

LVIV - ALBERTA RELATIONS



PROFILE

Area: 21,800 km² (3.6% of the Ukrainian territory)

Capital: Lviv City (pop. 813,700)

Population: 2.8 million (5.4% of Ukrainian pop.)

Language: Ukrainian

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

Head of Oblast (Appointed): Chairman Petro Oliynyk

Head of Rada (Elected): Chairman Mykhaylo Sendak

Currency: Hryvnia, \$1CDN = 4.15 UAH (August 2005)

Key Industry Sectors: forestry, paper, textiles, oil and gas, food processing, agriculture.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Lviv City is approximately 535 km from Kyiv.
- The oblast shares a 278 km northwestern border with Poland.
- Lviv spent most of its near nine centuries of existence first, as part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, then later as an important city in independent Poland.
- 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.

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 Lviv, headed by Chairman Oleksandr Sendeha 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.

LVIV'S ECONOMY & FOREIGN TRADE

- Future economic growth in the Western regions of Ukraine will be due to industrial development, with most industrial potential located in Lviv Oblast.
- Growing economic sectors in the oblast include public health, recreation and tourism.
- Foreign trade with Lviv has been steadily increasing. In 2003, foreign trade totalled US\$3.5 billion, of which exports accounted for \$0.5 billion and imports \$3 billion.
- In 2003, Lviv's major trade partners were Russia (42% of total foreign trade), USA (22%), Germany (6%), Poland (5%), and Denmark (2%).
- Lviv's main export products include: buses, auto-loaders, insulators, light bulbs, pumps, wooden plates, confectionary products, beef, sunflower oil, leather products, neat alcohol, chemicals, textiles, metals.
- In 2003, total foreign direct investment (FDI) in Lviv was valued at US\$305 million, an increase of 39% from 2002.

- The Lviv region is one of the most effective in Ukraine in attracting FDI, with over 1000 businesses using foreign capital and working successfully in the region.
- Major investments in Lviv originate from: Poland (18%), Germany (13%), Hungary (12%), Switzerland (9%) and the UK (8%).

AGRICULTURE

- The region has 1.3 million hectares of agricultural lands, making up 3.1% of the Ukraine's total agricultural lands.
- Production is almost even split between livestock and crops (especially grains, sugar beets, potatoes, and flax).
- **Agricultural Reform:** In April 2000, all collective agricultural entities in Lviv were restructured. The process of privatizing land and registering its ownership is ongoing.

EDUCATION

- The Canada-Ukraine Foundation ([CUF](#)), with offices in Winnipeg and Lviv, has sent several dozen Ukrainian women to Red Deer on academic exchanges in the last several years. Premier Klein met with the alumni of this exchange program during his Ukraine mission in May 2002.
- In 2001, Alberta Learning, through the CUF Education Consortium, sent two Alberta teachers to Lviv to assist in selecting resources and various learning materials for Alberta's Ukrainian bilingual program.
- The University of Alberta (U of A) signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Lviv State University to facilitate academic exchanges.
- Every summer, the U of A offers its students an opportunity to participate in a travel-study Ukrainian course in Lviv called [Ukrainian Through its Living Culture](#). In 2003, an Alberta student wrote and published a book on her experience called [A Semester in Lviv](#).

BOARD GOVERNANCE

- In 1999, the University of Calgary, Four Worlds Centre for Development Learning (Cochrane) and Grant MacEwan College (GMC), through a four-year Civil Society Community Roots Project administered by the Canadian Bureau for International Education (CBIE), helped launch the Institute for Voluntary Sector Management and Development (IVSMD). The Institute is based at the Ivan Franko National University of Lviv (IFNUL) and offers a number of courses developed by GMC.
- In September 2001, during a visit to Alberta by senior administrators, Grant MacEwan College signed a general agreement with IFNUL to facilitate study opportunities, student/faculty exchanges and joint projects.

- The Alberta Ministry of Community Development has partnered with CBIE in a board governance training project with the IVSMD. Components of this project included developing and translating board governance materials appropriate for the non-governmental (NGO) context in Ukraine, training workshop leaders and trainers in Lviv and delivering governance-focused training for the Board of the Institute.

CULTURE

- Alberta's Cultural Facilities and Historical Resources Division (Community Development) has established formal relations with cooperating museums and scholarly institutions in Lviv and Chernivtsi in the areas of folklore, ethnography, and genealogy.
- The [Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village](#) is twinned with a historical village museum in Lviv, facilitating various scholarly exchanges of information with universities.

WILD ROSE FUNDING

- Alberta's Wild Rose Foundation has matched funds raised by Alberta organizations for assistance programs to Ukraine in the following areas:
 - Purchase of a portable digital X-ray machine in Western Ukraine (\$20,000 in 2004).
 - To assist with the establishment of a trade school in Malechkovitchi (Lviv Oblast) benefiting 900 children per year (\$5,000 in 2004).
 - An annual 7-month Canada World Youth community development exchange project between women from Western Ukraine and the Canadian Prairies (\$150,000 between 1999 and 2004).
 - Purchase of a computer to improve service delivery to children and families at the Regional Specialized Children's Hospital in Lviv (\$1,500 in 2003).
 - Emergency disaster relief assistance to the families and victims of the Lviv airshow disaster (\$25,000 in 2003).
 - Playground equipment at orphanages, sanatoriums and schools in western Ukraine through HART, the Humanitarian Aid Response Teams Society (\$15,000 in 2002).

RECENT VISITS

- August 2005: a delegation from Lviv, led by Chairman Oliynyk, will visit Alberta in honour of our Centennial.
- October 2003: Alberta officials mission to Kyiv, Lviv and Ivano-Frankivsk.
- May 2002: while in Lviv during his mission to Ukraine, Premier Klein met with the Deputy Chairman of the Lviv Administration. Premier Klein was accompanied by Community Development Minister Gene Zwozdesky and MLA Dave Broda.

DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION

- Canada's Honorary Consul in Lviv, Ms. Oksana Wynnycky.