

Premier Klein's Mission to Ukraine

May 18-23, 2002

Message from the Premier

Ukraine and Alberta have deep historical connections. Nearly 300,000 people in Alberta have ancestral ties to Ukraine and settlers from Ukraine first came to Alberta more than a century ago. With Ukraine achieving independence in 1991, cultural, business, and educational ties between Alberta and Ukraine have expanded greatly in the last 10 years.



In May this year, I undertook a mission to Ukraine. Joining me and other members of the Alberta government were representatives of several businesses and organizations in Alberta who are actively involved in Ukraine or are interested in becoming involved in Ukraine. The mission was an excellent opportunity to reinforce the current partnerships, and to also explore and discuss new opportunities.

It was clear to me throughout the mission that Ukraine has made significant progress in its move towards a market economy. There is an emerging wealth of business opportunities throughout Ukraine. Of course, Ukraine's path towards a free market system has not always been smooth and some businesses have run into obstacles. In my meetings with Ukrainian President Kuchma, Prime Minister Kinakh, and local leaders there was a clear commitment at all levels of government to continuing the reform process. Ukraine is dedicated to strengthening its economy and putting in place transparent and efficient regulatory systems so that businesses can operate and provide jobs.

The Alberta government is committed to continuing to help Ukraine undertake its reforms. Alberta has been involved in several reform projects in Ukraine in the last few years, particularly in agriculture and justice, and the province will continue to be involved. Alberta has tremendous expertise in public sector management and I am pleased our province can provide this assistance.

This was a historic mission, the first visit of an Alberta Premier to Ukraine. It was a mission full of many achievements and successes. Friendships were formed, agreements were signed, and commitments were made. I look forward to seeing what exciting initiatives will come about in the coming months and years as a result of it.

Ralph Klein
Premier

Overview

Premier Klein undertook a historic mission to Ukraine in May 2002, at the invitation of the Ukrainian government. The mission was geared to strengthening existing ties and to exploring new areas of cooperation between Alberta and Ukraine.

The mission included stops in two major cities: Kyiv, the capital of Ukraine, and Lviv, the cultural and economic centre of Western Ukraine where most Albertans of Ukrainian descent have roots.

There was solid media coverage of the mission, both in Ukraine and in Alberta. Ukraine publications, television, and radio outlets focused on several aspects of the mission, particularly agricultural cooperation, educational scholarships, and business ties. Alberta newspapers published several articles about the mission which focused on expanding business opportunities in Ukraine.

Accompanying the Premier and his wife, Colleen Klein, were: Gene Zwozdesky, Minister of Community Development; Dave Broda, MLA for Redwater and Chair of the Advisory Council on Alberta-Ukraine Relations; Julian Nowicki, Deputy Minister of Executive Council; and leaders of the Alberta-Ukraine community. Representatives of 15 Alberta businesses and organizations also took part in the mission, paying their own expenses.

Mission Highlights

- Meetings with Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma, Prime Minister Anatoliy Kinakh, and Vice Prime Minister Vasyl Rohovyi;
- An agreement committing Alberta to assist Ukraine with agricultural reforms in partnership with the World Bank's International Finance Corporation;
- Announcement of a five-year \$150,000 Alberta-Ukraine Special Recognition Awards Program;
- A roundtable meeting with Alberta businesses involved or interested in doing business in Ukraine;
- Meetings with Andrew Robinson, Canada's Ambassador to Ukraine, and numerous Albertans now living and working in Ukraine;
- The graduation address at Grant MacEwan College's Kyiv Campus;
- Meetings with government leaders from the Oblasts of Lviv, Ternopil, Chernivtsi and Ivano-Frankivsk in Western Ukraine; and,
- Visits to several historical sites and cultural landmarks.

"[The mission] was instrumental in giving the message that our Province supports Alberta companies doing business in Ukraine."

Ed Southern, President
Kashtan Petroleum Ltd.
Ukrainian Honorary Consul in Alberta

Mission Objectives

The key objectives of the mission were:

1. To demonstrate Alberta's strong support for an independent Ukraine.
2. To contribute Alberta expertise to assist Ukraine's reform of its economic and governance structures, in partnership with international financial institutions.
3. To build upon the successes of Alberta oil and gas companies by exploring further opportunities for economic cooperation between Alberta and Ukraine, particularly in the energy sector.
4. To support educational cooperation programs already established by institutions such as Grant MacEwan College and the University of Alberta.
5. To recognize the important contribution of Alberta's Ukrainian-Canadian community, and its role in helping reconstruct an independent Ukraine.

Itinerary

May 18

- Arrival in Kyiv

May 19

- Visits to historical and cultural sites
- Meeting with the Canadian Ambassador to Ukraine

May 20

- Breakfast roundtable session with Alberta companies doing business in Ukraine
- Meeting and lunch with President Kuchma
- Meetings with Prime Minister Kinakh, Vice-Prime Minister Rohovyi, and other Ministers
- Meeting with the Mayor of Kyiv
- Wreath-laying ceremony at the Ukrainian Famine Memorial
- Official opening of an Alberta petroleum company's new office in Kyiv
- Ukrainian government reception

May 21

- Keynote speaker at an international conference on Ukrainian agribusiness development
- Signing of an agricultural development project with the World Bank's International Finance Corporation
- Wreath-laying ceremony at the Babi Yar Memorial
- Visit to the Energy Forum – Ukraine 2002 International Exhibition

(continued)

- Address to students graduating from Grant MacEwan College's Ukrainian business program
- Reception at the Canadian Embassy

May 22

- Departure for Lviv
- Meetings with Lviv regional and civic leaders
- Presentations at the Hrushevsky Museum and the Lviv Ethnography Museum
- Meeting with representatives of Western Ukrainian regions
- Wreath-laying ceremony at the Shevchenko Memorial
- Ribbon-cutting ceremony for playground project
- Meeting with participants in Canada Ukraine Foundation exchange program
- Return to Kyiv

May 23

- Return to Alberta

Mission Results

Meetings with Government Leaders

Premier Klein and senior members of the Alberta delegation met with Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma and Prime Minister Anatoliy Kinakh to discuss agricultural reform, energy cooperation, and educational ties. Included in the meeting with Prime Minister Kinakh were the Ukrainian Ministers of Agriculture, Energy and Economy. President Kuchma hosted Premier Klein at a meeting and lunch in the Mariinsky Palace. The Premier advised President Kuchma and Prime Minister Kinakh of Canada's continued support of Ukraine's bid to join the World Trade Organization.

"Premier Klein's trailblazing mission to Ukraine deserves commendation and gratitude."

Yuri Moskal,
Publisher of the
Ukrainian Canadian Herald

Premier Klein hosted a reception at the Canadian Embassy in Kyiv. More than 250 people attended. Those in the audience included senior members of the Ukrainian government and business leaders, plus numerous Kyiv-based companies and organizations with ties to Alberta.

The Premier hosted a lunch in honour of the Advisory Council on Alberta-Ukraine Relations. The Council was created by the Alberta government in 2000 in order to provide advice to the Alberta government on how to improve relations with Ukraine. During the lunch, the Premier emphasized the valuable work performed by the Council, and its important role in improving relations between Alberta and Ukraine.

Premier Klein met with the Deputy Governor of the Lviv Oblast, followed by a meeting with the Mayor of Lviv. The Premier committed to explore future cooperation with the Lviv Oblast, particularly in educational areas.

The Premier also met with the Deputy Governors of the three neighbouring Oblasts of Ivano-Frankivsk, Ternopil and Chernivtsi as well as Oksana Wynnicky, Honorary Consul for Canada in Lviv. These meetings focused on the potential for a broader, comprehensive agreement for cooperation between Alberta and the four Western Oblasts.

During all of these meetings, Premier Klein commended Ukraine on the progress it has made in its extensive reforms. He conveyed the message that many Alberta businesses are interested in doing business in Ukraine, but need a more business-friendly environment. Ukrainian leaders pledged to help resolve these concerns, and they confirmed their commitment to the ongoing reform process in Ukraine and its move towards a market economy.

Business Meetings

Thirty representatives of 15 different Alberta businesses and organizations accompanied Premier Klein on the mission. This included Dave Sereda, President of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress – Alberta Provincial Council, who passed away July 19, 2002. The delegation took part in a two-day program of seminars and site visits regarding Ukrainian business opportunities.

Premier Klein met informally with both Alberta and Ukraine business people at a 75-person working breakfast at the Canadian Embassy in Kyiv. He noted that two-way trade between Alberta and Ukraine was well below its potential, but anticipated that export opportunities would grow as the Ukrainian economy grows. The Premier identified export opportunities for Alberta in areas such as environmental goods and services; industrial machinery; information and communications technology; medical equipment and pharmaceuticals; and mining and transportation equipment.

Premier Klein met with Naftogas Ukraine, a state-owned natural gas company, to discuss opportunities for Alberta companies operating or interested in operating in Ukraine's growing energy sector. The Premier toured the Third International Oil and Gas Show in Kyiv with the Chairman of Naftogas.

In addition, Premier Klein participated in the official opening of Kashtan Petroleum's Kyiv office. Kashtan Petroleum is an Alberta-Ukraine joint venture owned in part by Alberta-based Kroes Energy, which has roots stretching back nearly a decade in Kyiv.

Agriculture

Premier Klein delivered the keynote address at a conference on Ukrainian Agribusiness Development hosted by the International Finance Corporation, the lending arm of the World Bank. The conference was attended by about 200 officials and business leaders from Ukraine and Europe, and was organized with the assistance of Leah Soroka, an Albertan working for the International Finance Corporation.

During the conference, the Premier signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the International Finance Corporation, committing Alberta to assist with agricultural reform in

Ukraine. It was the first such agreement the International Finance Corporation has signed with a provincial government.

In addition, MLA Dave Broda visited a model farm project in southern Ukraine that Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development has been involved in since 2001. He reviewed the progress of the project with local officials.

Education

Premier Klein announced the creation of an Alberta-Ukraine Special Recognition Awards program. The program creates a \$150,000 fund for scholarships and academic exchanges over a five-year period. The funds for the 2002-2003 academic year were awarded soon after the mission, allowing several Ukrainian students to come to Alberta. Funds will also be used by the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies at the University of Alberta to develop a website that will provide information about Canada and Alberta in Ukrainian.

The Premier gave the keynote address at the graduation ceremony of the Grant MacEwan College business program in Kyiv, also attended by the Vice President of the College and Dr. Roman Petryshyn, Director of the Ukrainian Resource and Development Centre at the College. Grant MacEwan College was one of the first Western educational institutions to come to Ukraine after it achieved independence. The College's International Institute of Business in Kyiv is playing an important role in Ukraine's ongoing social and business transformation. In his address, the Premier emphasized the important connection between education and both political and economic freedom.

"[The Premier drew] the Ukrainian public's attention to MacEwan's education program in Kyiv and to Alberta as a future trading area."

Dr. Roman Petryshyn, Director
Ukrainian Resource and Development Centre
Grant MacEwan College

Culture and History

Premier Klein presented to the Hrushevsky museum a translation of the first two volumes of Mykhailo Hrushevsky's 11-volume *History of Ukraine-Rus*. The volumes were translated into English and donated by the University of Alberta's Canadian Institute for Ukrainian Studies.

The Premier visited the Ethnography Museum in Lviv, the site of the Oblast's genealogical archives. He presented microfilm from the Provincial Archives of Alberta containing genealogical records about Alberta's earliest Ukrainian settlers. The Ethnography Museum has worked closely with Alberta over the past several decades, especially with development of the Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village east of Edmonton. That cooperation will continue as a result of this donation.

Premier Klein participated in a wreath-laying ceremony at a memorial to Taras Shevchenko, the 19th Century poet seen by many as the father of Ukrainian nationalism. He also took part in wreath-laying ceremonies at two memorial sites. The first, the Famine Memorial, is a tribute to the more than seven million Ukrainians who died in the 1930s due to forced collectivization of

Ukrainian agriculture. The second, the Babi Yar memorial, commemorates Nazi atrocities committed in Kyiv during the Second World War.

The Premier visited the offices of the Canada-Ukraine Foundation in Lviv. The Foundation has been active in supporting the Young Women's International Exchange with Ukraine, a program sponsored by Canada World Youth that has brought 35 young women to Red Deer over the past two years. Many of the program participants were present at the Foundation offices to meet with Premier Klein and the Alberta delegation.

Humanitarian

Premier Klein took part in the official opening of an Alberta-funded playground at a primary school in Lviv. The playground is funded through donations from Albertans to Calgary-based Humanitarian Aid Response Teams (HART). HART is run by Lloyd Cenaiko. The organization has funded similar projects throughout Ukraine and has received matched funding through the Wild Rose Foundation.

Minister Zwozdesky met with pediatric health care officials to discuss medical cooperation between Alberta and the Lviv Oblast on treatment of cystic fibrosis. He committed to help connect Ukraine's pediatricians with physicians in Edmonton who specialize in treating cystic fibrosis. Western Ukraine lacks both the equipment and methodology at its regional children's hospital to effectively treat cystic fibrosis.

Mrs. Colleen Klein toured an orphanage in Sviatochyn. She identified opportunities for medical cooperation between Alberta and Ukraine on treating tuberculosis, particularly among Ukrainian children. Mrs. Klein also visited the Chernobyl Museum which had pictorial displays of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster.

Other Events

The Premier participated in a lunch at Lviv's "House of Scientists" with Ukrainian people who have ties to Alberta. The luncheon was attended by government officials, and Western Ukrainian leaders from business, culture and other sectors.

Minister Zwozdesky visited a model court project in Kyiv funded by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). Alberta has donated surplus court-reporting equipment to the project. Ukrainian court officials affirmed that the equipment was helping to improve the accuracy of court transcripts.

Minister Zwozdesky met with the head of the Science and Technology Centre of Ukraine. The Centre is funded by Canada, the United States and Japan. It seeks to provide commercial applications for military equipment and technology left in Ukraine after the collapse of the former Soviet Union. Possible cooperation between Alberta and Ukraine in this area is being pursued through Alberta's Ministry of Innovation and Science.

In addition, Minister Zwozdesky visited the Ivan Franko Lviv National University regarding an ongoing voluntary-sector governance training microproject in Lviv. Alberta has been involved in the project since January 2002, and Minister Zwozdesky committed to continue support for the partnership. Also in Ivano-Frankivsk, Minister Zwozdesky toured the CIDA-funded Canada-Ukraine Business Centre and the Oil and Gas Institute. Future areas for cooperation with Alberta were discussed. Minister Zwozdesky further met with Oblast Governor Mykhailo Vyshyvanyuk and discussed the region's economic growth as well as potential educational cooperation between Alberta and Ivano-Frankivsk.

MLA Dave Broda met with the Deputy Governor and officials from the Chernivtsi Oblast in Western Ukraine to discuss future cooperation between Alberta and Chernivtsi, including forestry management and emission controls.

Conclusion

Ukraine is a nation rich in culture and history. Since achieving independence in 1991, it has also begun to attain greater economic and political strength. Given Alberta's extensive historical ties to Ukraine and the ongoing interest and commitment of Albertans of Ukrainian descent, there is much potential for partnerships and joint ventures. There are already many beneficial initiatives in place and Premier Klein's mission served to strengthen existing partnerships and to launch new projects in business, energy, education, culture, and agriculture.

Official Delegation

- Ralph Klein, Premier of Alberta
- Mrs. Colleen Klein
- Gene Zwozdesky, Minister of Community Development and Co-Chair of the Advisory Council on Alberta-Ukraine Relations
- Dave Broda, MLA, Chair of the Advisory Council on Alberta-Ukraine Relations
- Julian Nowicki, Deputy Minister of Executive Council

Business Delegation

- NEWSCO Directional & Horizontal Services Inc.
- Zhoda 2001 Corp.
- Kroes Energy Inc.
- Epic Energy
- Momentum Energy International
- Nostra Terra Resources
- Shelton Canada Corp.
- Quantum Oil Corp.

- Focus International
- Grant MacEwan College
- Heritage Frozen Foods Ltd.
- Mulka Insurance Ltd.
- Ukrainian Consulate Project for Western Canada
- Art East Art Gallery
- Ukrainian Canadian Congress—Alberta Provincial Council