

2009: A Year of Progress for Inclusive Education Project

The term “inclusion” expresses commitment to educate each child in their neighborhood school, to the maximum extent appropriate, in a regular heterogeneous classroom with same age peers. It involves bringing the support services to the child (rather than moving the child to the services) and requires only that the child will benefit from being in the class (rather than having to keep up with the other students). In order to be effective, inclusion of children in classrooms requires adequate resources and staff training to deliver a specific form of education service.

The project, known as “Inclusive Education for Children with Disabilities in Ukraine”, was developed to advance such change. The project provides Ukrainian parents and their children with choices, and speed up the integration of children with disabilities into mainstream Ukrainian society. There are teams in both Ukraine and Canada working on the project with three component areas – policy (multiple stakeholders collaboratively developing policies to promote inclusive education); education (demonstrating how inclusive programs will be made available and delivered); and civil society (incorporating non-government organizations to develop interest and support to advance inclusive education).

Over the course of five years (2008-2013) the project is being implemented within two pilot regions in Ukraine:



May 2009 Study Tour to Canada

Lviv and Simferopol. 2009 was the second year of the project, the highlight of which was a visit to Alberta by 30 people from Ukraine, from May 3-17. Among them were representatives of the national, oblast and local Ministry of Education and Science, the Institute of Special Pedagogy/Academy of Pedagogical Sciences, three universities, two pilot schools, two institutes for teacher upgrading, several non-governmental organizations, interpreters and project administrators. The purpose of the visit was to achieve specific learning objectives by informing participants about the policies, practices, services and systems that support inclusive education practices in Alberta.

The Ukrainian delegates began their visit with a series of presentations at Grant MacEwan University. At a luncheon held at MacEwan, they were able to network with a number of stakeholders of education in Alberta, including representatives from Alberta

Education and MacEwan President Paul Byrne who officially welcomed them to Edmonton.

Later, the delegates visited other inclusive communities in the city, including the Glenrose Rehabilitation Centre, Alberta School for the Deaf, and 14 schools within the Edmonton Public, Edmonton Catholic and Pembina Hills school divisions. They were led through the schools and into classrooms and events to observe active engagement in inclusive education. Following further visits to post-secondary institutions, where they engaged in a series of dialogues with university professors from a number of Canadian institutions, the Ukrainian delegates were bid a fond farewell at a party in St. John's Auditorium, sponsored by the Ukrainian Foundation for College Education.

After their visit, delegates were asked to evaluate whether they had achieved their mission of becoming informed

about the system of inclusive education in Canada. A vast majority (98.5%) felt that they had achieved this objective.

In interviews conducted after the study tour, the following delegates had this to say:

“This project gives us the opportunity to see what we require in Ukraine in order to adapt existing experience and develop a new model of inclusive education. Also, of great importance is the collaboration between Ukrainian and Canadian colleagues, and nations generally. The project has accelerated the development and provision of inclusion in Ukraine.”

Oleg Ieresko, Head, Department of general Secondary and Pre-School Education, Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine

“The project has national importance. It is big, and its outcomes should not be short-term, but long-term and be a motivation for developing new projects. Teachers in our universities are already working on developing courses.”

Mariya Zubrytska, Vice-Rector Academic, Ivan Franko National University in Lviv

“Now we can see a better attitude toward inclusion from the participants. Also, we can see more activity toward defending children’s rights to education.”

Svitlana Yefimova, Senior Lecturer, Lviv, In-Service Teachers Training Institute

“Previously, we had questions; what to begin from and where to go in providing inclusive education. Now we have answers and an understanding in which direction to go. We plan to knock on all doors to get help.”

Lyudmyla Vyshnyak, Principal, Pilot School Lyceum #3, Simferopol



Luncheon at MacEwan



May 2009 Study Tour to Canada, Inclusive Education in Ukraine project



Meeting with Alberta parents

Canadians' Visit to Ukraine

From October 25 to November 2, 2009 MacEwan's Dr. Roman Petryshyn and Yuri Konkin visited Ukraine to explore matters dealing with the "Inclusive Education for Children with Disabilities in Ukraine" project. More specifically, they went to examine possibilities of further cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine, to summarize the project's achievements and to discuss the implementation of the project plan.

Initiatives which emerged from these discussions include:

- development by the Ministry of a Ukrainian model of inclusive education;
- development of new policies and legislation on inclusion;
- expanding the number of observer schools participating in the project;
- offering new inclusive education courses in three Ukrainian universities;
- offering in-service courses on inclusion to upgrade teachers;
- introducing the teacher assistant role in an inclusive classroom at the pilot schools; and
- introducing Ukrainian Sign Language instruction for teachers and students at the pilot schools.



Canadians visit Ukraine, meeting of the working education group



Ukrainian leadership team, Dmytro Mazin, Mykola Swarnyk, Oleg Ieresko, Maria Zubrytska, Yulia Naida

Project Update

As year two of the "Inclusive Education for Children with Disabilities in Ukraine" project draws to an end, there are a number of successes worthy of mention.

- Ukraine's Ministry of Education and Science has accepted an action plan, which will implement inclusive education in Ukrainian schools for the period of 2009-2012. This represents a significant move towards the implementation of inclusion in

Ukraine on a systemic level, and will ensure sustainable government funding.

- Drahomanov University has taken major steps in becoming a leader of inclusion. It has launched a new Centre on Inclusion and an introductory course on inclusive education. Also being considered is the introduction of a Masters program with an emphasis on inclusive education.

- Pilot school #3 in Simferopol has received substantial funding to introduce six new positions at the school level to help implement inclusion initiatives. In addition, work is being done to create a consulting centre for parents.

- Ukrainian project partners and the Canadian Centre on Disability Studies have produced ten training modules: 5 in policy development and 5 for non-governmental organizations in Ukraine.

Inclusion Advocates Earn PhD

As regular readers of this newsletter will know, URDC played a role in creating and running the Canada Ukraine Alliance for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Persons (CUADHHP), guided by Dr. Michael Rodda in Edmonton. Now, URDC would like to congratulate two members of CUADHHP, who have completed their doctorate in deafness studies.

Drs. Deena Martin and Ihor Kobel have worked together over the years to assist Canadians who wished to contribute to best practices in Deaf education in Ukraine. Deena's learning journey has included several visits to Ukraine where she visited schools and various disability-related institutions, played a role in facilitating summer institutes for students, parents and teachers of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, and generally immersed herself in the language, culture and customs of Ukraine. Ihor has been deeply involved in building partnerships and connecting people from Ukraine and Canada in order to



PhD recipients Deena Martin (left) and Ihor Kobel (right) with Dr. Michael Rodda (centre)

advance projects in education and civil society. The biggest initiative, in which Ihor has participated, is the Alliance's two dozen summer camps that have involved over a thousand deaf children and parents in Ukraine. Deena's future goals are to continue

to support her Ukrainian colleagues in advocating for social justice and equal access to education and employment opportunities. Ihor has returned to Ukraine to resume teaching at the university level and to launch a new program on training Deaf persons.

President's Visit Results in New Centre at Kyiv-Mohyla Academy

Dr. Serhiy Kvit, President of the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy (NaUKMA) paid a visit to Edmonton in May of 2009, where he met with the local Ukrainian business and academic communities. Dr. Kvit's main objective was to promote the activities of NaUKMA as well as to garner financial, organizational and academic support for NaUKMA's future growth and development. The Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, founded in 1632, is the oldest institute of higher learning in Ukraine and currently has an enrolment of about 3,000 students.

Dr. Kvit's visit included a stop at Grant



Yuri Konkin, Serhiy Kvit, Roman Petryshyn

MacEwan University where he met with President, Dr. Paul Byrne, Executive Vice-President Academic, Dr. Janet

Paterson-Weir, and several other deans of MacEwan. They discussed new programs at NaUKMA and the way the existing partnership with MacEwan can be further strengthened. The two institutions signed an agreement in 1993 and have since exchanged about two dozen faculty members.

The Ukrainian community in Edmonton raised over \$10,000 to help support Dr. Kvit's initiatives, including a \$1,000 donation from the Ukrainian Foundation for College Education. As a result of his visit and the funds raised, Dr. Kvit was able to set up a Canadian Studies Centre at NaUKMA upon his return to Ukraine. MacEwan remains a strong partner with NaUKMA, and will play an advisory role with this Centre.

16th Annual Kyiv Konnection Draws Big Crowd

St. John's Cultural Centre was filled with over 240 guests on May 7, 2009, who were there to attend the 16th Annual Kyiv Konnection Banquet. The event, presented by the Ukrainian Foundation for College Education drew a number of special guests including 29 visitors from Ukraine (high level education specialists, government officials and teachers), who were in Alberta for a study tour to learn about Canadian practices for inclusive education. As well, representatives from the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Edmonton, the Western Eparchy of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada, the Province of Alberta, and Grant MacEwan University were in attendance. As a special treat, the Honourable Gene Zwozdesky of the provincial government greeted the audience through a song of his own composition to honour UFCE.

The event's keynote speaker this year was Dr. Ehor Gauk. Dr. Gauk was born in Saskatchewan, but has practiced as a pediatric neurologist in Edmonton since 1964. He first went to Ukraine in 1958 as part of Canada's first student delegation to the Soviet Union. He has since returned 18 times as Chairman of Medical Project OSVITA, and for his efforts was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal by the Governor General, Her Excellency Adrienne Clarkson. Dr. Gauk has also made several trips to China as a visiting professor and more recently taught at the University of Mbarara in Uganda. In his address as keynote speaker, Dr. Gauk talked about the positive impacts of the work done by OSVITA, and about the challenges they faced.

Following the keynote address, Dr.



Kyiv Konnection banquet; Dr. Peter Kule and Dr. Maria Zubrytska (Ukraine)



Kyiv Konnection banquet; visitors from Ukraine



Kyiv Konnection banquet; George Zaharia, UFCE President Award recipient (left) and Dr Ernest Skakun, UFCE President

Ernest Skakun, current President of the Ukrainian Foundation for College Education (UFCE), presented the annual President's Award to George Zaharia, former UFCE President, for his many years of contributions to the

organization's vision and goals. The Kyiv Konnection fundraising banquet brought in over \$ 11,000 in support of the Chair for International Health.

Three More Specialists Visit Province Thanks to Alberta Government Grant

Oksana Tyshchenko, Elyana Danilavichiutie and Ihor Nester were all recipients of a \$5000 Alberta International Educational award, which enabled them to come to Alberta from Ukraine for a period of six weeks in the fall of 2009. As a country with 50 years of experience both in the areas of second language acquisition and inclusion, the Ukrainian award winners felt that Canada had a lot to offer them in terms of knowledge and information.

Tyshchenko, a senior researcher from Kyiv's Ukrainian Language Institute, Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, visited as many institutions and spoke with as many Canadian experts as possible, so that she could examine language issues from many different angles. Tyshchenko was particularly impressed by the dedication of Alberta's teachers, their methodology and very high standards.



Alberta Education International Award recipients Drs. Oksana Tyshchenko and Elyana Danilavichiutie with Dr. Roman Petryshyn

Danilavichiutie of the Institute of Special Pedagogy/Academy of Pedagogical Sciences in Kyiv was focused on inclusive education, and the specifics of speech language pathology. Having spoken with previous recipients of the Alberta grant, she had a solid plan for her stay in Alberta. This included

visiting the University of Alberta and other post-secondary institutions to learn about technological methods that aid disabled youth. Danilavichiutie found Albertans' advanced use of technology, to diagnose and build education plans, to be especially informative.

Ihor Nester teaches English at the Ivan Franko National University in Lviv. His mission during the visit was to examine the different ways in which English as a second language was taught in Canada compared to in Ukraine. He concluded that Canada's methods were very intensive and more effective than the current approach in his country.

However, it was not "all work and no play" for the trio. During their visit, they also had an opportunity to attend festivals, visit tourist sites such as the Royal Alberta Museum and the Legislature Building, travel to the Rockies and visit many homes. They extend a sincere "thank you" to everyone who assisted them and hosted them throughout their visit to Alberta, which they call the kindest and friendliest place they have ever visited.

Business Program Celebrates 10th Anniversary

MacEwan's School of Business Dean Elsie Elford and MacEwan training consultant Monika Weber traveled to the International Institute of Business (IIB) in Kyiv in September 2009 to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Business Management Program, and to attend the 2009 graduation ceremony. The 15 graduating students from Ukraine were the tenth group to graduate from the program, which has been a cooperative initiative between MacEwan and the IIB. Since its inception in 1997, 211 Ukrainian students have graduated from the program, but this tenth cohort had the honour of being the first to receive their Management Studies diploma from Grant MacEwan University. While at the IIB, Dean Elford also signed the final



MacEwan IIB program graduation, Kyiv, Ukraine

brokerage agreement for the last intake of Management Studies students, and discussed the conclusion of the project with MacEwan's Ukrainian partners.

Meanwhile, five Ukrainian Management Studies students chose to complete their practicum in Edmonton over the summer. Shortly after arriving in Canada, MacEwan faculty and staff held a breakfast for the students and their

Canadian employers. Attendees of the meet-and-greet got to know a bit about each student, such as Oleg Grabovetsky whose aim was to gain hospitality skills at the Westin, and Danylo Bezmenov who was partnered with Walmart where he hoped to learn more about supply chain management. Other employers who participated in the practicum were at ATB Financial and the Bank of Montreal.

More International Cooperation Discussed at Saskatoon Symposium

The Canada-Ukraine Centre Inc. (CUC) hosted a two-day symposium on the theme of Growing Canada-Ukraine Relations Through Science, Technology and Business at the Edwards School of Business, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Canada on September 21 & 22, 2009. The focus of the symposium was on Sustainable Agriculture, Energy and Environment, Health Care and Commercialization of Technologies.

There were fourteen presentations made on the selected topics of agriculture, energy, environment, health care and the transfer of technologies between Ukraine and Canada. Two concurrent Round Table discussions were held. One round table dealt with increasing cooperation and collaboration between Canadian and Ukrainian universities and colleges in the areas of science and technology. The second round table discussion dealt with the exchange and commercialization of new technologies between Canada and Ukraine.

Dr. Stepan Chekovsky, Vice-President of the Ivano-Frankivsk National University of Oil and Gas and Dr. Alexandr Bilchenko, Vice-President

of the Kharkiv Medical Academy of Post Graduate Education represented Ukrainian universities at the symposium. Participants from Canada included academics and administrators from the University of Saskatchewan, the University of Alberta, the University of Regina, the University of Manitoba, Grant MacEwan University in Edmonton and the Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology.

According to Boris Kishchuk, Chair of the Canada-Ukraine Centre (CUC), the symposium reached its objective. "Immediate outcomes of the symposium included the Ivano-Frankivsk National University of Oil and Gas and the University of Regina signing a five year extension to their student internship exchange program. In addition, the Universities of Alberta and Saskatchewan agreed to investigate possible collaboration in sustainable agriculture with universities in Ukraine," Kishchuk said.

CUC Board member Dr. Roman Petryshyn also confirmed that the Chair of International Health at MacEwan will continue its new relationship with Kharkiv Medical Academy.

For additional information contact Boris Kishchuk, Chair, Canada-Ukraine Centre Inc. at 306-665-9090 or e-mail boris@emscroscan.ca.



Dr. Ernest N Skakun, New UFCE President

New UFCE President

Dr. Ernest Skakun was elected as the new President of the Ukrainian Foundation for College Education (UFCE) in March 2009 after serving as Vice-President for several years. As President of UFCE, Skakun is committed to fulfilling the mission of UFCE, which is to support a variety of educational and cultural programs between Canada and Ukraine.

"UFCE has shared many successful programs with Ukraine and in order to maintain and increase these opportunities, it is my goal to promote UFCE's accomplishments and to foster UFCE's achievements not only at the local and provincial levels, but also at the national and international spheres," says Skakun. "Another goal is to ensure UFCE's financial stability in order that it is able to support its program commitments."

Currently, Skakun is a Professor Emeritus at the University of Alberta, where he served as a staff member in the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry from 1974 until his retirement in 2004. He also serves as Past-President of St. Andrew's Ukrainian Orthodox Sobor, Vice-President of St. Andrew's Mens Club, President of the Order of St. Andrew, and is one of the directors of St. John's Fraternal Society.



Saskatoon Symposium

URDC Issues Annual Awards

URDC congratulates the following four award recipients for 2009:

Tryzub Ukrainian Dance Ensemble,
Calgary, Alberta
Donor: Alberta Council for the
Ukrainian Arts Award (\$500)

The Tryzub Dance Ensemble toured a variety of locations throughout Alberta from April 2007 to April 2008,

including Lake Louise, Fort MacLeod, Grand Prairie, Edmonton and Calgary. The selection committee congratulated the ensemble for their “decades of promoting Ukrainian dance in Alberta”.

Myroslaw Petriw, Coquitlam, British Columbia
Donor: Anna Pidruchney Award for New Writers (\$1,000)

Myroslaw Petriw received this award for his thriller “Yaroslav’s Treasure”, which is set against the backdrop of the Orange Revolution. He describes his work as

“an artful blend of actual events and fiction, targeted at a wider anglophone audience that has never been exposed to the Ukrainian story”.

June Coward-Fearon, MacEwan student in Jamaica
Donor: International Initiatives in Deaf Studies Award (\$500)

Ms. Coward-Fearon received this award for pursuing her interest in deaf studies and hearing impairment in an international context.

Golf Tournament puts the “Fun” in Fundraising

Once again, the Ukrainian Foundation for College Education’s (UFCE) “Ukrainian” Open golf tournament was a resounding success. Some 77 golfers had a great time on August 19, 2009 showing off their golf skills at the Fort-in-View Golf Club. Afterwards, over 100 people (golfers, spouses and other supporters) sat down to enjoy an excellent supper at the Fort Saskatchewan Legion and were faced with some decision-making as to the Silent and Live Auction items they would bid on. More than \$6,700 was raised for the UFCE scholarship fund.

Heart-felt thanks go to the organizing members of UFCE’s Board of Directors, URDC staff and everyone who helped make this a successful fundraiser.

We thank the following Sponsors and Donors who helped make this year’s event such a success:

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