



### 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.

### Members:

<u>Chair</u> Dave Broda, MLA	<u>Co-Chair</u> Hon. Gene Zwozdesky, MLA
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## Under ACAUR's Guidance, Alberta & Ivano-Frankivsk Sign Cooperation Agreement

Edmonton – Alberta's already close ties with Ukraine have been drawn even tighter with the signing of a new cooperation agreement between Alberta and Ivano-Frankivsk. Premier Ralph Klein and Governor Mychailo Vyshyvaniuk of Ivano-Frankivsk Oblast signed the agreement on August 11, 2004 during a ceremony at the Provincial Museum. The agreement covers areas such as education, agriculture, business linkages, volunteerism and museums. More than 150 guests were on hand for the signing ceremony, and the reception that followed.

**Program Highlights** - The 14-member delegation from Ivano-Frankivsk Oblast and Ukrainian Ambassador Mykola Maimeskul had a very busy schedule during their recent visit to Alberta. The delegation of elected and appointed government officials, along with private sector representatives, met with Premier Klein, Ministers Jonson, Oberg, Stelmach, and Zwozdesky, senior Government of Alberta officials, business representatives, and the Ukrainian-Canadian community. *Mr. Dave Broda, ACAUR Chair and MLA for Redwater accompanied the delegation during much of their 4-day program, while Minister Gene Zwozdesky, co-Chair of the ACAUR, was on hand at the Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village (UCHV) to greet the delegation as they participated in Ukrainian Day celebrations on Sunday, August 8. During the UCHV celebrations, Mr. Myroslav Blaschuk, Head of Foreign Relations and Tourism for Ivano-Frankivsk, commented that Ukrainian pioneers helped to lay important foundations for Alberta's success. He congratulated the pioneers on their hard work ethic and noted that Ukrainians aspire to achieve similar success at home. Touched by the combined efforts of the local community and the Alberta Government in preserving historical buildings from the Ukrainian pioneer period, the Ivano-Frankivsk delegation and the Ambassador made a spontaneous and generous donation of \$875 to the Bohdan Medwidsky Endowment Fund, for use in the further development of the Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village.*

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*The Honourable Mychailo Vyshyvaniuk, Chairman of Ivano-Frankivsk Oblast Administration (left), accompanied by His Excellency Mykola Maimeskul, Ambassador of Ukraine, presents Premier Ralph Klein with a decorative Ukrainian wooden plate during the MOU signing ceremony at the Provincial Museum. (Photo courtesy of R. Petriw)*

*(Program Highlights Continued)*

After the visit to the UCHV, the delegation met with the Honourable Ed Stelmach, Minister of Transportation and MLA for Vegreville-Viking. The Minister, on behalf of Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development, later hosted a barbecue for the delegation at the Motiuk Family Farm.

On August 9, the delegation took part in formal meetings with senior Alberta Government officials from six ministries (International and Intergovernmental Relations; Agriculture, Food, and Rural Development; Economic Development; Community Development; Learning; and Environment). The meetings provided an excellent opportunity for everyone to present an overview of their regions and highlight strengths that each could bring to the new Alberta/Ivano-Frankivsk partnership.

A special meeting between the Ivano-Frankivsk delegation and members of the Advisory Council on Alberta-Ukraine Relations on August 11 helped identify more areas for future cooperation. ACAUR Chair Mr. Broda, and Co-Chair Minister Zwozdesky focused on past successes and challenges, and discussed ideas to expand cooperation with western Ukraine. Because of the diverse interests among delegation members taking part in the visit, the Government of Alberta, with the collaboration of many ACAUR members, also organized smaller, individual, sector-specific programs in education, agriculture, culture, justice and economic development. Feedback from these individualized programs confirmed their value for further cooperation opportunities.



Members of the Ivano-Frankivsk delegation in front of the Pysanka in Vegreville (left to right): Yuriy Romaniuk; Oleg Karpash; Oleg Bakhmatyuk; Myroslav Blashchuk; Dave Broda, MLA-Redwater; Mykhailo Negrych; Vasyl Plavyuk; His Excellency Mykola Maimeskul, Ambassador of Ukraine; and Petro Semkiv.



Ukrainian Day at the Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village : Minister of Community Development, the Honourable Gene Zwozdesky welcomes the delegation from Ivano-Frankivsk and Ambassador Maimeskul, Ukraine's Ambassador to Canada (far right).

## Business Groups Sign Agreement

On August 10, the special guests from Ivano-Frankivsk took part in a business roundtable organized by the Canada Ukraine Development Association (CUDA). The 50 roundtable participants shared information on business practices and opportunities in Ivano-Frankivsk and Ukraine. At the conclusion, a cooperation agreement was signed between CUDA and the Small Business and Economic Development for Ivano-Frankivsk (SBEDIF) Business Centre. The agreement promotes business linkages between the two organizations, and increased trade between Alberta and Ukraine.

SBEDIF is a joint venture project between Canada and Ukraine. It is funded by the Canadian International Development Agency. Canadian partners include Confederation College in Thunder Bay, the University of Waterloo, the University of Saskatchewan, and Parkland Community Futures Corporation in Manitoba.

Since it was created in the fall of 2003, CUDA has developed linkages throughout Ukraine, in particular with the Ukrainian League of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs (ULIE), headed by former Ukrainian Prime Minister Anatoly Kinakh. CUDA and ULIE signed a cooperation agreement in November 2003.

## Other Notable Events

- **Community Agreement:** An agreement was signed between Ivano-Frankivsk and the Ukrainian-Canadian Congress-Alberta Provincial Council (UCC-APC).
- **Ambassador Honours Peter Savaryn:** On behalf of the Verkhovna Rada, Ambassador Maimeskul presented Alberta's Dr. Peter Savaryn with one of Ukraine's highest honours. It recognizes individuals who make significant contributions to Ukrainian education and culture. The award is similar to the Order of Canada, which Savaryn received in 1987.
- **Remembering the Victims of Ukraine's Famine:** Ambassador Maimeskul, accompanied by Governor Vyshyvaniuk, and Catherine Chichak, President of the UCC-APC, participated in a wreath laying ceremony at Edmonton's City Hall memorial to the victims of Ukraine's 1932-33 Famine.
- Keep an eye out for our next special edition, commemorating the 4<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the establishment of the ACAUR.