

Embassy Activities



Canadian Embassy

Embassy of Canada in Ukraine
KYIV
*compiled by officers and staff of the
Canadian Embassy*

- In October, 1997, representatives of the Technical Cooperation section accompanied George Saibel, Director General of the Russia, Ukraine and Nuclear Programs section at CIDA on a two-day familiarization visit to Crimea. During the visit, Mr. Saibel had the opportunity to meet with representatives of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the United Nations, both of which are very active in the reintegration of formerly deported peoples returning to Crimea. In addition, visits were made to a local community centre, a credit union, and to a multi-ethnic community school constructed partially with Canadian funds.
- In mid-November, the Canadian Embassy played host to a group of young human rights trainers from throughout Central and Eastern Europe who were in Kyiv for an intensive program to improve their human rights training skills. The trainers participated in a week-long course funded by the Central and Eastern Europe Branch of CIDA and the Open Societies Institute in New York.
- On Nov. 20-21, 1997, Amb. Westdal, Trade and Economic Advisor Larry Duffield and Political Advisor Roman Waschuk made an official visit to Odesa to explore ways of expanding cooperation between Canada and the Odesa region. Their meeting with the Odesa Oblast administration focused on the prospects of improving relations. Future cooperation is likely to focus on oil, transport, machine-building, agriculture and power engineering.

- On November 27 at the Embassy, the Memorandum of Grant Conditions for the second Environmental Management and Development in Ukraine project was signed at a ceremony presided over by Ambassador Westdal. The Memorandum was signed by the Minister of Environmental Protection and Nuclear Safety and representatives of the Ministry of Finance, the Dnipro Renaissance Fund and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC). The project, which will take place over the coming 30 months will assist in strengthening environmental management, reducing water pollution, and introducing modern environmental and investment mechanisms in Ukraine.
- On November 28, a National Integrity Symposium was held in Kyiv under the coordination of the World Bank, with support from Canada. This well-attended meeting focussed on how best to create in Ukraine a more transparent, less bureaucratic, and more effective public service. Canadian participants in the Symposium included Geoffrey York of the Globe and Mail, and Patrick Robardet of the Office of the Ombudsman of the Province of Quebec.
- From December 1 to 4, the Embassy played host to representatives of the health sectors of Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan. The officials were in Kyiv to participate in the Partners in Health conference, as well as to discuss strategies for cooperation among their countries in strengthening their respective health sectors.
- On January 26, 1998, Embassy representatives, together with Serhiy Holovaty, President of the Ukrainian Legal Foundation, officially turned over 25,000 copies of the new Ukrainian Elections Law to the head of the Central Electoral Commission, Mykhalo Ryabets. The law had been printed by the Ukrainian Legal Foundation with a contribution from the Canada Fund, and will assist in educating Ukrainians about the new law prior to the March 29 election.



Helping Ukraine's Children

Amb. Westdal and staff of the Canadian Embassy in Ukraine continue to actively support the efforts of Canadian organizations that work with Ukraine's children, such as "Help Us Help The Children" and CIDA's Partners in Health Project. In November 1997, a conference dealing with Ukraine's orphans was organized under the auspices of key Ukrainian charitable funds, with support from the Soros Renaissance Foundation, Ukrainian banks and enterprises, as well as the Canadian Embassy. In the photos, some of these organizers, participants and Ukraine's orphans.