



R E P O R T O F T H E



SASKATCHEWAN UKRAINE RELATIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MARCH 2012

Dear Deputy Premier Krawetz:

It is my pleasure to send you the final report of the Saskatchewan Ukraine Relations Advisory Committee covering the period of our mandate from February, 2009 to February, 2012.

The report notes the extensive deliberations of the Committee that included input from community, government, and business related stakeholders. During this time we also have been privileged to participate in an official Provincial Government Mission to Ukraine and observe the workings of Saskatchewan Ukraine agreements first hand.

The Committee is appreciative of the resources granted to us in discharging our mandate. Our report notes the evolution of the political context of Saskatchewan Ukraine relations both historic and current. While the original 1995 Memorandum of Intent was signed in a time of great change, the present moment offers even a greater challenge to adapt to the geo-political realities of the 'new' Ukraine and to build upon the last 21 years of partnerships at various levels between Saskatchewan and Ukrainian interests.

We would emphasize the need to move beyond the recommendations of our first report and old mechanisms for cooperation with a "call to action" for both government and non-government entities to capture the benefits and opportunities in closer relations between Saskatchewan and Ukraine.

Our current report analyzes earlier recommendations and responses thereto. We note successes and further challenges going into the future. The next two to three years will represent a very difficult period for civil society and rule of law in Ukraine. The Committee nonetheless urges Saskatchewan to maintain a proactive approach in fostering relations with Ukraine at all levels. The historic experience and success of the Saskatchewan Ukraine relationship provides an important platform to continue the development of mutually beneficial business, social and academic exchanges.

Given the current complexities of Saskatchewan Ukraine relations, the Committee is recommending a renewed mandate for an advisory body to government. That mandate should include accountability for monitoring working agreements and implementation mechanisms for Saskatchewan Ukraine collaborative agreements. At the same time, further input should be sought from a broader base of interested stakeholders including health care professionals, employers of immigrants, Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce as well as liaison with interprovincial, national and international entities involved with Ukraine.

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 on February 25, 2009 for a three year term ending on February 25, 2012.

The purpose of the Advisory Committee was 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 (SURAC) addressed input from the Ukrainian community and broader public interests in various ways during its three year mandate. Members met 13 times in Committee for round table issue analysis and discussion. Outside external information and issues were provided from a number of public and community sources.

Over 18 individual submissions from various Federal and Provincial government officials, industry, academic institutions and community groups were heard by the Committee. In addition, community open houses were held in Yorkton and North Battleford. The Committee was privileged to meet with His Excellency, Dr. Ihor Ostash, Ambassador from Ukraine to Canada from 2008 to 2011. An official Government Mission to Ukraine in Fall 2010 included two members of the Advisory Committee. Representatives of SURAC participated as observers in the triennial meeting of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress in 2010.

The Committee tabled its first report with Deputy Premier Ken Krawetz in March 2010. A subsequent activity update was provided in 2011. The Committee addressed emerging topical issues in letters to the Government commenting on evolving political situation in Ukraine with the election of President Yanukovich in 2010 and most recently the upcoming Parliamentary elections in 2012.

In its first phase of work, the Committee reviewed its mandate from government along with existing formal agreements between Ukraine and Saskatchewan and focused on information collection through various presentations to the Committee. Based on the assessment of the issues of the day, the Committee completed its initial report to Government with 11 recommendations on five major areas of concern and opportunities for expanded cooperation of mutual benefit to Saskatchewan and Ukraine. The areas of focus included education; justice; agriculture, energy and environment; health and; immigration.

In the second phase of the Committee's work, the focus moved to emerging events in Ukraine with the election of a new president and a monitoring of the response from the Ukrainian community and government to the initial Committee. Representatives from the Committee were able to participate in the triennial meeting of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress. The Committee as a whole benefited

from a broader based sharing of experience on Ukraine relations through a meeting with our Alberta counterpart advisory committee to that Provincial government. In addition, representatives of the Committee participated in a Saskatchewan government mission to Ukraine led by the Honorable Ken Krawetz, Deputy Premier, accompanied by the Minister of Education, Donna Harpauer, and Deputy Minister Education, Audrey Roadhouse. That Mission had a broad scope and provided a firsthand opportunity to assess the progress in various agreements between the Saskatchewan government and Ukrainian counterparts. The Deputy Premier through close collaboration with the Canadian Embassy and the Department of Foreign Affairs was able to emphasize the historic significance of the Holodomor to Ukraine as well as to engage Ukrainian officials at multiple levels of government from the most senior positions in the national government down to Oblast (provincial) and municipal councils. In addition, the Mission took the opportunity to engage partners in discussion of operative agreements between the Province and Ukraine.

As the mandate of the Committee came to a close, the Committee has spent its last two meetings in a reassessment of our original recommendations, responses from Government, emerging initiatives between Saskatchewan and Ukrainian interests and the continuing evolution of political and economic circumstances in Ukraine. The following sections summarize our Committee consensus on current issues and implications for future relations between Saskatchewan and Ukraine.

ASSESSMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN UKRAINE RELATIONS AND PROGRESS DURING THE PERIOD 2009 TO 2012

1

Evolution of Saskatchewan Ukraine Relations and Current Political Economic Context

Ukraine remains very much a geopolitical priority in the context of Canadian foreign policy. Very serious civil liberties issues are emerging in Ukraine that represent a retreat from the heady idealism of the Orange Revolution and parallel trends towards democratic development in other parts of the world. Notwithstanding reversals in democratization, relations with Ukraine between Saskatchewan and Canadian stakeholders continue at various levels. At a national level, negotiations between Canada and Ukraine in the economic sphere are moving towards a free trade agreement. Political circumstances in Ukraine continue to force the national administration to maintain a balanced approach to international relations between Western Europe and other Former Soviet Union states more fully in the sphere of the influence of the Russia. However, with the election of a new Russian president, political observers fully expect much greater economic and political pressures from Russia to force Ukraine away from a European and Western orientation.

At the municipal and Oblast levels, regional Ukrainian entities remain very much interested in mutually beneficial initiatives between themselves and the Province. These include Oblast and municipal administrations as well as academic institutions.

Despite the economic slowdown in Ukraine since 2008 and current economic pressures, significant progress has been made in certain sectors. Agriculture has seen significant consolidation of farm entities and the removal of a multi-year moratorium on agricultural land sales can be expected to further impact that sector. Given the energy circumstances of Ukraine, a significant transition can be expected in how national policy and relations with international partners might affect energy related sectors.

While the de-democratization trends by national government forces are very troubling, the underlying body politic of Ukraine should not be underestimated. As one noted observer stated, 'the Ukraine of today is not that of 1991'. Nor is it the same Ukraine that signed the original Memorandum of Understanding between Saskatchewan and Ukraine.

2

Sectoral and Issue Analysis

a) Immigration

The Committee remains appreciative of the proactive and balanced approach by Saskatchewan in utilizing immigration as a mechanism to meet longer term economic development needs of the Province. The Saskatchewan Ministry of Advanced Education, Employment and Immigration has been very responsive to the Committee with senior executive officials appearing before the Advisory Committee on two occasions.

The Immigrant Nominee program has been successful in recruiting and retaining skill labour from various nations including Ukraine. Despite that success, challenges do remain as reflected in our original recommendations in ensuring the optimal integration of new arrivals into local communities and Saskatchewan society. Such issues are common to all new arrivals including those from Ukraine. Challenges include support programs to new immigrants, language training, unwieldy visa renewal documentation processes, lapses in health coverage during visa renewals, and, in some cases, discriminatory wage arrangements. Another concern is that of dysfunctional immigrant communities particularly in outlying areas with less access or benefit of either government support services and/or nongovernmental and ethnic support groups.

The Committee agrees that immigration will remain a major contributor to sustainable economic growth in Saskatchewan. This conclusion is echoed in pronouncements by Provincial and National Chambers of Commerce. However, further success of current Provincial immigration initiatives will face major challenges. These include:

- Potential impacts of upcoming changes to Federal immigration policies and diminished flexibility in nominee program
- Negative societal perceptions of immigration

The Committee firmly believes that Ukraine can continue to be a valuable source of economic immigration to our Province and that effort should be made to expand the contribution of the nominee program into other labour market sectors. The Ministry of Advanced Education, Employment and Immigration has engaged outside resources to assess immigration policies.

Such an approach might be beneficially applied to impact of Saskatchewan Ukraine relations in other areas such as health.

Some mechanisms noted by the Committee that could be beneficial to fully capturing the value of immigration from Ukraine include:

- Marketing scheme to enable immigration from Ukraine
- Expanding use of nominee program into other labour market sectors and facilitating such expansion through linked labour market opinions with neighboring jurisdictions such as Alberta and British Columbia
- Capturing experience in labour centres of province and explore more analysis and action groups in other jurisdictions
- Minimizing the potential for abuse of the current immigration system
- Proactive approaches to negative perceptions of immigration e.g. reinforcement of anti-racism programs bearing in mind that as a society in continuing transition we need to maintain appreciation of benefits of immigration and underlying multicultural principles (Committee members noted the complexity of these social questions and contrasting points of view which often view in-migration as a threat and see diversity as a negative factor)
- Seeking means to capture lessons learned and emerging issues common to all new immigrants to the Province

Committee members raised strong concerns about the need for vigilance and due diligence by Government to ensure that immigration programs protect recent economic arrivals from sexual and criminal exploitation.

International immigration all too frequently provides a cover for the human trafficking trade . Unfortunately, Ukraine's faltering economy over the past decade has contributed to this global problem. That contributing milieu can be and is replicated in Canada with localized economic dislocation and social dysfunction. Committee members commented anecdotally on the incidence of intravenous drug use and a thriving sex trade. All of these are the ingredients for a growing phenomenon in the abuse of people and HIV/AIDS. Members were concerned that young women and men of all immigrant/cultural groups coming to Canada - Saskatchewan could be falling into difficult situations. Some of these individuals could be readily caught up in a criminal element of a fast paced economy including sex trade workers, "Johns" and victims. This ugly face of immigration is a grim reality in urban centres as well as remote locales in Saskatchewan. The Committee saw the need for further research with Social Service resources of government to fully appreciate and remediate any current abuses in this regard as well as to understand the social dynamics around such social dysfunction.

The first report of the Committee noted somewhat briefly the impact of economic immigration to Saskatchewan. During the mandate of the Committee and from the foregoing, it is clear that this issue will continue to resonate with implications for Saskatchewan Ukraine relations.

One indicator of the prominence of this issue is the fact that the International Labour Centre from Kyiv (formerly known as the Kyiv Youth Labour Centre) has in the last 18 months opened an office in Saskatoon. Another opportunity for fostering positive employment experiences is the recently signed agreement on Youth Mobility between Canada and Ukraine. The foregoing both have the potential in a mutually beneficial way to expand the knowledge and appreciation in Ukraine of the very real people to people ties that are being forged by the immigration and employment phenomena.

The Committee wishes to reinforce the concern that changes to federal immigration policy can in various ways impact on the potential for Saskatchewan to continue the capture maximum value of immigration and especially Ukrainian immigration under its nominee program. Awareness on this front remains a challenge for the Provincial Government as well as the general Ukrainian community and its representative organizations such as the Saskatchewan Provincial Council Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC – SPC).

In 2011, Ukrainians in Canada and this Province noted the 120th anniversary of immigration from Ukraine to Canada and celebrated its significance in various ways. The 125th anniversary is anticipated to be an even higher profile and celebratory event. Indeed, this should be an event that bridges history with our current circumstances – a celebration of global success in economic achievement aided by the contribution of our forefathers along with that of modern day Ukrainian arrivals. The Committee senses that a real potential exists to create concrete learning for our Province in how to address immigration issues and integration into the Canadian economic and social mainstream. One specific output could be tool kit of best management practices learned over 125 years of experience of Ukrainian immigration.

b) Education

The first report of the Committee provided three recommendations concerning the role of education initiatives pursuant to the Saskatchewan Ukraine Memorandum of Understanding. The recommendations, in brief, suggested the following:

- i) Academic and professional initiatives to foster international partnerships for educational, socioeconomic, and cultural benefits through mechanisms such as reciprocal visits in education; a joint conference on topics of language standards and programming, approaches to childcare; and the establishment of a Chair of Ukrainian History at the University of Saskatchewan
- ii) Promotion of increased language skills that expand international opportunities for work, study, and travel through support to proactive linguistic training initiatives
- iii) Government initiatives to facilitate mutually beneficial career and employment development opportunities for citizens of Saskatchewan and Ukraine through the use of internship (exchange) programs for students in both countries; short-term post-secondary exchanges for community service placements and career mentorships, and; development of mechanisms to support digital delivery of educational courses, career-work education, or academic information

The response to these recommendations has been varied. The Committee followed up on its initial recommendations with a further assessment of education issues related to post secondary language and Ukrainian humanities studies. Meetings were convened with the Provost, College of Arts and Science and St. Thomas More College from the University of Saskatchewan. In addition, the Committee heard from other individuals working on aspects of curriculum development specifically as this topic related to the Holodomor and the World War I internment of Ukrainians. As well, a detailed report was presented by Dr. Khanenko-Friesen on the linguistic and cultural experience of the Ukrainian minority in Portugal, a Diaspora grouping second in size only to that of North America.

From a Government perspective, the earlier noted Provincial Government Mission to Ukraine in 2010 headed by Deputy Premier Krawetz had an extensive education component to it. The visit afforded an important opportunity to review programs under agreements for cooperation between various levels of government and institutions. The visit provided on a number of occasions, a vivid demonstration of the value and benefits attributed by Ukrainian officials and exchange students to the on-going cooperative initiatives in that country. In Saskatchewan, the long standing agreement for internship exchanges between the Ivano-Frankivsk National Oil and Gas Technical University and the University of Regina has been renewed and extended with the participation of Provincial, industry and respective University partners.

The Committee consensus is that Saskatchewan has historically achieved many successes in the area of linguistic and cultural education. Indeed, the Committee felt that other countries with significant emerging Ukrainian minorities could benefit from the Saskatchewan 'experience' in community self-initiative together with this country's multi-cultural and multi-lingual policies and programs. Portugal, in particular, is one of the jurisdictions which have demonstrated an interest and desire to learn more of the Saskatchewan experience with cultural and language programming.

The Committee was encouraged by the opportunity for an analysis of the challenges facing parallel Ukrainian minorities in other jurisdictions in comparison to the successes achieved in our Province over the past decades in cultural and language training initiatives. However, the Committee was disheartened to note significant declines in more recent years in Ukrainian language enrolments at both K-12 and post secondary levels. At the same time, the Committee sensed a distressing ambivalence from academic, community and government ministry levels to an appreciation of the power of cultural awareness and community linguistic capacity. The result has been a significant diminished training capacity at institutional levels and a lack of community organizational focus in this sphere. These trends fly in the face of recent outreaches to various countries for immigrant nominees and the potential benefits for increased immigration from Ukraine.

Indeed, the Committee fears that we are, as a whole, on the verge of creating "a generation of linguistic and cultural orphans" at a very time when education has become a key to global economic cooperation and a major potential enabler of culture and language in reinforcing healthy societal development. The challenge lies before all of us – society, academia and government.

The on-going success of current Saskatchewan-Ukraine education based collaboration will rapidly diminish if Saskatchewan based partner institutions do not have the student or trainer base capacity to sustain these agreements. This would be a loss to both Ukraine and Saskatchewan.

Several specific topic areas were identified for further consideration by Government and any future advisory Committee. These included:

- Reunification of families is posing a serious challenge to educational development of immigrant families
- Newly arrived families face significant psychological health issues both with parents and children. Consideration should be given to using technology (e.g. Skype) to enable counseling sessions for new immigrants with Ukraine based specialists

- Need to continue an information dialogue with St. Thomas More College concerning educational exchanges in Ukrainian studies, in particular, the short term extension of the Ternopil student exchange

The Committee was heartened to learn of the efforts in development of awareness materials about the Holodomor and the World War I Internment of Ukrainians for use in education programs. A challenge continues to ensure that Provincial Education Ministry officials remain aware of these external resources. Government is urged to find concrete means by which the Holodomor and Internment awareness issue and materials can be embedded into the school curricula. The Committee also encourages UCC-SPC and the Provincial Government to proactively seek out cooperative mechanisms for curriculum support material development.

c) Justice

The rule of law and fundamental justice remains a pervasive and compelling issue in Ukraine with implications for economic, educational and community relations between our two jurisdictions.

At the outset of the Committee mandate, some brief windows of opportunity existed for the Province through the participation of Saskatchewan Justice and the University of Saskatchewan's College of Law, to partner in immediate collaborative initiatives between Ukraine and Canada. Earlier projects benefitted greatly from the direct experience and input of Saskatchewan based judicial and legal expertise. The Canada Ukraine Legislative International Project was good case example of this. The Committee directed recommendations encouraging expansion of dialogue between Ukrainian, Provincial and University officials with the hope of building upon this previous expert experience.

In addition the Committee noted the potential for Saskatchewan leadership in the conceptual development of an international cooperation project that might foster strengthening of Ukraine's legal and regulatory framework for economic governance with attendant improvements in Ukraine's business environment.

Unfortunately, circumstances have been such that champions for projects could not be identified in the timeframes that existed for specific opportunities.

The Committee reiterates its earlier observations about the practical benefits of initiatives that strengthen complementary legislation for state-to-province protocols for the adoption of children, enforcement of matrimonial and spousal support obligations, and expediting settlements of wills and estates. It was felt that development of a Ukraine-Saskatchewan online resource could benefit Saskatchewan and Ukrainian companies on business-related legal matters in their respective countries.

The Committee continues to strongly support efforts by the Government of Saskatchewan in the establishment of a Ukrainian consular office in Saskatchewan that would generally promote cooperation between Saskatchewan and Ukraine and more immediately assist businesses and private citizens with matters related to the ongoing immigration of skilled workers from Ukraine.

At the present time, the pervasive and ominous political circumstances of Ukraine outlined in our introductory background analysis demand an overriding approach by the Province to Saskatchewan Ukraine relations in justice matters. Very real abuses by the national government have challenged the rule of law and]the earlier progress made in civil society and governance

in Ukraine. At the present moment any initiatives in promotion of rule of law must be measured against opposing tendencies in government structures.

One very important factor in the potential directions of governance will rest with the outcome of the elections to the Ukrainian Parliament in October, 2012. Ukraine is caught in the economic and political cross winds of competing forces between Western Europe and Russia. Support to transparent electoral processes has been immensely important in past presidential and parliamentary elections in Ukraine. The Committee once again endorses the value of the contribution by the Ukrainian community at large and by Government agencies in supporting Ukrainian citizens in ensuring that their vote matters. Ukrainian voters must not lose hope in the power of democratic processes to overcome oligarchic and non-transparent business processes that continue to negatively concentrate wealth and directly pirate the economic resources of the Ukraine.

The short term priorities and strategic approaches are clear:

- Undertake concrete support to international programs for fair and transparent elections in Ukraine
- Cautious and considered approach to legal initiatives insofar as they might be practically counteracted by current political directions
- Understanding that current political circumstances may require short term economic relations to be put on hold resulting in delays in benefits from free trade agreements and economic partnership with European Union
- Focus on collaboration should instead be on maintaining a “patient presence” that builds individual and institutional networks

In the medium term some specific opportunities for advancing Saskatchewan Ukraine relations include:

- Engaging private sector through internships with legal firms
- Capturing Saskatchewan strengths in digital management of legal documentation including vital statistics and land titling (that latter being of current importance with respect to the removal of moratorium on agricultural land sales)
- Enabling Saskatchewan based police training expertise at Regina depot
- Human trafficking and policing are social issues that should be considered in context of justice

d) Health

The Committee reaffirmed its concerns about current trends in health issues in Ukraine associated with lifestyles. The health status of the nation remains 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 remains of the opinion that mutually beneficial cooperation between Saskatchewan and Ukraine is a viable priority based on historic program initiatives with Ukrainian counterparts. The recent experience with pandemic threats and increase of socially transmitted disease such as HIV reinforce the rationale for global action on such health issues. Discussions with officials and advisory groups from other Provincial jurisdictions also support the rationale for and have identified potential opportunities to participate in international initiatives in health. Our more recent discussions revealed that health professionals

in Saskatchewan (for instance at the University of Saskatchewan) are well positioned with mechanisms to ensure cross disciplinary liaison on global health related issues.

Accordingly, the Committee reiterates its earlier recommendation that the Government of Saskatchewan establish a dialogue with the Health Ministry of Ukraine to examine the potential of sharing Saskatchewan experience in health care. Specific opportunities are available to pursue inter-jurisdictional partnerships in concert with international health organizations on global concerns such as HIV.

Members of the Committee also suggested practical opportunities and benefits from renewed cooperation between Ukraine and Saskatchewan in health care. Some of the points noted include:

- Potential to capture the international experience of SIAST in Ukraine in facilitating enhanced ambulance services and paramedic training.
- Exchanges of practical technology could include the industry acknowledged success of the “Health Bus “, a partnership between MD Ambulance and the Saskatoon Health Region Pursing Community, in facilitating timely and effective outreach medical care into rural communities.
- Nursing programs for English language development and upgraded training of nurses and LPN care givers in Ukraine who would potentially be long term residents in rural areas with demand for such medical care professionals
- Potential benefit of developing protocols for information sharing and examination of policy responses developed in Alberta that deal with human trafficking

e) Agriculture, Energy and Environment

The first report of the Committee sought a proactive indication of Provincial support for increased cooperation between Saskatchewan and Ukraine on agriculture, energy and environment. The Committee did not receive any direct response of engagement from related Ministries in Government. The Ministry of Environment felt that there were relatively few common interests between Saskatchewan and Ukraine based on a comparison of the natural resource circumstances of our respective jurisdictions. However, the Provincial Ministry of Advanced Education, Immigration and Employment has been supportive of non-governmental entities such as the University of Saskatchewan, University of Regina, Canada Ukraine Centre Inc, Saskatchewan Trade Export Partnership and the Ukrainian Canadian Congress in their effort to further technology and training collaboration with Ukrainian counterparts.

i) Agriculture

While agriculture based trade with Ukraine has diminished in recent years, the sector is undergoing a significant transition and one that is somewhat less impacted by the political turmoil of the nation. A major transformative factor will be the removal of the decade long moratorium on private sales of agricultural land. The international agricultural industry presence in Ukraine has become very much more prominent in recent years. In particular, anecdotal experience shows strong potential for extension of Western Canadian technical expertise to Ukraine in grain handling and storage. Saskatchewan and Prairie based companies such as Viterra and AgGrowth International have established a direct presence in Ukraine in recent time.

The Deputy Premier led Saskatchewan Government Mission of 2010 to Ukraine was instrumental in finalizing an agreement with the Zhytomyr Oblast that included a significant focus on agricultural exchange and cooperation.

A Consortium of Western Canadian faculties of agriculture and the Canada Ukraine Centre Inc have recently concluded a second Mission to Ukraine with a strong interest demonstrated by Ukrainian partners for developing proactive cooperative arrangements in agricultural research and training.

However, such initiatives face strong competing pressures for internal resources within each University from other global targets such as India and China. Promotion of commercial and academic cooperation in agriculture will require some proactive focus and additional resources. A further discussion follows later in our report that suggests some means of achieving strong promotion and coordination of agricultural cooperation.

ii) Energy

The one major initiative in recent time in the energy sector has been the internship exchange program involving industry partners, Saskatchewan Advanced Education, Employment and Immigration, University of Regina, Ivano-Frankivsk State Technical University of Oil and Gas and UCC – Regina Council. It remains as a success story in broad based partnerships that can very effectively build networks between Ukrainian and Saskatchewan institutions.

That partnership has been renewed and extended in the past three years. However, it does continue to face administrative challenges. As well, the Ukrainian partners would like to see it grow beyond the current short term internship into longer term research and collaborative projects.

It was interesting to note that while Ukraine's political crisis has involved pivotal issues around natural gas dependency on Russia, other former nations of the East Bloc have undertaken industry partnerships for new technological innovations in gas field development and non-conventional gas extraction. The former Premier of Alberta, the Honorable Ed Stelmach, in a recent visit to Ukraine challenged stakeholders with respect to new technologies and suggested that Ukraine could readily become self sufficient in natural gas based on methane and shale gas extraction.

Certainly, such pronouncements suggest to the Committee the value of the current internship program with the Ivano-Frankivsk Oil and Gas University and the opportunity to expand this network.

iii) Environment

Ukraine faces many environmental challenges – agricultural land degradation, industrial pollution, Chernobyl clean up, climate change and variability, flooding, and major river clean up. Canadian partnerships with Ukraine on environmental issues have been of a relatively minor nature. The Committee analysis of these issues has been relatively cursory.

It is encouraging to note that a recent meeting of interested parties at the University of Saskatchewan identified several post graduate students from Ukraine specifically studying

environmental sustainability. The same discussions also noted the potential for comparative studies in biosphere designation and protection. Particular areas of interest included the Redberry Lake UNESCO designated preserve along with Askania Nova in Ukraine, an internationally designated natural grassland steppe preserve.

The Governor of Chernivtsi Oblast in Ukraine has specifically noted an interest in pursuing Saskatchewan experience in crisis flood management and water management issues in that Oblast.

3

Challenges of Current Agreements on Cooperation with Ukraine

The Committee reviewed a number of current agreements for cooperation between Saskatchewan and Ukrainian entities.

a) Zhytomyr Oblast MOU

The Committee was apprised that this agreement expires in 2014 and is managed by the Saskatchewan Trade Export Partnership. Further information is required to assess potential directions of the agreement as well as general trends in export and trade relations between Saskatchewan and Ukraine in general. As with other agreements discussed later, the Committee was concerned about the lack of a single focal point for agreements related to Ukraine.

b) 1995 Memorandum of Understanding between Saskatchewan and Ukraine

The formal position of Saskatchewan Intergovernmental officials is the 1995 MOU can be considered complete even though no termination date was ever established in the formal agreement. The Committee feels that many issue areas remain valid and that there are outstanding action steps that cannot be left to a single government entity.

The focus of follow up to the 1995 MOU should be on agreements and arrangements with Oblasts which should include substantive undertakings that represent unfinished business from the original master agreement. The Committee concurred that it would be unrealistic to pursue a renewal of the agreement formally between the Government of Ukraine and Saskatchewan. However, it would be useful to identify some agreement in principle as acknowledgement by the national government of Ukraine in respect of various cooperative arrangements with the Province of Saskatchewan.

Going forward, the Committee is concerned that the Province develops a coherent approach for the identification of priority Oblasts for future cooperative efforts. Currently agreements exist with Zhytomyr and Chernivtsi Oblasts. A number of other regional jurisdictions such as Lviv, Ternopil and Ivano-Frankivsk Oblasts together with the City of Lviv present interesting opportunities for strategic cooperation.

c) Memorandum of Intent between Chernivtsi Oblast and Province of Saskatchewan

The Memorandum referenced sectors such as energy, agriculture and local economic development. Some of the envisioned areas of cooperation were addressed through initiatives completed at a national level through various development initiatives.

Other initiatives have been undertaken at the Oblast level. In this regard, particular note should be made of the education field. Local community organizations such as the UCC-SPC historically also undertook efforts to establish a local representative presence in Chernivtsi and to promote local economic development.

d) Subsidiary Agreement with Chernivtsi Oblast on Education

The Subsidiary Agreement committed to a further program of high school exchanges with lesser emphasis on curriculum related development. The agreement also facilitated a Hnatyshyn Centre conference on immigration led by the Prairie Centre for Ukrainian Heritage. This Agreement expires in 2012.

Unfortunately, while the potential exists for mutually beneficial joint educational development, such efforts will be constrained by the current expiry date. The Committee further noted complications created by the lack of designation of responsibility centres for implementation of the points of agreement. Future agreements must clarify accountabilities and provide for mechanism for liaison between Ministry of Education and local school district involvement in various project activities. Agreements should also ensure sustainability and capacity to deliver both in terms of resources and accountability at appropriate levels.

e) Agreement of Cooperation between Ternopil Oblast St. Thomas More College and University of Saskatchewan

This working agreement has expired in 2011. It was very successful from a student perspective and fostered meaningful and direct people to people connections. The future directions of the agreement are very dependent on the issue of Ukrainian language enrolment and a properly resourced Chair of Ukrainian Studies. As noted in the section on education, the Committee has extensively reviewed and discussed this issue with the University. Unfortunately, the entire direction of language studies has diminished to the point where only 4 % of the student population has interest in any language opportunities on campus. The Committee is fully sympathetic to the advantages of the Ternopil agreement and its potential benefits. However, its renewal and sustenance will require 'grassroots' champions.

f) Summary Observations

The Committee review of historic cooperation agreements attests to the vitality of ongoing contacts that have been formalized at various points in time between Saskatchewan and Ukraine. While the primary Committee focus was on thematic areas of cooperation and mutually beneficial collaboration, our brief review of cooperation agreements confirms a need for further strategic evaluation of implementation mechanisms.

Such an evaluation must begin with a framework approach that replaces the 1995 Memorandum between Ukraine and Saskatchewan. It must then deal with a mechanism for coherent management and oversight of agreements currently in force, strategy for those that are about to expire, and development of targets for future strategic relationships.

4

Our Business Connections

The Committee noted that currently Saskatchewan is a major economic beneficiary of Ukraine in terms of immigrant employee contribution from that country. Indeed, our formal relations should acknowledge that fact in terms of some conceptual basis whereby we “payback” labour donor jurisdictions.

The Committee strongly concurred that the future of Saskatchewan Ukraine relations in the long term will increasingly be based on the contribution from business and economic interest groups. To that end, the Committee encourages the Provincial Government to consider strategic approaches to our relations with Ukraine that acknowledge the importance of business relationships. We need to be game ready and ensure that all possible synergies are fostered between industry groups whether these are manufacturing, information technology, tourism or European trade related.

The Committee noted that innovative means should be sought to develop a cost effective Saskatchewan House or Western Canada House presence in Ukraine that would provide a dedicated resource capacity on the ground. Such a presence could be locally employed with costs shared between government, industry and local community.

A further step to this business development would be to recreate and restructure the 1995 MOU with Ukraine in 2012 language focused on priority Oblasts and local municipal levels.

The Committee felt that strategic planning in this regard should incorporate the input of local and national Chambers of Commerce. There should also be a capacity for research and support resources.

5

Looking to the Future

The Committee in summary felt that the next two to three years will represent a very challenging period for civil society and rule of law in Ukraine. Notwithstanding the societal and economic challenges, the common wisdom is that Canada must continue its efforts in fostering relations with Ukraine at all levels. To that end, the historic experience and success of the Saskatchewan Ukraine relationship provides an important platform to continue the development of mutually beneficial business, social and academic exchanges.

The Committee felt that both the Provincial Government and non-government bodies need to move from analysis and development to more proactive action status. Indeed, the observations and recommendations of this report should be heeded as a call to action. Leadership by government will require the attention of Ministers and Deputy Ministers.

The Committee felt that our relations with Ukraine given the current circumstances and potential for further positive evolution do require mechanisms for a standing watch on progress and outcomes. To that end, the Committee recommends a renewed mandate for an advisory body to government.

That mandate should include accountability for monitoring working agreements and implementation mechanisms for Saskatchewan Ukraine collaborative agreements. While the focus should be on action, further input should be sought from a broader base of interested stakeholders including health care professionals, employers of immigrants, Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce as well as liaison with interprovincial, national and international entities involved with Ukraine.

Finally, any future advisory group should be afforded access to resources that enable research and analysis of specific issues.

APPENDIX A: LIST OF APPOINTED MEMBERS TO SASKATCHEWAN-UKRAINE RELATIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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 past-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 and Clerk of the Executive Council. He served the governments of Manitoba and Ontario; including as special assistant to the Premier of Manitoba, executive assistant to the Minister without Portfolio (WCBReform) 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, Immigration, and Heritage Languages.

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. Currently he works as a Superintendent with the Living Sky School Division. 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.

APPENDIX B: INDIVIDUAL PRESENTATIONS AND SUBMISSIONS TO COMMITTEE (in alphabetical order)

1. Advisory Council on Alberta Ukraine Relations – led by Co-chairs and Members of Alberta Legislative Assembly, Genia Leskiw and Gene Zwozdecky reported on sector analysis and Alberta based cooperation activities in Ukraine.
2. The Honourable Senator Raynell Andreychuk – reported on Senate Committee analysis of Canada Ukraine relations and initial recommendations of SURAC.
3. Tony Baumgartner, Vice President Sector Development, Enterprise Saskatchewan reported on emerging business opportunities in Saskatchewan and the implications of labour supply for competitiveness of Saskatchewan-based commerce
4. Marc Yves Bertin, Director, Europe Division, CIDA and Gina Watson, Ukraine Country Program Manager, CIDA by teleconference provided updates on CIDA program directions
5. Larissa Blavatska, Program Officer, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade by teleconference provided background 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
6. Brett Fairbairn, Provost and VP Academic, University of Saskatchewan and Angela Ward, Vice-Provost Teaching and Learning, University of Saskatchewan, provided general background on University programs in languages and history as well as management of international agreements.
7. Boris Kishchuk, Chair of Canada Ukraine Centre Inc (CUC Inc) reported on the goals and recent activities of CUC Inc in promotion of mutually advantageous science and technology collaboration with Ukrainian and Canadian partners
8. The Honourable Ken Krawetz, Deputy Premier and Minister of Finance, met formally with the Committee to discuss initial report and subsequent follow up activities.
9. Chantal Labelle, Program Officer, Canadian International Development Agency , reported by teleconference on two occasions concerning CIDA Canada-Ukraine program initiatives and the country programming policy framework for Ukraine
10. Fredrick D. (Rick) Mantey, Deputy Provincial Secretary, Office of the Provincial Secretary formally reported on Saskatchewan Ukraine activities and earlier outcomes of Provincial Government mission to Ukraine and the completed Memorandum of Intent (MOI) on Education between Saskatchewan and Chernivtsi Oblast
11. Iryna Matsyuk, International Labour Centre outlined structure and programs of newly established labour centre office in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan and its affiliation with parent office in Kyiv, Ukraine.
12. His Excellency Dr. Ihor Ostash, Ambassador of Ukraine in Canada reviewed status of Ukraine Canada relations and potential priorities for Ukraine Saskatchewan cooperation

13. Rupen Pandya, Assistant Deputy Minister, Advanced Education, Employment and Labour in two meetings in 2009 and 2011 provided detailed background on Saskatchewan programs for foreign nominee employment immigration and projected labour supply demands for the Province
14. Carl Still, Dean, St. Thomas More College and Patti McDougall, Associate Dean, St. Thomas More College provided information on Ukrainian heritage studies at their College and academic agreements with Ukraine.
15. Ukrainian Canadian Foundation of Taras Shevchenko – a joint meeting between the Foundation Board of Directors and SURAC outlined activity priorities and funding approaches by the Shevchenko Foundation.
16. Ukrainian Canadian Congress – Saskatchewan Provincial Council represented by Danylo Puderak, Executive Director, reported on formal response by UCC- SPC to initial recommendations of SURAC and emerging concerns of Ukrainian community of Saskatchewan.
17. Jeremy Wallace, Deputy Director, Europe and Central Asia Relations, DFAIT, by teleconference provided a year end update on Canada Ukraine issues.
18. Angela Ward, Vice-Provost, Teaching and Learning, David J. Parkinson, Vice-Dean, Humanities and Fine Arts, College of Arts & Science, and Tom Wishart, Special Advisor on International Initiatives in a second meeting with the University of Saskatchewan elaborated on details of University structure, approaches to linguistics and history studies as well as international program directions.
19. Malcolm Wilson, Ph.D., Director, Office of Energy and Environment, University of Regina reported on progress in internship program with University of Regina and Ivano-Frankivsk University of Oil and Gas along with general issues with energy sector.