

scale - was a surprise in itself. Add to that the fact that the huge warehouse, staffed by a myriad of volunteers and stocked with surplus food donated by local businesses, is run without any government assistance whatsoever, and the effect on the Ukrainians was almost one of incomprehension.

Later, the warm reception to the BrokenHead Ojibway Reservation in Beausejour, Manitoba, took the delegation by surprise. But after spending a half day with the community and its leaders, it was also the level of sophistication of the local government and the determination of the people which impressed the visitors.

Dennis Lewycky of InfoPak Communications of Ottawa handled the logistics of the visit and accompanied the group on their tour through Canada. "The visit certainly opened the eyes of these journalists to an aspect of our society which even few Canadians understand or appreciate," he reflected. "This has been an introduction to

the Ukrainian group as to just how complex and essential our civil sector organizations are to the functioning of Canadian society."

Postscript

Upon their return to Ukraine, the groups of journalists who visited Canada, the USA, and Germany will meet in a workshop venue. Their experiences and conclusions should result in numerous newspaper articles, radio and TV programs not only about Canada and the other host countries, but about Ukrainian NGOs and the state of the Ukrainian non-profit sector. It is hoped that eventually, an awareness campaign can make citizens will see how they can take the initiative and effect social and economic change in their own communities.

The organizers of this program hope that Ukrainian government officials will eventually begin to view NGOs as partners in social and economic development, rather



DENNIS LEWYCKY

David Northcott (centre) of the Winnipeg Harvest Foodbank with members of the Ukrainian media delegation.

than adversaries. In the long run, the goal is a vibrant non-profit sector, but for now, they will have to settle for 32 journalists with a new perspective on how other societies function.

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