



КОНГРЕС УКРАЇНЦІВ КАНАДИ
ЦЕНТРАЛЯ

UKRAINIAN CANADIAN CONGRESS
HEADQUARTERS

CONGRÈS DES UKRAINIENS-CANADIENS
(SIÈGE SOCIAL)

SUITE 647, 167 LOMBARD AVENUE, WINNIPEG, MANITOBA, CANADA R3B 0V3 TEL: (204) 942-4627 FAX: (204) 947-3882 EMAIL: ucc@ucc.ca
www.ucc.ca

UCC pleased with Canada's renewed commitment to Ukraine

Canadian Foreign Minister Hon. Peter MacKay was in Ukraine on 17-18 July 2007 on an official visit. The Minister met with Ukrainian Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich and Foreign Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk along with leaders of various Ukrainian political parties. In Kyiv, the Minister paid his respects at the monument to the victims of the 1932-33 Famine-Genocide – the *Holodomor* – in Ukraine.

While in Ukraine, Minister MacKay announced the following Canadian commitments to supporting Ukrainian democracy:

- A five-year \$6.5-million project *Juvenile Justice Reform in Ukraine* project
- A six-year \$9.5-million *Policy Reform and Implementation Support Mechanism* is project that will fund individual initiatives aimed at improving Ukraine's governance through policy development and implementation.
- Canada plans to send up to 60 observers through the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe for the upcoming parliamentary elections in Ukraine.

Additionally, Minister MacKay was able to visit two projects undertaken by Ukrainian Canadian NGOs in Ukraine. In Ivano-Frankivsk oblast he visited a summer camp for orphans run by the charity Children of Chernobyl Canadian Fund. In Kyiv, the Minister visited the Canada-Ukraine Parliamentary Resource Centre at the National Parliamentary Library of Ukraine established with the support and assistance of the Canadian Friends of Ukraine. Both the CCCF and the CFU are members of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress.

“This trip by the Minister is the first one by such a high placed Canadian politician since before the 2004 Presidential Elections in Ukraine.” explained UCC President Orysia Sushko. “The UCC believes that this trip acts as a signal to the Ukrainians of Canada's continued support for democratic development. The concrete support announced by Canada support the advance of good governance in Ukraine is to be welcomed. UCC is particularly pleased that the Minister became acquainted with the good work being undertaken by Canadian NGOs in Ukraine. We know that people helping people is one of the fundamentals of Canadian civil society and are happy to see that principal at work in Ukraine. The volunteer sector has a lot to offer in furthering Canadian foreign policy objectives.”

- 30 -

July 20, 2007

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

Ostap Skrypnyk
UCC Executive Director
Tel: (204) 942-4627, Fax: (204) 947-3882
ostap.skrypnyk@ucc.ca , www.ucc.ca