- Examination of genealogy as a venue for promoting a deeper understanding and appreciation of the historical background of Saskatchewan people and their roots in Ukraine
- Use of the Advisory Committee Website to promote cultural community interests such as Canada and Ukraine House at the 2010 Olympics
- Promotion of grass roots initiatives for community cooperation and liaison on international development projects such as the Saskatchewan Ukraine Network (SUN)

FUTURE WORKPLANS

The Committee will continue to monitor developments on recommendations for the subject areas of education, health, agriculture/energy/environment, justice, and immigration. With the current transition in the Presidency of Ukraine, the Committee will be monitoring and assessing implications of the recent elections for Saskatchewan Ukraine relations. A major task will be to re-establish primary contacts in respective Ministries of Ukraine once the transition happens.

The Province can expect to see some major thrusts on the international front by the Government of Canada that could involve participation by Provincial Government and/or provincially based entities. Further discussions directly with representatives of CIDA would be helpful to the Committee in follow-up recommendations on current concept proposals under development.

In the field of agriculture, the Committee feels a need to examine more closely the potential opportunities for bio-resource knowledge-based commercial development. A similar need exists to define common issues of interest around energy and environmental sustainability.

Community-based cultural development initiatives have not been examined in detail.

The Committee expects that there will be a new Ukrainian Ambassador to Canada in the near future and would like to invite him to a meeting at an appropriate time after his or her appointment.

As always, the Committee appreciates the opportunity to present the foregoing recommendations and to further undertake an examination of priority concerns that the Deputy Premier would so direct in respect of this report.

SASKATCHEWAN-UKRAINE RELATIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

LIST OF APPOINTED MEMBERS

David Dutchak

Saskatoon

President and CEO of MD Ambulance Care Ltd. Dave Dutchak was born and raised in Blaine Lake, Saskatchewan. He has been involved in EMS in Saskatoon since 1979. He is the past president of the Saskatoon Chamber of Commerce, the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce, and the Saskatchewan Emergency Medical Services Association (SEMSA). He is currently on the Board of Directors with Emergency Medical Services Chiefs of Canada (EMSCC), and is an appointed member of the University of Saskatchewan Senate. MD Ambulance is the only EMS service in Canada that staffs paramedics in emergency departments, Air Ambulance, ICU, CCU, correctional institutes, tactical paramedics with Saskatoon Police Services and mine sites such as Potash Corporation in Cory, Lanigan and Allan.

Dr. Natalia Khanenko-Friesen

Saskatoon

Dr. Natalia Khanenko-Friesen is an associate professor of Anthropology in the Department of Religion and Culture, at St. Thomas More College, University of Saskatchewan where in 2003 she established the Study Abroad Semester in Ukraine and directs the Prairie Centre for the Study of the Ukrainian Heritage. Prior to coming to Saskatchewan in 2001, she taught at the University of Alberta, University of Toronto and Harvard University. She holds a M.A. in Geography from Taras Shevchenko Kyiv National University and a Ph.D. in Anthropology and Ukrainian folklore from the University of Alberta. Dr. Khanenko-Friesen maintains an active research program and publishing record in both Canada and Ukraine.

Alicia Klopoushak, B.A., B.Ed.

Saskatoon

Alicia Klopoushak is a retired teacher of gifted learners in the Saskatoon Public School Division. She served on a variety of curriculum committees, special subject councils, the Superintendent's Advisory Committee for Gifted Education, and the K-8 Assessment Committee. She is currently president of the Olha Kobylanska Branch of the Ukrainian Women's Association of Canada (UWAC) at the Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral of the Holy Trinity in Saskatoon as well as a member of the provincial and national UWAC executives. She worked with the Ukrainian Canadian Congress to establish English-language learning classes for new immigrants. She is a member of the education sub-committee of the Saskatchewan Ukraine Relations Advisory Committee.

Gerald Luciuk, P. Ag., M.Sc.

Regina

As a senior executive and director in sustainable resource policy, science, international development and operational sectors of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (PFRA), Gerald Luciuk has extensive international project experience in Ukraine, China and Russia. He has served as a policy advisor to the Ministry of Agriculture in Ukraine and was active in the PFRA-Eastern Europe Bilateral Program. He has served as chair of the St. Peter Mohyla Ukrainian Institute, Holy Spirit Ukrainian Orthodox Parish in Regina and Ukrainian Orthodox Men's Club of Regina. He is currently a member of the national governing board of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada. Mr. Luciuk is a long-standing member of the Saskatchewan Institute of Agrologists and a vice-chair of the Canada-Ukraine Centre Inc.

Edward Lysyk

Regina

Lawyer Edward Lysyk has served as president of the Regina Homebuilders Association and director of the Saskatchewan Homebuilders Association and the New Home Warranty Association of Saskatchewan. He has been a member of the City of Regina Planning Commission and Regina Multicultural Centre Inc. and was a founding member of the Regina Ukrainian Dance Ensemble. He is the president of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC) Provincial Council and the Saskatchewan representative on the national board. Mr. Lysyk is the director of the Regina Affordable New Home Foundation, the Ukrainian Canadian Professional & Business Association and the Ukrainian National Federation, Regina Branch. He is the chair of the Regina UCC Immigration Committee and a programmer for CJTR's Muzyka Ukraine weekly radio show.

Fredrick D. (Rick) Mantey

Regina

Rick Mantey is the Saskatchewan Cabinet Secretary, Clerk of the Executive Council and Deputy Provincial Secretary. He served the governments of Manitoba and Ontario; including as special assistant to the Premier of Manitoba, executive assistant to the Minister without Portfolio (WCB Reform) and special advisor to the Cabinet Secretary. He provided expertise in government and federal-provincial relations in work undertaken by Manitoba in South Africa and Ukraine. Currently, he serves as a member and vice-chair of both the Saskatchewan Archives Board and the Board of Trustees of the Government House Foundation; and, is a guest lecturer at the universities of Manitoba and Regina.

Nadia Prokopchuk, B.Ed., M.Ed.

Saskatoon

Nadia Prokopchuk received her post-secondary education at the University of Saskatchewan. In 1979, she became the first Ukrainian bilingual program teacher in the province and worked with Saskatoon Catholic Schools as a language teacher, bilingual curriculum developer, Byzantine Rite religion consultant and public relations coordinator. In 2000 she became a language consultant for the Ministry of Education. She has been a member of the Saskatchewan Teachers of Ukrainian Special Subject Council, Metropolitan Sheptytsky Society of Saskatchewan, Ukrainian Canadian Congress, and the Government Advisory Committee for Saskatchewan-Ukraine Relations. Education projects and student exchanges have resulted in extensive work with language educators across Canada and in Ukraine. Her work with the Ministry now focuses on English as an Additional Language.

Gerald Seniuk

Regina

Retired Chief Judge Gerald Seniuk was appointed a Judge of the Provincial Court of Saskatchewan in 1977 and Chief Judge in 2001. He has served on provincial and national judicial organizations and executives and has contributed to judicial education programs provincially, nationally and internationally. He developed a program on Judicial Fact Finding that has been used by judicial educators in Canada and other Commonwealth countries and has been involved in furthering judicial independence both in Canada and internationally through his published articles, video productions and educational programs. Mr. Seniuk was a consultant for the Federal Commissioner for Judicial Affairs' Canada-Ukraine Judicial Independence project and has worked to improve access to court-related services through research and development. He received a "Nation Builder" Award from the Canadian Ukrainian Congress – Saskatchewan Branch in 2009.

James (Jim) Shevchuk

North Battleford

Jim Shevchuk is a lifetime member of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada. He grew up in Saskatoon's Ukrainian community, attending Ukrainian School, participating in Rushnychok and Pavlychenko Folklorique Ensemble dance groups, the church's Green Grove Camp and as a summer student at the Mohyla Institute. At the University of Saskatchewan he obtained his B.Ed., B.A., and M.A. in Ukrainian Educational History. His professional career has involved teaching in rural Saskatchewan – Landis, Hafford and North Battleford for the past 18 years – 12 as a principal. Mr. Shevchuk assists with various environmental organizations and Ukrainian Immigrant groups.

Mary-Anne Trischuk

Yorkton

Yorkton pharmacist Mary-Anne Trischuk is a member of the Pharmacists Association of Saskatchewan and College of Saskatchewan Pharmacists and a committee member of the Saskatchewan Pharmacy Museum Society. She has served on the University of Saskatchewan Senate, the university Alumni Association, and is the past president of the Canadian Federation of University Women. She works to develop and promote Ukrainian culture and heritage through dance. She has been a member of the local and provincial Ukrainian Women's Association. Ms. Trischuk participated in the planning of the Saskatchewan Summer Games, Saskatchewan 2005 Celebrations and the Yorkton 125 Sub commission. She fundraises for the local health region and is a board member of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress.