



EMBASSY NEWS'N ACTIVITIES



Canadian Embassy

Embassy of Canada in Ukraine
KYIV

compiled by officers and staff of the
Canadian Embassy



Financial Seminar in Kyiv

The Verkhovna Rada (Parliament) conducted a seminar Feb. 21 on the legislative foundation of local budgets and financial activities. The event, organized by the Canada-Ukraine Legislative Cooperation Project, drew figures such as Deputy Speaker Viktor Mousiaka, VR Presidential Representative Roman Bezsmertnyi, and VR Tax Committee Chair Yevhen Zhovtyak, and Richard Bird, a specialist in intergovernmental finance and Director of the International Centre for Tax Studies at the University of Toronto. The forum came at a time when VR conciliatory groups were finishing their discussions on a draft law on municipal government, which envisages financial and material independence of local state-appointed administrations. In photo, VR Speaker Mousiaka addressing the session; to his right, Amb. Chris Westdal.

Political

- On January 16, 1997, Ambassador Chris Westdal presented firefighting suits to the Kyiv Fire Department. The protective equipment was a donation from Irene Hoggart, and was shipped to Ukraine by Lateral Vector Resources of Saskatchewan.
- Highlighting Canada's role as NATO's contact Mission in Ukraine, Ambassador Westdal opened the Atlantic Council of Ukraine's information seminar on January 23.
- Canadian Forces Attache Pierre Boucher joined a delegation from National Defence Headquarters in talks with senior Ukrainian generals February 27 on plans for Canada-Ukraine-Poland cooperation in the security field. The Canadian team went on to visit Ukrainian peacekeepers based at the Rava Ruska (Lviv oblast), before crossing the border to visit their Polish counterparts in the Krakow Military District.
- Ambassador Chris Westdal was chosen to be a presenter at Ukraine's first-ever "Person of the Year Awards" March 8 called Prometei-Prestige for the highest professional and social achievements. Speaking in Ukrainian, he presented the award in the "Pride of the Nation" category.

• Legislative Cooperation Seminar on Fiscal Management and Budget System

A Canadian-Ukrainian seminar on fiscal management and Budget System was held on Feb. 21, 1997 in the Verkhovna Rada. The seminar, chaired by the Deputy Speaker V. Mousiaka of the Verkhovna Rada, was organized by the Canadian-Ukrainian Legislative Cooperation Project and the VR, with the assistance of the Canadian Embassy. Ambassador Westdal addressed the audience of prominent Parliamentarians, Governmental officials and business representatives and spoke of the importance of monitoring the expenditure of even small amounts of public money at a time when Ukrainian resources are limited. The Ambassador also noted the significance of the implementation of economic reforms in Ukraine, failure of which can threaten its security.

Dr. Richard Bird, an internationally-known specialist in the field of fiscal management, was the keynote speaker. Dr. Bird, who is the Director of the Centre for Tax Studies Joseph L. Rotman Centre for Management of the University of Toronto, was invited to provide an overview of international 'best practice' with respect to this field of public policy. Seminar participants engaged in active discussion addressing the establishment of a framework for fiscal relations between different levels of authority in Ukraine, and of the options available to the country. The issue of fiscal management is the second in a series of policy areas in which Ukrainian and Canadian Government officials, experts and organizations are actively engaged in the development of Ukrainian legislation.

- On January 17, Ambassador Westdal hosted a lunch at his Residence for Dr. Andriy Serdiuk, Ukrainian Minister of Health, and Canadian technical cooperation project managers in the health sector. The discussion centred on Dr. Serdiuk's visit to Canada in December, and his plans for reform of the health sector in Ukraine.
- Kati Csaba attended a conference for Crimean NGOs on March 7-8 in Simferopol, which was organized by the UNDP's Crimean Integration and Development Program. Ms. Csaba spoke about the activities of the Canadian Cooperation Fund administered by the Embassy, in a series of presentations by donors on their programs to support NGOs, and later met with several Crimean NGOs to discuss potential projects.
- The Visa Section had a booth at the EnterEx '97 Modern Information Technologies trade show in Kyiv in February, 1997 to attract qualified and experienced IT specialists for immigration to Canada.

Immigrant & Non-Immigrant Statistics in Kyiv

	1995	1996
Non-Immigrant applications received	5497	5813
Non-Immigrant visas issued	4904	5130
Refusal rate	11-25%	11-20%
Immigration applications received	1137	1134
Immigration applications processed	661	973
Immigration visas (persons) issued	1249	1940