

*CIDA Reforms in Ukraine's Key Sectors*

# Canada-Ukraine Partners Program: CUPP Comes to Successful Conclusion



by Nina Romas

*Immediately upon the dissolution of the former Soviet Union, the Canadian government started building up a technical assistance program with countries in the region, primarily Russia and Ukraine, through the Department of External Affairs and International Trade. A program of technical assistance for Ukraine was presented at the July 1991 G-7 Economic Summit in London. The program was designed to deepen the special political and economic links between Canada and Ukraine by promoting democracy, supporting the transition to a market-based economy, and increasing Canadian trade and investment links with the region.*

*The program was accelerated following Ukraine's declaration of independence and the establishment of formal diplomatic relations between Ottawa and Kyiv.*

*In 1992, a series of proactive investigative missions were sent to Ukraine to identify priority sectors and partners for bilateral cooperation. From these initial steps, the technical assistance program evolved to*

*meet the changing political and social needs of Ukraine and to contribute to Ukraine's reform process and its entry onto the world stage. Over the years, one of the highest profile programs has been the Canada-Ukraine Partners Program, which started originally as the Partners in Progress (PIPS) Initiative, and eventually came to be known as just CUPP.*

## PARTNERS IN PROGRESS INITIATIVE

In January 1993, an innovative Partners in Progress Initiative (PIPS) was announced to assist Ukraine in the transition to a market economy and in the establishment of democratic institutions.

PIPS was designed to concentrate on four priority sectors: public administration, health, agriculture and human resource development. Canadian advisors were matched with Ukrainian private and public institutions. The program was administered

by the Canadian agencies which had developed and proposed projects through their investigative missions to Ukraine.

The similarities of the projects grouped under the PIPS initiative were in their implementation: each aspired to send Canadian volunteer advisors to Ukraine on assignments designed to share skills and Canadian "know-how" for periods ranging from two to twelve months. All four sectors drew on the professional skills, linguistic capabilities and cultural understanding of Canadians. In general, the projects were developed in consultation with a partner organization in Ukraine. These volunteer assignments had an impact on several levels: they provided some immediate short-term assistance to institutions undergoing reform; generated a visible Canadian commitment to the on-going transition process in Ukraine; and put in place a mechanism to draw on the vast reservoir of Canadians from Ukrainian origin who wanted to assist in this reform process.

Under the PIPS initiative, some 250 Canadian volunteer advisors were placed on short-term assignments in Ukraine.

## CANADA-UKRAINE PARTNERS PROGRAM (CUPP)

In September 1994, the PIPS Initiative entered a new phase, now called the Canada-Ukraine Partners Program (CUPP).

Canada's then External Affairs Minister André Ouellet emphasized CUPP's role and importance: "The program is testimony to Canada's special partnership with Ukraine and our commitment to support the economic and democratic process in that country. The program will draw on the strong human links which underpin Canada-Ukraine relations."

CUPP was viewed as a transition and testing phase for the volunteer exchange mechanisms for Ukraine. The objective was to strengthen Ukrainian institutions and organizations in the public and private sectors which were active in the reform process, and to establish long-term institutional linkages between Ukrainian and Canadian institutions.

**CANADA-UKRAINE PARTNERS PROGRAM**  
**ПРОГРАМА КАНАДСЬКО-УКРАЇНСЬКОГО ПАРТНЕРСТВА**

**CUPP ПКУП**

The Ukrainian Canadian Congress  
Promotion and Advisory Services Unit  
has been very proud to be involved in the  
Canada-Ukraine Partners Program  
for the past few years.

We wish all our Partners  
and the Canada-Ukraine Monitor  
best wishes in their future endeavours.

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