

A-C-A-U-R Update

Advisory Council on Alberta-Ukraine Relations ДОРАДЧА РАДА З АЛЬБЕРТСЬКО-УКРАЇНСЬКИХ ВІДНОСИН



Winter 2001-2002

Mandate

The Advisory Council on Alberta-Ukraine Relations explores 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 governments of Ukraine and Alberta. The Council serves in an advisory capacity, providing recommendations to the Minister of Alberta International and Intergovernmental Relations, Honourable Halvar Jonson.

Members:

Chair Dave Broda, MLA	Co-Chair Hon. Gene Zwozdesky, MLA
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Members

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Bud Conway	Yuri Moskal
Dr. Ehor Gauk	Art Mykyte
Oksana Hnatiuk	Dave Sereda
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The inauguration of the Advisory Council on Alberta-Ukraine Relations at Government House. Seated center, first row, is special guest His Excellency Ambassador Dr. Yuri Shcherbak, with Mr. Dave Broda, M.L.A. and Honourable Gene Zwozdesky.

Alberta has a long history of Ukrainian settlement. There are nearly 300,000 Albertans of Ukrainian descent – the largest population of Ukrainian-Canadians in western Canada. Over the years, Albertans of Ukrainian descent have contributed a great deal to the growth and development of the province. To better understand and manage the issues and opportunities related to Alberta-Ukraine relations, the Government of Alberta has established an Advisory Council on Alberta-Ukraine Relations (ACAUR). The Council serves in an advisory capacity, providing recommendations to the government through the Minister of International and Intergovernmental Relations, Honourable Halvar Jonson.

The Council was launched with an inaugural meeting in November 2000, and has since held meetings in January, May, September, and December of 2001. The Council is comprised of 15 appointed members of the Alberta Ukrainian community, as well as several government advisors, and is co-chaired by Mr. Dave Broda, M.L.A. Redwater, and Honourable Gene Zwozdesky, Minister of Community Development. The inaugural reception of the ACAUR was held at Government House on November 20, 2000, and was attended by Honourable Premier Ralph Klein, Honourable Shirley McClellan, and the Ukrainian Ambassador to Canada, His Excellency Dr. Yuri Shcherbak. Several MLA's were also in attendance.

Recent News: The Vice Prime Minister of Ukraine, Honourable Vasyl Rogovyi, attended an ACAUR reception in October 2001. This delegation of officials from the Ukrainian government, included the Deputy Foreign Minister, Mr. Oleksiy Bereznyi.

Mr. Dave Broda, Chair of the ACAUR, attended the Canada-Ukraine Intergovernmental Economic Commission (IEC) in Ottawa on October 4, 2001. The IEC is designed to pursue further avenues of economic cooperation between Canada and Ukraine.

ACAUR member, Mr. Yuri Moskal, received an Order of Merit from Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma in August 2001.



The ACAUR has provided leadership in several possible areas of cooperation with Ukraine, including:

Agriculture: The ACAUR is active in promoting educational programs in Ukraine and developing potential farmer exchange programs. Recently, the International Finance Corporation (IFC), the private sector lending arm of the World Bank, hosted a Ukrainian agribusiness delegation in our province, showcasing Alberta's agricultural supply chain from production to retail. The delegation was hosted by the Co-Chair of the ACAUR, Minister Gene Zwozdesky, at a reception on behalf of Ministers Shirley McClellan and Halvar Jonson.

Alberta was selected for this study tour by Project Director, Ms. Leah Soroka, due to the province's reputation for a world-class agricultural industry based on a transparent market-oriented system. The design and delivery of the program was handled by Alberta International and Intergovernmental Relations (IIR), working closely with Alberta Agriculture Food and Rural Development (AFRD) and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. As part of the IFC's Agribusiness Development Project in Ukraine, IIR has also coordinated the involvement of experts from AFRD and the Agricultural Financial Services Corporation to provide technical assistance in Ukraine in the area of crop insurance, irrigation management, and soil testing.

Community Development: The ACAUR recently recommended an Alberta-Ukraine Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) Governance Project, involving courses in leadership, strategic planning, marketing, and human resource management for the burgeoning volunteer sector in Ukraine. The project was recently approved by the Minister of Community Development, Gene Zwozdesky.

Economic Development: The ACAUR supports developing enhanced economic ties with Ukraine. Currently, Alberta exports oilfield machinery, mechanical appliances, and telephone equipment to Ukraine, and imports metal products and beer. The ACAUR is mindful of Ukraine's drive for economic independence and increased privatization and hopes to encourage future economic development wherever possible.

Education/Learning: In commemoration of Ukraine's 10th anniversary of independence (August 2001), Minister Zwozdesky announced the creation of three ongoing scholarships on behalf of Honourable Dr. Lyle Oberg, Minister of Learning, for Ukrainian students to attend an Alberta post-secondary institution. Originated by Council member Dr. Roman Petryshyn, the ACAUR supported this initiative.

The ACAUR also works in cooperation with Grant MacEwan Community College (GMCC). The GMCC Business Division is in its fourth year of offering a Management Studies program in Kyiv, utilizing faculty from the International Institute of Business (IIB). The program allows Ukrainian graduates to receive a GMCC diploma as part of a second Ukrainian degree. Students may take a practicum course in either Kyiv or Edmonton. Six practicum students will be coming to Edmonton in March 2002. A total of 22 students from Ukraine have now worked in Edmonton. The academic program is supported by the Canadian Business Resource Centre located at the IIB in Kyiv.

Governance: The ACAUR and the Government of Alberta participate actively in the Canada-Ukraine Legislative and Intergovernmental Project (CULIP). This CIDA-funded governance project involves Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and Ontario and uses the Canadian system as a model for legislative and institutional reforms in Ukraine. The project is managed by the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies at the University of Alberta. Recently, a CULIP delegation of Ukrainian senior officials, led by Members of Parliament from Ukraine, participated in a cross-Canada study tour examining federal-provincial structures and fiscal relationships. Minister Zwozdesky met with the delegation to discuss Alberta's involvement in potential new projects.

Health: The University of Alberta administered OSVITA, a CIDA-funded medical program offering pediatric, maternal, and neonatal health care and health care education in Ukraine. OSVITA allowed Ukrainian specialists to study in Canada for a four-month period. Under the program, 187 two-week teaching missions to Ukraine took place by volunteer physicians from every medical faculty in Canada. Dr. Ehor Gauk, a member of the ACAUR, is Chairman of the OSVITA Medical Project and is currently exploring potential tuberculosis projects in Ukraine. The ACAUR supports pursuing this important issue.

Additionally, the ACAUR recently recommended that the Government of Alberta explore hiring Ukraine-trained nurses to alleviate shortages in Alberta.

Justice: The ACAUR remains supportive of the ongoing Alberta-Ukraine Judicial Reform Project whereby judges from Ukraine visit Alberta courthouses. Alberta has sent hundreds of court-recording equipment pieces to Ukraine through this project.