



Ukrainian Canadian Congress

News and Activities

Canada-Ukraine Foundation Gets Down to Work

April 24, 1995... The Ukrainian community in Canada now has a vehicle to coordinate and provide assistance to Ukraine. The establishment of a Canada-Ukraine Foundation (CUF) was first announced during the state visit to Canada by the President of Ukraine, Leonid Kuchma, in October of 1994. The past year-and-a-half has been spent putting together the major pieces of the puzzle.

CUF was created by a steering committee of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC) Headquarters and received its Letters Patent under the Canada Corporations Act on August 28, 1995. The inaugural meeting of the 14 founding member organizations of CUF was held on the weekend of March 23-24, 1996 in Winnipeg.

The 14 representatives who attended the meeting comprise CUF's Founding Board of Directors. The CUF Board elected Dr. Jaroslaw Barwinsky as President. Dr. Barwinsky is a noted heart surgeon, a Professor in the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Manitoba and an active supporter of many community causes.

The Canada-Ukraine Foundation is a charitable foundation dedicated to providing effective assistance to Ukraine. It accomplishes its mission by raising funds which will be allocated to sustainable and cost-effective projects which respond to the needs of Ukraine and its people. The Ukrainian Canadian community is currently working on providing assistance to Ukraine in a number of areas. CUF will work to assist community efforts in the following areas: 1) social well-being; 2) Canada Ukraine Student Exchange Program (CUSEP); 3) education (textbooks); 4) religion; 5) youth and sport; 6) artistic/culture; and 7) health (technology). It will do so by facilitating, promoting and coordinating community activities and liaising with governments.

An immediate priority for CUF is to raise money to establish a solid capital fund base. As 1996 marks the 5th Anniversary



Executive of the Canada-Ukraine Foundation. Front row, l-r: Anne Wach (Sec.); Stefan Franko (V-P.); Dr. Jaroslaw Barwinsky (Pres.); Halyna Holowka (Treas.). Back row, members-at-large, l-r: Dr. Orest Talpash; Maria Komarnycky; Myroslava Pidhirnyj; Ihor Broda.

of Ukraine's Independence, CUF sees this as an opportunity to raise a target amount of one million dollars in its first year of operation. CUF plans to mount an aggressive campaign to generate funds from memberships and donations.

There are four membership categories in CUF. The initial membership fee to CUF is \$10,000 from corporations, \$5,000 from UCC member organizations, \$2,500 from nonmember organizations and \$1,000 from individuals. There is also an annual membership fee equal to 10% of the initial membership fee for all categories to remain a member of CUF in good standing.

CUF will be providing updates on its activities and the status of its membership and fundraising drive on a timely basis.

Foreign Minister Establishes Canada-Ukraine Advisory Board

The Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC) Headquarters has set forth a list of initiatives before the Government of Canada on ways to improve Canada-Ukraine relations through greater input from the Ukrainian Canadian community.

A delegation from the UCC met with The Honourable Lloyd Axworthy, Minister of Foreign Affairs, on March 29, 1996. The delegation was comprised of Oleh Romaniw, National President; Myroslava Pidhirnyj, Chairperson of the Canada Ukraine Relations Committee; and John Petryshyn, Past Chairperson on the Canada Ukraine Relations Committee.

The delegation called on the Minister to enter into a special partnership giving the UCC greater input into the policy analysis and development of enhanced services from a community perspective into the provision of services and conduct of programs targeted at

Ukraine.

Minister Axworthy was receptive to a UCC proposal concerning the creation of a Canada Ukraine Advisory Board. The Minister has appointed a government official to work with the UCC in establishing an action plan for the Board. The UCC proposed the Board be comprised of government, community, business and academic representatives to review and provide advice on all aspects of Canada-Ukraine relations, including trade and investment opportunities, development projects and analysis of future political, social and economic developments in Ukraine.

In its presentation the UCC encouraged the Government of Canada to provide a financial commitment to the new Canada-Ukraine Foundation; continue providing active assistance to Ukraine's nuclear power industry in the areas of reactor design and operational safety; increase immigration from Ukraine to Canada by improving the system of visa processing at the Canadian Embassy in Kyiv and by creating a special "East European / Former Soviet Union Family Reunion Program"; and to make an official state visit to Ukraine in conjunction with the August 24th celebration of the 5th Anniversary of Ukraine's Independence.