



Media backgrounder

October 16, 2008

AGENDA

Saturday, October 18

Arrive in Kyiv
Canadian Embassy briefing

Sunday, October 19

Holodomor monument wreath laying, Kyiv
Cultural program, Chernivtsi

Monday, October 20

Chernivtsi Oblast Government Administration meeting
Chernivtsi Oblast Ministry of Education officials signing ceremony of
 memorandum of understanding for education agreement renewal
Chernivtsi City Mayor meeting
Chernivtsi City Department of Education meeting
Lyceum #2 and #3 (high schools) visit
Chernivtsi Ministry of Education dinner

Tuesday, October 21

L. Kadeniuk Elementary School tour
Khotyn and Kamianets'-Pokilsky visit

Wednesday, October 22

Ternopil' National Pedagogical University meeting
National Ministry of Education, Department of Distance Learning meeting

Thursday, October 23

STEP agriculture project meeting
National Agricultural University representatives meeting
SIAST skills training project officials meeting

Friday, October 24

Return to Canada

SASKATCHEWAN – CHERNIVTSI OBLAST*

A brief overview of collaboration 1977-2008

* Oblast – a region in Ukraine that is similar to a Canadian province or territory.

- 1977 University of Saskatchewan and State University of Chernivtsi Agreement
The first five-year agreement was signed (and later extended) between the University of Saskatchewan and the State University of Chernivtsi, Ukraine for academic and cultural exchanges of faculty, scholars and students. This was the first formal agreement between a North American university and a university in Ukraine.
- 1978 First University Exchange Group
University exchanges began in 1978 and continued each year until the early 1990s. Over 120 Saskatchewan students and several faculty members participated.
- 1991 Province to Oblast* Agreement
An Agreement for Collaboration in Education was signed between Saskatchewan Education and the Chernivtsi Oblast Administration of Public Education, which allowed for collaboration in all sectors of education.
- 1991 Official Twinning of Cities: Saskatoon – Chernivtsi
A delegation of officials from Chernivtsi visited Saskatoon in June to sign an agreement declaring the two cities officially twinned.
- 1992 First High School Exchange and Teachers' Conference
A high school student exchange between Ukrainian-language students from Saskatoon and English-language students from Chernivtsi. An international teacher conference of Saskatchewan educators and educators from Kyiv, Lviv, Chernivtsi.
- 1994 Second High School Exchange and Teachers' Conference in three southern centres of Ukraine (Odesa, Mykolayiv, Kherson).
- 1995 Memorandum of Cooperation expands the education agreements to other government sectors.
- 1996 Third High School Exchange; Collaboration begins on the Saskatchewan-Ukraine Curriculum Project (Chernivtsi)
- 1998 Fourth High School Exchange; Pilot of the Saskatchewan-Ukraine Curriculum Project
- 2000 Fifth High School Exchange; Revision of Saskatchewan – Chernivtsi Curriculum Project
- 2002 Sixth High School Exchange; Completion of Saskatchewan – Chernivtsi Curriculum Project
- 2004 Seventh High School Exchange
- 2006 Eighth High School Exchange

2008 Renewal of the University of Saskatchewan-Chernivtsi University Memorandum of Understanding to 2017. Ninth High School Exchange

CURRENT SASKATCHEWAN-UKRAINE EDUCATION INITIATIVES

Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology (SIAST)

The Decentralized Management of Skills Training Project in Ukraine (DMSTP), an initiative of SIAST and Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) for a Canada Corps in conjunction with the Association of Canadian Community Colleges (ACCC), to improve students' employment and economic circumstances in four oblasts by ensuring programs are focused on employers' needs and that graduates have the necessary skills to prepare them for the workforce. <http://www.siastr.ca/international/ottawabureau.htm>

Saskatchewan Ministry of Education

An electronic resource package, Holodomor-the Ukrainian Famine-Genocide of 1932-33, supports recent legislation that recognizes the Holodomor as genocide. http://www.spiritsd.ca/ukrainian/eng_high_holodomor.htm

Published a Ukrainian language version of "Your Child's Education in Saskatchewan: a Handbook for Recent Immigrants" to help parents who have recently immigrated to understand Saskatchewan's education system. <http://www.education.gov.sk.ca/humanities-int-lang>

Saskatchewan Trade and Export Program (STEP)

Facility for Agricultural Reform and Modernization (FARM) Program is a CIDA/STEP initiative that supports the reform of Ukraine's primary agriculture and food-related industries; facilitates the creation of profitable farms and improved rural livelihoods under a market economy; promotes effective rural grassroots institutions participation in agrarian policy development; provide partnership opportunities for Ukrainian and Canadian companies and facilitate trade and investment links between Canada and Ukraine. <http://www.sasktrade.sk.ca/html/intlprojects.shtml>

University of Regina

Host of the Canada-Ukraine Students Scientific Internship Program that has five students from the Ivano-Frankivsk State University of Oil and Gas working in Regina for three months. In 2007, the University of Regina began sending up to four students to Ivano-Frankivsk for one month. <http://www.ucc.sk.ca/pdf/20080729IF-Hosting.pdf>

University of Saskatchewan

Study Abroad Program (2005-2009) with Ternopil National Pedagogical University, and St. Thomas More College at the University of Saskatchewan that supports language and other related areas of study.