



Mandate

The Advisory Council on Alberta-Ukraine Relations provides advice regarding opportunities for partnership between Alberta and Ukraine. It serves as an information resource for Alberta's Ukrainian community, and it helps strengthen ties between the two governments. Recommendations are provided by the ACAUR to the Minister of Alberta International and Intergovernmental Relations.

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Edith Zawadiuk	

Government Advisors

Wayne Clifford
Rory Campbell

Secretary

Jeff Morrison

Contact Information:

12th floor Commerce Place,
10155-102 Street,
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T5J 4G8
Phone: 780-415-8396
Fax: 780-427-0699
Website: www.gov.ab.ca/iir



Premier Klein with Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma

Premier Klein's Historic Mission to Ukraine

Premier Klein undertook a historic mission to Ukraine in May 2002, at the invitation of the Ukrainian government. The mission was geared to strengthening existing ties and to exploring new areas of cooperation between Alberta and Ukraine. The mission included stops in Kyiv and Lviv.

Joining the Premier were ACAUR Chair, Dave Broda, MLA, Minister Gene Zwozdesky, Julian Nowicki, Deputy Minister of Executive Council; and leaders of the Alberta-Ukraine community. Representatives of 15 Alberta businesses and organizations took part in the mission at their own expense.

Mission Highlights

Meetings with Government Leaders

Premier Klein and senior members of the Alberta delegation met with Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma and Prime Minister Anatoliy Kinakh to discuss agricultural reform, energy cooperation, and educational ties. The Premier advised President Kuchma and Prime Minister Kinakh of Canada's continued support of Ukraine's bid to join the World Trade Organization.

The Premier also met with the Deputy Governors of four Western Ukrainian oblasts: Lviv, Ivano-Frankivsk, Ternopil and Chernivtsi. These meetings focused on the potential for a broader, comprehensive agreement for cooperation between Alberta and the four Western Oblasts.

Business Meetings

Thirty representatives of 15 different Alberta companies and organizations accompanied Premier Klein on the mission. They took part in a two-day program of seminars and site visits regarding Ukrainian business opportunities. Noting that two-way trade between Alberta and Ukraine was well below its potential, the Premier identified export opportunities for Alberta in areas such as environmental goods and services; industrial machinery; information and communications technology; medical equipment and pharmaceuticals; mining and transportation equipment.

Agriculture

Premier Klein delivered the keynote address at a conference on Ukrainian Agribusiness Development hosted by the International Finance Corporation, the lending arm of the World Bank. The conference was attended by about 200 officials and business leaders from Ukraine and Europe. During the conference, the Premier signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the International Finance Corporation, committing Alberta to assist with agricultural reform in Ukraine. It was the first such agreement the International Finance Corporation has signed with a provincial government.

ACAUR Chair Dave Broda visited a model farm project in Kherson Oblast that Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development has been involved in since 2001. He reviewed the progress of the project with local officials.

Education

Premier Klein announced the creation of an Alberta-Ukraine Special Recognition Awards program. The program creates a \$150,000 fund for scholarships and academic exchanges over a five-year period. The funds for the 2002-2003 academic year were awarded soon after the mission, allowing a number of Ukrainian students to come to Alberta. Funds will also be used by the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies at the University of Alberta to develop a website that will provide information about Canada and Alberta in Ukrainian.

The Premier gave the keynote address at the graduation ceremony of the Grant MacEwan College business program in Kyiv. GMCC was one of the first Western educational institutions to come to Ukraine after it achieved independence. The College's International Institute of Business in Kyiv is playing an important role in Ukraine's ongoing social and business transformation. In his address, the Premier emphasized the important connection between education and both political and economic freedom.

Culture and History

Premier Klein presented to the Hrushevsky Museum a translation of the first two volumes of Mykhailo Hrushevsky's 11-volume *History of Ukraine-Rus*. The volumes were translated into English and donated by the University of Alberta's Canadian Institute for Ukrainian Studies. The Premier also visited the Ethnography Museum in Lviv, the site of the Oblast's genealogical archives. He presented microfilm from the Provincial Archives of Alberta containing genealogical records from Alberta's earliest Ukrainian settlers. The Ethnography Museum has worked closely with Alberta over the past several decades, especially with development of the Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village. That cooperation will continue as a result of this donation.

Premier Klein participated in three wreath-laying ceremonies at a memorial to Taras Schevchenko in Lviv, and at the Famine Memorial and Babi Yar Memorial in Kyiv.

Humanitarian

Premier Klein took part in the official opening of a playground at a primary school in Lviv. The playground was funded through



Minister Zwozdesky, Premier Klein, and Dave Broda at a wreath-laying ceremony at the Famine Memorial in Kyiv.



Premier Klein at the official opening of a playground at a primary school in Lviv.

donations from Albertans to Calgary-based Humanitarian Aid Response Teams (HART), which received matching funding through the Wild Rose Foundation. HART has funded similar projects throughout Ukraine.

Other Events

The Premier hosted a lunch in honour of the Advisory Council on Alberta-Ukraine Relations. Included at the lunch were ACAUR members Dave Sereda, Roman Petryshyn, Yuri Moskal, Rory Campbell, as well as Chair Dave Broda and Co-Chair Minister Zwozdesky. During the lunch, the Premier emphasized the valuable work performed by the Council, and its important role in improving relations between Alberta and Ukraine.

Minister Zwozdesky met with the head of the Science and Technology Centre of Ukraine. It seeks to provide commercial applications for Ukrainian military technology after the collapse of the former Soviet Union. Possible follow-up is being pursued through Alberta's Ministry of Innovation and Science.

Recent News

- The Alberta Government's Wild Rose Foundation provided a disaster assistance grant in the amount of \$25,000 to Ukrainian Canadian Social Services (Edmonton) for aid relief for victims of the July 27 airshow tragedy in Lviv. An UCSS employee will travel to Lviv to ensure the money goes directly to assisting with medical and rehabilitation needs. UCSS will also ask Ukrainian organizations and parishes in Alberta for help.
- On June 18th of this year the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) approved a four-year \$6 million agricultural project for Ukraine to enhance Ukrainian agricultural capacity. The governments of Alberta, Manitoba and Saskatchewan as well as the Saskatchewan Trade & Export Partnership (STEP) will manage the project.
- On August 11, 2002, Minister Zwozdesky and Otto Boyko unveiled a monument at UCHV dedicated to Ukrainian Canadians who were interned by the Canadian Government from 1914-20. This project was sponsored by the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association, Ukrainian Canadian Congress – Alberta Provincial Council, Ukrainian Canadian Foundation of Taras Shevchenko, Ukrainian Canadian Commemorative Society, Ukrainian Self-Reliance Association Edmonton Branch, Ukrainian Canadian Congress Edmonton Branch, Park Memorial, and Ms. Luba Feduschak.

In Memory

It is with great sorrow that we inform you of the death of ACAUR member Dave Sereda, who passed away suddenly on Friday, July 19th. Dave played a prominent role in the establishment of the Advisory Council and will be much missed by his friends and colleagues alike. He will be remembered by those who knew him as a loyal friend and tireless community leader.

An Endowment Fund has been established by the UCC-APC in honour of Dave's dedication as President of the UCC-APC (1999-2002). The Endowment Fund will be used to support activities of Ukrainian culture and heritage. You may contribute to this Fund by sending your cheque (payable to the "UCC-APC" and marked "President Dave R. Sereda Memorial Endowment") to the UCC-APC, Suite #202, 10706-124 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5H 0H1.