

Premier Leads Delegation

Manitoba Seeks New Partnerships and Trade Opportunities in Ukraine

The first week of October, Premier Gary Filmon and Rural Development Minister Len Derkach led a trade mission to Ukraine and Poland to help Manitoba companies seek out new export customers and joint venture partners. The trade mission focused on Manitoba's thriving building products and construction sector, as well as agricultural production equipment and educational exchange programs. Following a stop in Kyiv, the delegation travelled to Lviv, sister city to Winnipeg, in north-west Ukraine.

In Kyiv, President Leonid Kuchma met Premier Filmon and gave his full support to Canadian proposals to stimulate trade relations between Ukraine and Canada. Prime Minister Valeriy Pustovoitenko expressed particular interest in cooperation in the missile and space sectors, and in the possibility of using Ukrainian missiles for launching commercial satellites into orbit from the Churchill Space Centre in Manitoba.

During the trade mission, the governments of Manitoba and Ukraine took an important step toward greater cooperation by signing a memorandum of understanding to work toward mutual goals in areas such as economic development, education and culture. The agreement was signed by Manitoba Premier Gary Filmon and Ukraine Foreign Affairs Minister Anton Buteiko.

"The strong ancestral links between the people of Manitoba and Ukraine offer a unique opportunity to work together," Filmon said. "We look forward to helping Ukraine realize its goals for political and economic reform. Both of our lands have much to gain from partnerships between our governments, industries and academic institutions."

MOU Signed: Eleven Priorities

The agreement lists 11 major priorities: economic development, energy, construction and infrastructure, agriculture, sustainable development and environment, science and technology, tourism, transportation, education, culture and sports, and public administration.



DON LEITCH

Manitoba Premier Gary Filmon receives a warm greeting from Ukraine's President Leonid Kuchma.

To implement the memorandum of understanding, the governments of Manitoba and Ukraine have agreed to establish a steering committee of senior officials chaired by Derkach and a Ukrainian Minister.

"We plan to emphasize private sector partnerships for trade and investment, as well as public sector linkages for economic development at the regional and community levels," Derkach said. "We share the common objective of creating more jobs and prosperity and preserving our high quality of life through environmentally sound development."

In Kyiv, Premier Filmon met with the Minister of Agriculture, Yuriy Karasyk, and attended a meeting with the Verkhovna Rada Deputies Group, led by Vice Speaker Musiyaka. Mr. Musiyaka himself was a participant in the CIDA-funded Legislative Cooperation Project with Manitoba. The delegation also met with the Canada-Ukraine Business Group and the Canada Ukraine Business Initiative (CUBI) Parallel Com-

mittee representatives.

In the Kyiv region, the delegation visited the Mono-Crystal Titanium Project, the Pereyaslav Khmelnytskyi Farm Project, and the site of a Canadian Consortium Demonstration Project.

In Lviv, Premier Filmon met with the Head of the Oblast Administration, Mr. Mykhailo Hladiy, and the Mayor of Lviv, Vasyl Kujbida, as well as visiting the Lviv Polytechnic Institute.

Delegation Participants

Eight representatives from Manitoba companies, business associations and academic institutions accompanied the Premier on the trip. They included Chris Lorenc, CEO of Manitoba Heavy Construction; Bill Fast, All-Fab Building Components; Ossama Abouzeid, Senior VP and General Manager, Central Canadian Structures; Terry Lewycky, International Training Consultant, Red River Community College; Jim Orzechowski, Ex-