

Canada - Ukraine Канада - Україна

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The Canadian Embassy in Ukraine



G. Daniel Caron
Ambassador of Canada to
Ukraine

"Being Ambassador of Canada in Ukraine is a great honour for me. The maturity of our bilateral relationship is warrant of future developments of our economic, political and technical cooperation.

This important European country is facing the challenges of a young democracy. As Ukraine is moving forward, Canada, a close partner and friend, must be strongly engaged in these moments of transition."

Every country, like every person, needs a strong network of mutually supportive relationships. The work of the Canadian Embassy in Ukraine is to build strong and productive relationships between our two countries across many dimensions - political, economic, business and investment, technical cooperation and development, defence and security, academic and cultural, immigration, human rights, and multilateral policy issues and programs. The Embassy also fosters human partnerships – among individuals, youth and civil society organizations – because these are an essential part of successful relations between democratic societies.

A Century of Connections

For more than a century, since the 1890's, Ukrainians have emigrated to Canada, bringing with them their distinctive language, culture and history. They have enriched Canada with their energy and intelligence, and made major contributions to our society and economy. Many have risen to very prominent positions. Today over 1.2 million out of a population of 33 million Canadians proudly claim Ukrainian ancestry.

Canada was the first Western country to officially recognize independent Ukraine on December 2, 1991, after 97% of Ukrainians voted for independence in a national referendum. Formal diplomatic relations between Canada and Ukraine were established on January 27, 1992.

Since then, our countries have signed a variety of agreements covering trade and commerce, technical cooperation, and defence and mutual legal assistance among others. In 2008, Canada's Parliament unanimously passed a bill to establish a Ukrainian Famine and Genocide Memorial day and to recognize the Ukrainian Famine of 1932–33 as an act of genocide.

In the last few years, Canadians of Ukrainian ancestry have been able to return freely to Ukraine with their treasury of traditions and new world expertise – in areas such as historical and language studies, technology, agriculture, and the arts.

Many other Canadians have shared their experience in effective and democratic governance, business, management and organization to assist Ukraine's progress as an independent state.

Political and Economic Relations and Public Affairs (PERPA)

The PERPA program is dedicated to the classical work of the diplomat: representing Canada and Canadian interests in Ukraine, and working with Ukraine to further our common objectives in the world. There are the three main directions to this program:

Political and Economic Relations



After independence, in March 1994 a more formal structure was given to our bilateral relations. Our governments issued a declaration on the Special Partnership between Canada and Ukraine, and this commitment was renewed again in 2001 and in 2008 during the visit of the President of Ukraine to Canada.

This Partnership declaration recognizes Canada's support for the development of an independent and prosperous Ukraine. We are working to foster common, pragmatic objectives with Ukraine bilaterally, regionally and internationally, to provide sustained support for Ukraine's development and reform initiatives, and to enhance our mutual cooperation on a range of defence and security issues.



In addition, Canada wants to engage more intensely with Ukraine on the economic and business fronts to our mutual benefit, and to partner more strategically with Ukraine in multilateral institutions and on global initiatives – the UN, WTO, NATO, OSCE and the Francophonie (to which Ukraine has now the status of observer).

Another important function of the Embassy's PERPA program is to follow developments involving Ukraine and Ukrainians and to communicate facts, analysis and commentary back to Canadian government departments and other interested Canadians in a useful historical and current context.

Cultural and Academic Relations

Every year Canadian and Ukrainian performers, artists and scholars benefit from the Embassy's assistance in exchanges between our countries. The range of these activities is considerable – covering political, social, economic, and public policy issues, literature, visual and performing arts, historical and scientific conferences. This includes support for the first Canadian Studies Center ever established in Ukraine, in 2005, at the Yuriy Fedkovych National University in Chernivtsi. In 2007, the Canadian dancer/choreographer, Iryna Balan, toured Ukraine with an exhibition which chronicled the life of Vasile Avramenko - the iconic father of Ukrainian dance who emigrated to Canada in 1925. Such exchanges are invaluable in connecting our countries and citizens at the human level, and let us celebrate Canadian and Ukrainian culture and progress.



Public Affairs and Outreach

An important part of the Embassy's work is to inform Ukraine's government, policy makers, opinion influencers and regular citizens about Canada – our history, our people, our challenges and successes. In particular, Embassy representatives want to communicate and discuss with Ukrainians about Canada's Ukraine-related policies, and our views on other international issues – for example, global business developments, Euro-Atlantic cooperation and human rights.

To do this, Embassy staff participate in Roundtable policy events, speak to university students and other groups, talk to local media, and respond to public enquires. A key portal for our public communications with Ukrainians is the Embassy's trilingual website at www.kyiv.gc.ca. Please come and visit us!



Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)

Canada was among the first international donors to mobilize a response to Ukraine's post-independence needs for technical assistance, and the Embassy's CIDA section continues to be one of our most active. Its programs touch the lives of thousands of Ukrainians each year.

Canada's Program of Technical Cooperation was announced at the London G-7 Economic Summit in July 1991. Our cooperation initially focused on supporting Ukraine's transition to a market-based economy, promoting democratic governance, increasing bilateral trade and investment linkages, and promoting nuclear safety.

Since 1991, CIDA has contributed over \$ 350 million to technical cooperation in Ukraine. Governance and economic development continue to be priorities. CIDA places emphasis on projects that will contribute significantly to Ukraine's continuing reform process. Especially encouraged are initiatives that

CIDA is a strong contributor to Multilateral Programs, including:

- United Nations Development Program
- European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
- Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe
- International Monetary Fund
- World Bank

will contribute significantly to Ukraine's continuing reform process. Especially encouraged are initiatives that give rise to additional reforms, or help institutions and organizations take advantage of reforms being implemented elsewhere in Ukraine.

The primary channel for CIDA funds to Ukraine is the Bilateral Program. The Program coordinates closely with other parts of CIDA, such as Canadian Partnership, and Multilateral programming. The Office of Democratic Governance's (ODG) Deployment for Democratic Development mechanism provides effective, 'quick response' expertise in support of CIDA's partner countries' strategies for democratic governance.

CIDA's key partners are Canadian and international organizations working with their Ukrainian government, civil society and private sector partners.



Benefits reach all Ukrainians and in particular government officials, judges, youth at risk and their families, civil society organizations, citizens in target oblasts, women, agricultural producers and small and medium-sized enterprises.

In 2001, CIDA developed a country-specific framework for Ukraine. This framework, operational up to now, was based on two main principles – promote the successful integration of Ukraine into the global market economy and encourage the peaceful development of a democratic system of government based on the rule of law. A few of the results across a number of sectors:



- Contributing to Ukraine’s accession to the WTO in 2008 by supporting the development of a cadre of more than 1000 international trade and development professionals to back negotiation and implementation of the WTO agreement;
- Helping revive the credit union system, with close to 500,000 customers in mostly rural areas obtaining financial services and loans;
- Creating model courts at local ‘rayon’ level to demonstrate efficient procedures, improved judicial impartiality and ethical standards.

CIDA’s New Programming Strategy 2008-2012

The CIDA Ukraine Program is currently finalizing a programming strategy for 2008-2012. It builds on past efforts and aligns with the priorities of the Ukrainian government’s reform strategy. The goal of the Ukraine Program is to strengthen democracy and further Ukraine’s integration into the global economy while improving economic opportunities for its citizens. Program decisions will continue to be informed by Ukraine’s aspirations for EU membership and the knowledge that Ukraine’s future is in Europe.

The strategy is responsive, flexible and results-based focusing on two sectors – democratic governance and private sector development. These two sectors reinforce one another as good governance provides the enabling environment for economic growth, while the private sector generates the resources to finance government institutions and social services.

Democratic governance programming will focus on three sub-sectors, rule of law, accountable public institutions and freedom and democracy, while private sector development programming will focus on two sub-sectors, creating an enabling environment and promoting entrepreneurship.

The Program has two cross-cutting themes, equality between women and men, and the environment. A portion of all project budgets will be devoted to initiatives supporting gender equality. Environmental strategies will be developed for all projects to identify opportunities for positive environmental impacts.



The CDAO in Kyiv consists of a:

- Defence Attaché
- Defence Attaché Administrative Assistant
- Defence Relations Assistant/Interpreter

Defence

The Canadian government established a Defence Attaché Office at the Embassy in Kyiv to manage bilateral defence relations and programs between Ukraine's Ministry of Defence and Canada's Department of National Defence (DND). Through this office, DND's Military Training Assistance Programme (MTAP) sponsors various training courses such as English and French language training and Army operational and leadership courses for Ukrainian officers.

In addition, the Defence Attaché Office coordinates joint military exercises where Ukrainian soldiers take part in Canadian Forces-led training to support UN and NATO operational deployments.

Since 1994, MTAP has sponsored more than 800 Ukrainian officers to attend training courses in Canada – representing a commitment by Canada of over \$20 million.



Immigration

Canada has welcomed immigrants from Ukraine for over 100 years. The first two waves of immigrants – one beginning in the mid-1890's, the next coming between the wars - consisted primarily of farming families searching for a better economic future. The third wave of immigrants, arriving immediately after WWII, consisted mainly of displaced persons unable to return home due to the imposition or re-imposition of repressive Soviet rule in Ukraine. The latest wave of Ukrainian immigration began in 1991 with the dissolution of the Soviet Union and continues to this day. Smaller than the first three waves, this fourth wave is again coming for economic reasons and includes highly qualified engineers, scientists, artists and other professionals and skilled tradespeople. In 2008, Canada expects to welcome around 1900 new immigrants from Ukraine.

About 1.2 million Canadians are of Ukrainian ancestry – one of our largest heritage populations

The global movement of people has always been a dynamic process which brings benefits both to the country of destination and the country of origin. Many immigrants have returned to Ukraine after several years or even decades, to invest in Ukraine the knowledge, skills and capital gained in their adopted country-Canada. The exchange of people, ideas, goods and services between Canada and Ukraine is growing all the time. In 2008, Canada will issue over 10,000 temporary resident visas to visitors, tourists, business persons, students, and temporary foreign workers. The Immigration and Visa Section of the Canadian Embassy continually looks for ways to facilitate the movement of genuine travellers to Canada, with the result that in 2008, over 83% of persons who apply for a temporary visa are successful.



Trade and Investment

Trade is an important dimension of our bilateral relations supported and facilitated by the Embassy's Trade section. Our Trade staff assist Canadian and Ukrainian companies in getting together to do business. Our two-way trade has increased substantially since 2004 but considerable untapped potential for business remains.

Canada's economy is one of the largest in the world, with hundreds of thousands of large, medium and small companies doing business. Canada is competitive globally in sectors such as agriculture, oil and gas, construction, information and communications technology, and pharmaceuticals, to name a few. Current projects in Ukraine range from aviation, business education, plastics and polymers to manufacturing, mining and mineral technology. Canada welcomes Ukraine's accession into the WTO in early 2008 as it will encourage stronger bilateral trade and investment ties and lead to improvements and greater transparency in the business environment.



Top 5 Canadian Exports (2007) in C\$ million	Total \$128.3 mil.		Top 5 Ukrainian Exports (2007) in C\$ million	Total \$117.8 mil.
1. Machinery	30.6		1. Iron and steel	32.5
2. Fish and seafood	22.2		2. Railway products	12.3
3. Plastic products	10.7		3. Fertilizer	11.8
4. Medical Instruments	8.5		4. Iron and steel products	9.1
5. Vehicles and spare parts	8.0		5. Mineral fuel, oil	8.9

Administration

All Embassy programs are supported by our Administration section. This dedicated team of professionals ensures that all financial, property, personnel, transport, communications, security, maintenance and other services are in place and running smoothly. Without this administrative backbone, the other sections of the Embassy could not do their work.

Consular Services

A priority for the Canadian Embassy is to provide services to Canadians living or traveling in Ukraine, and to assist Ukrainian citizens dealing with Canadian authorities. This is the work of our Consular section. In addition to helping Canadians renew their passports and assisting those who are in distress, the Consular section offers other services such as legalisation of documents, authentication of signatures, certified true copies, affidavits and more. Canada also has a Consulate in Lviv headed by an Honorary Consul.

Registration of Canadians abroad assists the Canadian government in allocating the appropriate level of resources in case of emergency, including situations requiring the evacuation of Canadian citizens.

Canadians traveling to Ukraine should make sure to visit www.voyage.gc.ca before beginning their trip for the latest information on local conditions. The Embassy strongly recommends that Canadians who plans to stay in Ukraine for over 90 days register at http://www.voyage.gc.ca/main/sos/roca_notice-en.asp.

Canadian Embassy

31, Yaroslaviv Val Street,
Kyiv, Ukraine, 01901

Посольство Канади

Вул. Ярославів Вал, 31
Київ, 01901, Україна

Ambassade du Canada

31, rue Yaroslaviv Val,
Kyiv, Ukraine, 01901



www.kyiv.gc.ca



(+38 044) 590 3100



kyiv@international.gc.ca



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