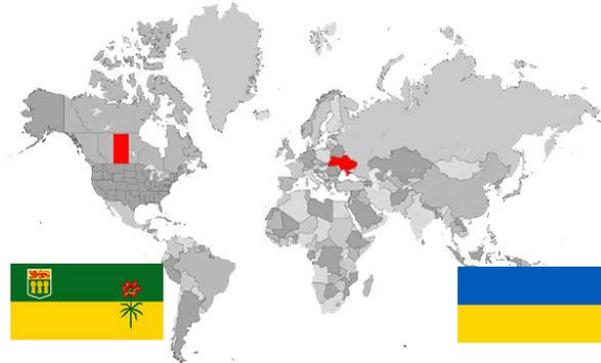# Saskatchewan-Ukraine Relations

Ukraine Profile

Capital: Kyiv

Population: 43,922,939 (July 2020 est.)

Geography: 603,550 sq. km. Slightly smaller than Saskatchewan in size, Ukraine is the second-largest country in Europe, after Russia, and is strategically located at the crossroads between Europe and Asia.

Languages: Ukrainian (official); Russian, Tatar, Moldovan/Romanian and Hungarian (regional languages).

Government: Semi-Presidential Republic

Head of State: President Volodymyr Zelensky

Currency: Hryvnia (UAH), $1 CAD = 20.8 UAH (Sept 2020)

GDP, purchasing power parity (in current international dollars): $409 billion (2019)

GDP, per capita (in current international dollars): $9,775 (2019)

Agriculture products: grain (wheat, corn, barley, rye), oilseeds (sunflower, soy, canola), sugar beets, vegetables, poultry and dairy.

Industries: coal, electric power, ferrous and nonferrous metals, machinery and transport equipment, chemicals and food processing.

Relationship Overview

- On December 2, 1991, Canada became the first western country to recognize Ukraine's independence.
- Saskatchewan was the first Canadian province to sign an agreement with the Government of Ukraine in the post-Soviet Union environment.
- Since 1990, Saskatchewan has signed a number of agreements with Ukraine to promote educational, cultural, agricultural and economic collaboration.
- The City of Saskatoon has been twinned with the City of Chernivtsi since 1991.
- In 2008, Saskatchewan's Legislative Assembly unanimously passed legislation to designate the fourth Saturday in November each year as The Ukrainian Famine and Genocide (Holodomor) Memorial Day. Saskatchewan was the first jurisdiction in North America to recognize this man-made famine that devastated Ukraine during the 1930s.
- In May 2015, a Holodomor monument was unveiled in Regina's Wascana Centre. The monument is dedicated to the memory of the children who perished from starvation and is intended to foster greater awareness of the Holodomor.
- The Government of Saskatchewan proclaimed 2016 as the Year of Saskatchewan Ukrainians to acknowledge the 125th anniversary of the first wave of Ukrainian immigration to Canada and Saskatchewan.

Saskatchewan

- The Government of Saskatchewan has provided a total of CA$85,000 in financial support towards humanitarian projects in Ukraine:
  - CA$25,000 in 2015 supported the donation of four ambulances to help care for the victims of the conflict in the eastern part of the country. Saskatchewan's donation was followed by an additional 10 ambulances donated from across Canada. The project was championed by the Saskatchewan-Ukraine Relations Advisory Committee (SURAC); and,
  - CA$60,000 in 2014 to buy medical supplies for Euromaidan victims.
- In 2016, Saskatchewan hosted the XXV Triennial Congress of Ukrainian Canadians in Regina. Over 250 delegates participated in discussions that set the agenda and priorities for the Ukrainian Canadian community for the next three years.

Ukrainian Community in Saskatchewan

- Saskatchewan's longstanding interest in Ukraine flows from the presence of a large, organized Ukrainian ethnic community.
- According to the 2016 census, 13.4 per cent of Saskatchewan's population trace all or part of their ancestry to Ukraine.
- Ukraine is currently the sixth-largest source of immigrants to the province. Between 2007 and 2019, over 4,356 new permanent residents from Ukraine landed in Saskatchewan.
- The majority of those arriving were nominees of the Saskatchewan Immigrant Nominee Program (90 per cent).
- Since 2007, nearly 2,500 Ukrainian citizens received temporary work permits allowing them to work in Saskatchewan.
- Many members of Saskatchewan's Ukrainian community have played prominent roles in the history and governance of our province and nation. Among the proud contributors to Saskatchewan (and Canada) are the former Premier of Saskatchewan Roy Romanow; former Saskatchewan Deputy Premier Ken Krawetz; former Lieutenant Governors of Saskatchewan Sylvia Fedoruk and Stephen Worobetz; former Governor General of Canada Ramon Hnatyshyn (whose father John was Canada's first Ukrainian-born Senator); former Chief Justice of Saskatchewan Edward Bayda; and former Canadian Senators Raynell Andreychuk and Paul Yuzyk.
- The Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC) is an umbrella organization that encompasses most Ukrainian associations in Canada. The UCC-Saskatchewan Provincial Council supports the Saskatchewan Ukrainian community in promoting its Ukrainian Canadian identity, culture and aspirations. There are over 160 member organizations in the UCC-Saskatchewan Provincial Council.
- SURAC works to explore and promote relations between Saskatchewan and Ukraine. The committee was formed in 1993.

Trade

- Saskatchewan exports to Ukraine increased 29 per cent from 2018 to CA$2.5 million and consisted primarily of weighing machinery and agricultural equipment and parts.
- Most of Saskatchewan's imports from Ukraine (CA$1.3 million in 2019) were iron and steel products, and electrical machinery and equipment.
- Ukraine has been a member of the World Trade Organization since May 2008.
- In 2019, Ukraine's major trading partners were China, Russia, Germany and Poland, followed by other European Union markets.
- In 2014, Ukraine signed an European Union (EU) Association Agreement – a treaty between the EU and a non-EU country. The agreement includes a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area, which provides Ukraine access to the European single market in select sectors and grants investors in those sectors the same regulatory environment as in the EU, promotes deeper political ties, stronger economic linkages and respect for common values between Ukraine and the EU.
- On August 1, 2017, the Canada-Ukraine Free Trade Agreement (CUFTA) entered into force, immediately eliminating tariffs on 86 per cent of Canadian exports to Ukraine. The CUFTA will be fully implemented by 2024 and is expected to generate commercial benefits for Saskatchewan exporters of beef, pork, pulses, grains, canola oil, processed

foods, animal feed, iron and steel, and industrial machinery.

Agriculture

- Ukraine has about 25 per cent of the world's black soil, which is very rich in nutrients.
- With 41.5 million hectares of agricultural land covering 70 per cent of the country, Ukraine counts agriculture as its largest export industry.
- In 2019, Ukraine's agricultural exports exceeded CA$26 billion.
- In 2019, Ukraine was the world-largest sunflower oil exporter, second-largest grain exporter, fourth-largest corn, barley and honey exporter, fifth-largest wheat exporter, and seventh-largest soybean and poultry meat exporter.
- Ukraine has significant agricultural potential; however, this potential has not been fully realized due to the insufficient application of fertilizers and crop protection products, and lack of modern machinery in the fields.

Energy

- Ukraine's economy is one of the most energy-intensive in Europe. Restructuring and upgrading its energy sector continues to be one of the key development challenges for the government.
- Ukraine's current energy mix relies heavily on fossil and nuclear fuels, which together comprise over 90 per cent of the country's energy supply.
- In 2018,[1] Ukraine's electricity generation mix consisted of nuclear (53 per cent), thermal (37 per cent), hydro (8 per cent), and renewable energy (2 per cent).
- Currently, Ukraine has 15 nuclear reactors. The country's goal is to increase its nuclear energy capacity by 2030, which includes the commissioning of new nuclear power and exploring the use of small modular reactors (SMRs) to ensure the country's energy security.
- Ukraine is looking to the West for technological expertise, and Saskatchewan, with the world's largest high-grade uranium deposits, is perfectly positioned to assist.
- In 2019, Saskatchewan-based Cameco signed an agreement with Ukraine's Energoatom to explore the supply and production of uranium products and nuclear fuel using Cameco's technologies.
- Ukraine contains the seventh-largest recoverable coal reserves in the world; however, the occupation of the Donbass region, an important coal mining area, has resulted in an abrupt and irreversible decline in domestic coal mining and new energy security threats.
- Ukraine also ranks second in Europe for gas reserves. The Ukrainian oil and gas industry can benefit from Saskatchewan's expertise in utilizing new enhancement technologies.

Education

- In 1977, the first formal agreement between a North American university and a Ukrainian university was signed. The signing parties were the University of Saskatchewan and the State University of Chernivtsi.
- Over the years the province has entered into a number of agreements with Ukraine in various areas including student exchange, academic cooperation and research collaboration.
- The most recent agreement is a five-year Memorandum of Understanding between St. Thomas More College, the University of Saskatchewan and the Volodymyr Hnatiuk Ternopil National Pedagogical University focused on an intensive language and cultural immersion program in Ukraine.
- Created in 1998, the Prairie Centre for the Study of Ukrainian Heritage serves as an institutional anchor for Ukrainian studies and student activity on the University of Saskatchewan campus.
- In 2005, Chernivtsi National University, supported by the University of Saskatchewan, established the Ramon Hnatyshyn Canadian Studies Centre, which focuses on academic research and courses in international relations, political science, history, sociology, economics, law and related area studies. The Saskatchewan government contributed CA$50,000 to this center.
- In the 2018-19 academic year, 38 students from Ukraine were enrolled in Saskatchewan post-secondary institutions, while five Saskatchewan students participated in study abroad programs in Ukraine.[2]

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[1] Most recent data available.

[2] Most recent data available.

Saskatchewan's Recent Engagement with Ukraine

- October 2020 – Oleksandr Danyleiko, Consul General of Ukraine in Edmonton, visited Saskatchewan for the first time.
- February 2019 – Roman Waschuk, Canadian Ambassador to Ukraine visited Saskatchewan as part of a CUFTA promotion mission.
- June 2017 – Andrii Veselovskyi, Consul General of Ukraine in Toronto met with SURAC.
- September 2016 – Ambassador Andriy Shevchenko; Stepan Kubiv, First Deputy Prime Minister of Ukraine; and Vadym Prystaiko, then Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, participated in the XXV Triennial Congress of Ukrainian Canadians in Regina.
- June 2016 – Ambassador Shevchenko conducted his first official visit to Saskatchewan.
- May 2014 – Vadym Prystaiko, then Ambassador of Ukraine to Canada, visited Saskatchewan for the second time.
- June 2013 – Former Saskatchewan Deputy Premier Ken Krawetz led a mission to Ukraine. Similar missions led by the then Deputy Premier took place in September 2010 and October 2008.
- March 2013 – Then Ambassador Prystaiko paid an official visit to Saskatchewan.

Diplomatic Representation

- The current Ukrainian Ambassador to Canada is Andriy Shevchenko.
- The Canadian Ambassador to Ukraine is Larisa Galadza.
- The Consul General of Ukraine in Toronto is Oleksandr Shevchenko.
- The Consul General of Ukraine in Edmonton, with jurisdiction over Saskatchewan, is Oleksandr Danyleiko.