

# IVANO-FRANKIVSK - ALBERTA RELATIONS



## PROFILE

**Area:** 13,900 km<sup>2</sup> (2.3% of Ukrainian territory)

**Capital:** Ivano-Frankivsk City (pop. 237,000)

**Population:** 1,460,600 (2.9 % of Ukrainian pop.)

**Language:** Ukrainian

**Government:** Appointed Regional Administration and elected Regional Council (Rada)

**Head of Oblast (Appointed):**  
Chairman Roman Tkach

**Head of Rada (Elected):** Chairman Vasyl Brus

**Currency:** Hryvnia,  
\$1CDN = 4.16 UAH (August 2005)

**Key Industry Sectors:** fertilizer, petrochemicals, food processing, timber, machine building, and mining.

## RELATIONSHIP OVERVIEW

- Alberta has strong ethnic and cultural ties to Ukraine, particularly in the western Oblasts, with nearly 10% of Albertans (300,000) claiming Ukrainian ancestry.
- Alberta has had a long history of involvement with Ukraine and has contributed to building social, political and economic reform in Ukraine.
- In August 2004, a 15-member delegation from Ivano-Frankivsk, headed by Chairman Mychailo Vyshyvaniuk visited Alberta to sign a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Alberta. The MOU aims to foster closer cooperation in a variety of areas, including education and agriculture.

## OBLAST OVERVIEW

- Ivano-Frankivsk is known for its rich cultural tradition, with long-standing contacts with Polish, Austrian, and Russian cultures.
- Ivano-Frankivsk City is a major railway junction connecting Chernivtsi, St. Petersburg, Sophia, Kyiv, and Moscow.
- The Oblast is a member of the international organization "Carpathian Euroregion" which includes the cross-border administrative areas of Poland, Romania, Hungary, Slovakia and Ukraine.

## ECONOMY

- Reform of land-ownership and property relations is being completed as enterprises undergo organizational and economic restructuring on the basis of private ownership of assets and land.
- Entrepreneurship has developed considerably as a market-based infrastructure is being put in place.
- In 2003, the volume of industrial production of the region increased by 25%.

## **FOREIGN TRADE**

- Regional foreign trade has been steadily increasing. Among the principal foreign partners are Hungary, Poland, Slovakia, Germany, the Russian Federation, the Czech Republic and Moldova.
- The principal export items include oil-processing equipment, measuring instruments, and forklifts.
- To satisfy local needs, the oblast imports mineral fuels (including raw oil and oil products), organic chemicals, paper, machinery and equipment, etc.
- As of January 2003, total amount of foreign direct investment (FDI) to Ivano-Frankivsk was US \$70 million, going mostly towards the industrial sector in the form of joint ventures.
- Investments from Canada totalled US \$12 million, from Germany \$9.9 million, and from Hungary \$2.8 million.
- Foreign expertise, implementation of modern management principles and investments from abroad proved successful in enterprises such as the Ukrainian-Canadian DELTA Petrol and Gas Company in Kolomyia (oil and gas production).

## **ENERGY**

- The energy and petrochemical industries have been developing dynamically. Oil production in the region amounts to 13% of the total Ukrainian oil-production.
- In 2003, Ivano-Frankivsk Oblast produced 160,700 tons of oil (10,888 bbl/d) and 108 million cubic meters (22 billion cubic feet) of gas.

## **MINERALS**

- The region is rich in minerals including gypsum, sandstone.
- In the Carpathians are small deposits of iron and manganese ores, copper, zinc, silver and gold.
- The Carpathians have more mineral water deposits than any other Ukrainian region. The number of various types of mineral water sources is estimated at over 800.

## **FORESTRY**

- More than half of the Ivano-Frankivsk Oblast territory is covered in forests, accounting for 10% of Ukrainian forests.
- The forestry industry in Ivano-Frankivsk has seen rapid growth in the last few years.
- Ivano-Frankivsk is Ukraine leading producer of wood particle boards (31%) and wood fibre boards (47%).

## **EMERGING OPPORTUNITIES**

- **Tourism:** Ivano-Frankivsk is known to be one of Ukraine's most picturesque oblasts, attracting an increasing number of tourists. Ecotourism and the rural hospitality sector (farm owners offering room and board) are growing.
- **Telecommunications:** To increase the quality and efficiency of services, state-of-the-art communications systems based on fibre-optics and digital technologies are being developed and subscriber networks revived.
- **Technology:** the oblast is attempting to introduce policies in order to preserve and develop regional scientific and technological potential, and implement results into industry.
- Better technology is needed for oil and gas drilling, transportation and storage.
- Innovation priorities of the oblast are as follows:
  - implementation of power- and resource-saving technologies;
  - implementation of new technologies in the production, storage and processing of agricultural produce;
  - production of medical equipment and diagnostic appliances;

## **EDUCATION, RESEARCH AND INNOVATION**

- Over 32,000 students attend 26 higher education establishments in the oblast, which boast some of the highest number of teaching doctorates in Ukraine.
- The Ivano-Frankivsk State Medical Academy is among Ukraine's most important medical institutes. The Academy has a license for training foreign students.
- Ivano-Frankivsk Technical Institute of Oil and Gas is the only multi-purpose educational and scientific research establishment of its type in Ukraine.

## **RECENT VISITS**

- August 2005: a delegation from Ivano-Frankivsk, led by Chairman Tkach, will visit Alberta in honour of our Centennial.
- August 2004: visit to Alberta by a 14-member delegation from Ivano-Frankivsk, headed by Mr. Mychailo Vyshyvaniuk, Chairman ("Governor") of the Ivano-Frankivsk Regional State Administration.
- October 2003: Alberta officials mission to Kyiv, Lviv and Ivano-Frankivsk.
- May 2002: Premier Klein met with the Deputy Head of the Ivano-Frankivsk Regional State Administration while in Lviv during his mission to Ukraine. Premier Klein was accompanied by Community Development Minister Gene Zwozdesky and MLA Dave Broda.