



Government of
Saskatchewan

PREMIER ROMANOW LEADS TRADE MISSION TO UKRAINE

Meets with President Kuchma, Signs Saskatchewan-Ukraine Co-operation Agreement

Premier Roy Romanow and Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma met Oct. 2 1995 in Kyiv to launch a Saskatchewan-Ukraine Co-operation Agreement, establishing a government-to-government framework to guide future co-operation in economic, cultural and democratic development.

Romanow was the guest of honour at an official dinner hosted by President Kuchma, following meetings earlier in the day with Prime Minister Yevhen Marchuk, Olexander Moroz, Speaker of the Supreme Rada, Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister Valentin Lipatov and Dmytro Ostapenko, minister of culture and arts.

The meeting was part of a trade and investment mission to western Europe and Ukraine which is focusing on key economic sectors such as agricultural machinery, ag-biotech, energy and cultural industries. "We are confident this agreement will lead to improved and expanded ties in the energy sector, in agricultural industries, education and culture, and to the formalization of specific co-operative agreement we have also agreed to work toward establishing effective mechanisms to steadily increase trade and investment between Saskatchewan and Ukraine," said the Premier.

Romanow said he was proud Saskatchewan's co-operation will assist Ukraine in its decisive and critically important program of political and economic reform. "In Saskatchewan, our Ukrainian community remains vibrant and the contributions of the members of that community are gifts that continue to enrich the lives of all Saskatchewan people."

"It is clear to all of us that Ukraine has a very bright future and has recently begun to see solid successes with respect to its economic reform plan. I sincerely hope that through our mission we communicate Saskatchewan's support for an independent, democratic and prosperous Ukraine, proud to take its place among the great nations of the world," Romanow said.

Market development for Saskatchewan companies

Premier Roy Romanow said that the food agricultural sector of the Ukrainian economy has enormous market potential for Saskatchewan's agricultural industries. Romanow met with the Ukrainian Deputy Prime Minister responsible for agriculture, Petro Sabluk, and then with the farm manager and officials from the Pereyaslav Khmelnytsky, a collective farm south of Kyiv.

The Premier was joined at the meeting by officials from Brandt Industries, Flexicoil Ltd., and the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool. Saskatchewan agricultural technology, crop species, agronomy, and livestock management can be adapted to Ukraine conditions, and Saskatchewan agri-business is interested in Ukrainian training partners.

Romanow said Saskatchewan is proposing a demonstration farm project be located at the Pereyaslav Khmelnytsky state farm near Kyiv. Already a joint venture with SEMEX Canada for livestock genetics, the Saskatchewan proposal is to integrate forage production and farm management dimensions to the farm, which will train farm managers from all over Ukraine. "Ukraine is moving forward with a comprehensive agricultural reform strategy with the

Saskatchewan demonstration farm is designed to support," Romanow said. "Our project proposal are to provide training to Ukrainians on Saskatchewan agricultural methods, demonstrate our farm equipment, provide a venue for joint venture crop production and marketing, and to provide a starting point for introducing Saskatchewan animal genetics to Ukraine."

Flexicoil, Brandt Industries, and Precision Metal have agreed in principle to donate equipment for the project, while the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool is considering using its experience as a producer co-operative to manage the Saskatchewan component of the farm. In addition, the Saskatchewan Provincial Council of the Ukrainian-Canadian Congress is interested in delivering an in-Canada farm management internship program. This new program will complement the training modules being delivered on the Ukrainian farm by Canadian personnel from the provincial and federal departments of agriculture.

"There are a number of issues to be

Saskatchewan



PHOTOS: BILL RYBOTYCKI, SASK GOV'T
Premier Roy Romanow and President Leonid Kuchma savour the signing of the Saskatchewan-Ukraine Co-operation Agreement