Final Year of the Inclusive Education Project

The CIDA-funded 5-year project, “Inclusive Education for Children with Disabilities in Ukraine”, is nearing its completion. Implemented by MacEwan University in partnership with the Canadian Centre for Disability Studies and various of stakeholder organizations in Ukraine, this project has facilitated and expedited changes towards inclusive education in Ukraine.

In Year 5 of the project, the focus has been on ensuring sustainability of programming results and implementing a successful exit strategy. Part of that included the development of a 54-hour course called “Fundamentals of Inclusive Education” for the pre-service teacher preparation programs. It was approved by the Ministry, and in May 2012 was introduced at the project seminar in Simferopol and to representatives of all pedagogical universities from across Ukraine. The course comes in a package with methodological guidebooks and reading materials and will have a huge impact on the entire system of teacher preparation in Ukraine (pre-service and in-service). It is important to note that the course is not for special education teachers. Instead, it is meant for mainstream teachers who will be teaching special needs children in inclusive mainstream classrooms rather than segregated special education settings. The results achieved and lessons learned from this project were presented at the final project conference scheduled for February 11-13, 2013 in Kyiv.

Inclusive Education reform

challenges that were identified by the project 5 years ago appeared overwhelming. Those challenges included:

- a long lag time between adopting and implementing legislation;
- general lack of funding and disconnect between different levels of funding;
- lack of integrated services;
- resistance to change demonstrated by some special education and general education establishments; and
- negative perceptions and attitudes regarding inclusion among educators, parents, students and the public at large based on low level of tolerance/acceptance and knowledge.

A special needs student from Simferopol is supported by a teacher assistant.
Over the past half-decade, the project has addressed the challenges listed above and many others in an effort to promote Inclusive Education in Ukraine. It is our strong belief that despite some remaining problems, Inclusive Education reform in Ukraine has reached a point of no return. This is evidenced by a number of factors, including:

- generally sound political, legislative and policy frameworks are in place;
- the Ministry of Education is fully committed to the reforms and has taken practical steps to promote and expedite them by approving new programs/courses, as well as through active personal involvement of high ranking officials;
- departments of education in the pilot regions have demonstrated commitment and creativity in implementing the reforms; and
- Most importantly, educators in the pilot regions and other regions of Ukraine have started to realize that Inclusive Education is their professional future. Many of them want to embrace this new reality, seek professional development opportunities, and learn how to work in close partnership with other professionals, parents and students.

To learn more about the project, visit its website at http://education-inclusive.com.

Linda Cundy Speaks about May Visit to Deaf Community in Ukraine

On October 18, 2012, over 200 people attended a presentation at the University of Alberta’s new Health Academy by Linda Cundy, Consultant for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing with Edmonton Public Schools. Linda was there to speak about her groundbreaking two-week visit (funded by URDC) to Ukraine in the summer of 2012.

In December 2011, the President of Ukraine signed an amendment on Ukrainian Sign Language (USL) to the general law governing services for persons with disabilities. The law now recognizes USL and services are to be provided in this language. A few months later, in May of 2012, a gathering was held in Ukraine that confirmed the necessary educational reforms needed to enhance the quality of education for deaf and hard of hearing children. Linda was one of the presenters at this symposium, and as a result of her hard work and that of many others, Ukraine’s government is exploring using USL in a bilingual mode of education.

While in Ukraine promoting bilingual education, Linda observed three schools for the Deaf in three cities. During her school visits, the concept of using both USL and Ukrainian language was discussed with school administrators and teachers. Also the director of URDC, Roman Petryshyn, calls the visit important because it supports the movement to advance the use of USL in Ukraine.

Another Three Ukrainian Award Recipients Visit Alberta

Three young professionals from the Institute of Special Pedagogy in Ukraine spent October and November of 2012 in our province, thanks to the $5000 Alberta International Educational Award.

Nadiya Drofiak is an English and Linguistics instructor with Lviv University’s Faculty of International Relations. Drofiak indicated that English is one of the most popular foreign languages taught in Ukraine. While in Edmonton, Drofiak observed many of English as a Second Language (ESL) classes at MacEwan University, and learned...
new teaching techniques which she hopes to apply when she returns home. Drofiak also had the opportunity to teach ESL classes at MacEwan University and perform some research. “I found great value in collaboration with my Canadian colleagues,” says Drofiak.

Oksana Fedorenko works at the Institute for Special Pedagogy. She spent her time in Alberta observing deaf students studying at MacEwan University, and visited both the Alberta School for the Deaf and the Connect Society Kindergarten. Fedorenko said her experience here in Edmonton gave her confidence that Ukraine is starting to move along the right track. She considers working with the deaf as her life’s calling, and wants to maintain her Canadian connections in the deaf community.

While Fedorenko has dedicated her life’s work to the deaf, Iryna Hudym has done the same for Ukraine’s blind persons. She is working for the betterment of education for the blind, whose system is not advancing as quickly as the education system for the deaf. Hudym claims that there is not much technical support for the blind, nor as much government support. She hopes to develop programming and materials for blind children and help them integrate into regular classrooms. While in Edmonton, Hudym visited Bev Facey High School and the Alberta Society for the Visually Impaired.

The visitors stayed at the recently renovated St. John’s Institute and were able to supplement their work experience with fun excursions to the Royal Alberta Museum, Edmonton Art Gallery, and the Rocky Mountains.

Champion for the Deaf Passes Away

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Dr. Michael Rodda on July 24, 2012 at the age of 74.

Rodda was born in England to a family that emphasized education. He was trained in England as a psychologist and moved to Canada in 1980. He taught at the University of Alberta, where he created a program to educate teachers and administrators on how to teach deaf and hard-of-hearing children. In 1984, Rodda founded the Western Canadian Centre for Studies in Deafness. Seventeen years later, in 2001, he helped found the Canada-Ukraine Alliance for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, a group which has contributed significant changes to deaf education in Ukraine.

The author of several books, Rodda often encouraged deaf people to work together toward common goals including equality and accessibility. He is considered to be without equal in his belief in deaf people’s ability to lead their own lives. He will be greatly missed.

Drs. Peter and Doris Kule Honoured at Symposium

A symposium honouring the educational philanthropy of Drs. Peter and Doris Kule was held October 5-6, 2012 at the University of Alberta (U of A).

Representatives from organizations which are recipients of the Kule’s generosity – including URDC,
Kule Institute for Advanced Study, Sheptytsky Institute of Eastern Christian Studies, Kule Ukrainian Canadian Study Centre at CIUS, and the Kule Folklore Centre as well as non-Ukrainian educational organizations – were all brought together in the same place for the first time to honour their benefactors.

The symposium began with an opening reception at U of A’s Alumni House, and was followed by numerous presentations under over-arching topics such as “Studies in Education”, “Making Histories” and “The Old World in the New World.” Two members of URDC presented papers at this gathering. URDC Director Roman Petryshyn spoke on “Canadian Contributions to Creating and Inclusive Education System in Ukraine.” Admin staffer Larisa Hayduk lectured on the topic of “Intercultural Journey: Understanding Students’ Experiences Abroad”. Hayduk’s paper was based on two years of research she performed for her masters’ thesis. Her presentation was well received, and she was asked to present it again to the Shevchenko Foundation in early November 2012, and at another conference in Niagara Falls on November 22. The symposium concluded with a Thanksgiving dinner with the Kules at the U of A’s Faculty Club.

States Petryshyn, “The symposium made people realize the incredible reach and impact of the Kules’ generosity. These two philanthropists are true visionaries, with an effective strategy of investment.”

Drs. Peter and Doris Kule Receive Hetman Award

In 1998, the Ukrainian Canadian Congress – Alberta Provincial Council (UCC-APC) initiated the Annual Hetman Awards to acknowledge the achievements of outstanding Ukrainian Albertans. The Awards celebrate those who have made significant contributions to the Ukrainian Community, with their time, effort and generosity.

Nominated by the Ukrainian Foundation for College Education (UFCE), Drs. Peter and Doris Kule received a special Hetman Award at the ceremony held on October 14, 2012 at the Ukrainian Youth Unity Centre in Edmonton. “The Kules were recognized with this award because of their outstanding philanthropy and past volunteerism,” says UCC-APC Treasurer Slavka Shulakewych.

Congratulations to the Kules on receiving this great honour.

Larisa Hayduk says Good-bye to URDC

You can still spot Larisa Hayduk walking the halls of MacEwan University, but you are more likely to find her in the Faculty of Arts and Science Program Services office than at URDC. After five years at URDC, Larisa earned a masters’ degree in Education and has accepted a new position helping MacEwan University students develop academic plans and navigate their way through the university. “Working at URDC has been one of my favourite jobs. It helped me feel so connected to my home in Ukraine, and I hope to collaborate with URDC in the future. Sincere thanks to Roman and the staff for the opportunity,” says Hayduk. “I
would also like to thank UFCE for opening for me the world of the Ukrainian community here in Alberta. It’s been a pleasure working with them."

Larisa joined Mission Canada as an election observer for Ukraine’s parliamentary elections in October 2012. Funded by the Canadian government, Mission Canada sent 365 short-term observers (both of Ukrainian and non-Ukrainian heritage) to Ukraine to observe and report on the election. Larisa was assigned to Crimea and was impressed with what she saw. “There were a number of positive signs. Ukrainian people do want change and saw Mission Canada as support from the international community.” She also encourages anyone else interested in such a mission to check out the Mission Canada website at Canadem.ca. “This was one of the best experiences of my life”, says Hayduk. “There was such a sense of belonging to an important historical event for Ukraine. I wanted to be part of that.”

**Saskatoon Health Symposium about Ukraine**

In 2009, the University of Saskatchewan (U of S) in Saskatoon hosted the Canada-Ukraine Symposium focusing on the areas of agriculture, health sciences, energy and technology transfer. That led to the establishment of a Western Canadian consortium which has been actively developing linkages with agriculture universities in Ukraine. In December 2011, the U of S hosted a roundtable discussion about expanding this consortium’s efforts to other fields of interest, including health. That resulted in an Interprovincial Symposium on Health Projects with Ukraine being held on October 31, 2012 again at the U of S in Saskatoon.

The symposium brought together faculty members, researchers, graduate students and professionals in the health sciences to share information on current and past health projects in Ukraine. It identified individuals and organizations in Canada and Ukraine with particular expertise in building capacity and collaborating in future projects with Ukrainian medical universities.

Symposium attendees heard presentations and participated in roundtable discussions to identify current health needs and issues in Ukraine. URDC Director Roman Petryshyn gave an overview of Ukraine, and Donna McLean spoke about the Anti Hypertension Program in Ukraine with which she is involved. Other topics of discussion included HIV/AIDS, TB, Asthma and public health.

The one-day symposium stimulated opportunities for long-term collaboration on health projects with Ukrainian universities and institutions. “The event was significant because from it will spring a consortium of prairie universities, which will continue researching health in Ukraine. URDC will play a key role in this consortium as the hub of information on this topic,” says Petryshyn.

**Krawetz Bestows UFCE with Generous Gift**

The Ukrainian Foundation for College Education (UFCE) is the very grateful recipient of a gift of over $20,000 from Mrs. Anne Krawetz, who passed away on December 16, 2011.

Anne Krawetz was born February 11, 1918, to Maria and Alexander Palynchuk, immigrants from Ukraine who had come to Canada at the turn of the twentieth century. Anne’s family lived on a homestead farm in Saskatchewan, where she attended
school in a one-room school house. Later, Anne took courses to prepare her for a teaching career and after the Second World War, she moved to Edmonton where she taught at Prince Charles School. During these teaching years, Anne continued to take courses at the University of Alberta and earned her Bachelor of Education degree in 1961. She also took one year of training at the Calgary School of Art and Technology to further her painting and design skills.

Anne married Wasyl Krawetz in 1965 and, with his encouragement, retired from teaching in 1966, spending her time with her passion of painting. She became a member of the Ukrainian Orthodox Parish of St. John in 1953, and took on the responsibility of setting up the archives in the parish. Anne was a generous financial supporter of the parish and other organizations, because she felt blessed with the estate that she had been able to accumulate and felt moved to share it with others.

“I cannot say categorically what prompted her donations, but I can say that she was a regular attender of the Kyiv Konnection banquets, and had made previous donations to the UFCE Trust. Mrs. Krawetz had willed donations to a total of fourteen organizations including the Ukrainian Orthodox Church and Ukrainian educational and community organizations. I think it is fair to describe her as a ‘patriot,” says UFCE Treasurer George Zaharia.

**Annual UFCE Activities**

UFCE’s 19th annual Kyiv Konnection banquet was held on May 10, 2012 at St. John’s Cultural Centre. It was an honour to have MacEwan University President, Dr. David Atkinson, as keynote speaker.

Atkinson spoke about ten points governing the future of MacEwan University. Among the key issues are its role as an urban “downtown” university, plans for new capital development and expanding international study-abroad opportunities for students and faculty. The audience at Kyiv Konnection appreciated hearing about the challenges and opportunities facing MacEwan University.

As is tradition at Kyiv Konnection, the President of the Ukrainian Foundation for College education presented an award to recipients who have made a significant contribution to UFCE’s work. This year, Dr. Skakun presented the award to Drs. Doris and Peter Kule, who have made several endowments at MacEwan University. The Kules have funded the Chair of Ukrainian Community and International Development; the URDC Visiting Scholar Program; the Technology Fund of the Health Learning Centre; and contributed to the MacEwan Chair of International Health.

The UFCE Board expresses its thanks to all donors and is grateful to everyone involved in making this year’s event another successful and enjoyable one.

UFCE took a break from hosting its annual golf tournament, because they were gearing up for a bigger and better tournament in 2013.

The new fundraising golf tournament will be called the “Ed Stelmach Charity Golf Classic”. Organizing the event are tournament committee members.
Ed Stelmach, Ron Dutchak, Julia Elaschuk, Peter Kossowan, Ed Piasta, Ernest Skakun, Al Skoreyko, Terry Tanasiuk, George Zaharia, and Morley Workun, Chairman.

The event is scheduled for Friday, June 21, 2013 at the Whitetail Landing Golf Course in Mundare. The entry fee is $150 and covers 18 holes of golf with an electric cart and a Ukrainian banquet. A tax receipt for a portion of the entry fee will be issued to participants.

Mark your calendars, as a full registration of 144 golfers for the event is scheduled! For more information, contact Alice Chumer at 780-497-4374.

2012 Scholarship Winners

Congratulations to the following groups and individuals for their award winning achievements in the area of Ukrainian cultural arts:

Award: Alberta Council for the Ukrainian Arts in Alberta ($500)

Presented to Veselka Ukrainian Dance Association for their Special Project – a concert dance performance titled “Beautiful Artist” showcasing a medley of traditional Ukrainian dances and subsequent Video production.

Award: Roman Soltykewycz Music Scholarship ($500)

Presented to university student Daria Storoshchuk of Calgary for her participation in the Ukrainian folklore program at the University of Alberta, as well as in various music courses (voice lessons). These activities have motivated Daria in her study of Ukrainian songs.

MacEwan Joins CBIE

Delegation to Ukraine

On February 11 to 16, 2013, twelve Canadian universities visited Ukraine led by President Karen McBride of the Canadian Bureau of International Education (CBIE). They met with various types of Ukrainian universities represented by Professor Leonid Huberskiy, Head of the Union of Rectors of Higher Educational Institutions of Ukraine. Both agencies are non-governmental organizations, although their member universities are funded by government. The Ukrainian side included rectors and senior personnel from universities specializing in agriculture, economics, medicine, science, engineering, pedagogy, commerce, forestry, religious studies, physical culture and liberal arts.

The Canadian side included two Presidents, five Vice – Presidents, two deans and International office representatives from post-secondary institutions in seven provinces. These were from the Universities of Saskatchewan, Manitoba, New Brunswick, Calgary, Vancouver Island, Winnipeg, Lethbridge, Regina, along with Sackville’s Mount Allison, Halifax’s St Mary’s and Edmonton’s Grant MacEwan Universities. All emphasized their interest in Ukraine and the need to establish working relations through individual professors from their institutions.

The programs in Kyiv and Lviv were similar. On the first day, speakers met in plenary sessions, presented information about their institution and met informally to exchange cards. On the second day, the large Canadian delegation was divided into smaller interest groups who visited specific institutions of their choice to meet with faculty and graduate students.

In addition the program arranged for the entire Canadian delegation to meet with the Academy of Pedagogical Sciences of Ukraine headed by Academician Vasyl Kremen and with the National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy led by Rector Serhiy Kvit.

Optimism prevailed as several Canadian universities signed new agreements and renewed existing ones. Canada’s Ambassador Troy Lulashnyk supported the dialogue by attending events in both Kyiv and Lviv. Expectations have been set and culminated in the signing of a joint agreement on future cooperation between the Canadian Bureau of International Education and the Union of Rectors of Higher Educational Institutions of Ukraine.
25th ANNIVERSARY

Ukrainian Resource & Development Centre
Dr. Atkinson, President, MacEwan University

On behalf of MacEwan University, congratulations to staff and partners of the Ukrainian Resource and Development Centre on its 25th anniversary.

The Centre was developed in response to the needs of the Ukrainian community in Alberta and to build on this community’s ties with Ukraine and Eastern Europe in support of the University’s international mission.

Over the past 25 years the Ukrainian Resource and Development Centre has experienced a number of successes with its partners. These include:

• Exchanging two dozen faculty members between the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy and MacEwan University.

• Arranging for 150 farmers from Ukraine to live and work with Canadian farm families where they learned to manage private enterprises.

• Introducing a Bachelor of Nursing degree to 34 colleges and universities in the Ukraine.

• Supporting over 300 students in Kyiv to graduate from a joint Canadian/Ukrainian self-financing business management program.

• Introducing the model of inclusive education to the Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth of Ukraine, which now has made it government policy for the country’s school system.

• Launching a pre-service teacher course on inclusive education in 27 pedagogical Ukraine universities.

• Establishing sustainable courses on inclusive education at the Institute of Professional Upgrading of Teachers that are made available to all teachers in Ukraine.

Congratulations to all those who have contributed to the success of the Ukrainian Resource and Development Centre over the past 25 years. Your achievements have yielded significant benefits to the community, the university, and the centre’s partners.

Sincerely,
David W. Atkinson
President

Honourable Gene Zwozdesky, Speaker of the Alberta Legislative Assembly

Congratulations, Ukrainian Resource and Development Centre!

It is with great pleasure that I extend sincere congratulations to everyone at the Ukrainian Resource and Development Centre (URDC) at MacEwan University on your 25th anniversary. Since its inception in 1988, the URDC has reached out to hundreds of thousands of people to foster an awareness of the Ukrainian language and to promote the rich diversity of our culture and heritage as Canadians of Ukrainian ancestry.

In 2000, for example, I worked very closely with Dr. Roman Petryshyn from URDC and other community leaders to persuade the Government of Alberta to establish the Advisory Council on Alberta-Ukraine Relations (ACAUR). Education, economic co-operation, humanitarian programs and agriculture were among our first pursuits as a Council. In follow-up, then-Premier Ralph
Klein made history in 2002 when he became the first Alberta premier to officially visit Ukraine. Dr. Petryshyn, Dr. Janet Patterson-Weir, myself and numerous others proudly joined Premier Klein on this historic mission. The crowning glory of that trip was attending the inaugural graduation ceremonies of MacEwan’s (URDC’s) first class of English-language business students in Kyiv.

URDC has become a highly regarded mobilizer amongst Canadian and international leaders in industry, education, health and culture, and has carried out hundreds of initiatives and special projects with institutions in Ukraine and Eastern Europe.

From the first two Ukrainians who settled here in the early 1890s to today’s approximately 332,000 Albertans of Ukrainian descent, Alberta is very proud of its ties with the Ukrainian community. URDC has played a vital role in promoting and expanding those ties both here and abroad.

On behalf of all Members of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta, I extend a sincere “thank you” to URDC and all of its supporters for your hard work and perseverance over the past 25 years. Here’s to another 25 years — and more!

Honourable Gene Zwozdesky
Speaker of the Alberta Legislative Assembly
MLA, Edmonton Mill Creek

Dr. Gerri Nakonechny C.M. Former Dean,
MacEwan University

Sincere congratulations to you and your staff on the occasion of the 25th Anniversary of the Ukrainian Resource Development Centre (URDC) at MacEwan University. The many accomplishments of URDC are commendable. I can personally attest to the valuable assistance and guidance the Centre provided to Health and Community Studies (H&CS) when I was Dean of this division of the University— 1994 to 2005.

I recall that it was 1994, that URDC and H&CS together scheduled the first health conference addressing “Canada’s Health Strategy in Ukraine”. The local Ukrainian community responded enthusiastically, and we were privileged to have two members from the Ministry of Health of Ukraine participate and present their needs. Subsequently, the following year a similar conference was held in Chernivtsi, Ukraine, and was attended by educators from all the Schools of Nursing in Ukraine. URDC’s Kyiv office staff played a vital role in facilitating this conference and establishing and maintaining contacts in Ukraine. These conferences were the introduction to the many opportunities that MacEwan University Nursing faculty would have to share knowledge and experiences with colleagues in Ukraine. Subsequently there were faculty exchanges over a four-year period, Nurse Credentialing curriculum was translated into the Ukrainian language, and resource materials were made available. The achievements in Ukraine were substantial. The nursing curriculum was upgraded to a standard comparable to that of other countries, baccalaureate and master’s programs in Nursing were introduced and resources were developed in the Ukrainian language. So successful was this nursing project in Ukraine that it inspired us to participate in a Canada Russia Initiative in Nursing funded by the Canadian International Development Agency over a 10-year period. I know that MacEwan University faculty and staff found these global experiences very rewarding.

Thank you to URDC for the leadership and guidance provided to Health and Community Studies and enabling its first global initiatives. May your collaboration and participation with other sectors of the university experience continued success.

Sincerely,
Dr. Gerri Nakonechny, C.M.
Andrew Hladyshevsky, President, Ukrainian Canadian Foundation of Taras Shevchenko

Greetings from the President of the Shevchenko Foundation

The mandate of the Shevchenko Foundation is to promote the development of Ukrainian culture and heritage in Canada. In 1987 the Shevchenko Foundation provided a $45,000 grant to the Ukrainian Resource and Development Centre (URDC), joining other organizations and government in raising $2.2 million dollars to establish an endowment fund. In 2004 the Shevchenko Foundation signed an agreement with the Ukrainian Foundation for College Education to establish a restrictive endowment fund designed to support the vision, goals and objectives of the URDC. The Shevchenko Foundation committed $150,000 towards the $300,000 fundraising goal thus establishing the designated fund within the Foundation. Working together to establish this partnership has benefited the community and we as the Foundation are very proud of our role in the establishment of URDC.

The Ukrainian Canadian Foundation of Taras Shevchenko congratulates the Ukrainian Resource and Development Centre on its 25th Anniversary. We thank you for all the initiatives that you have taken upon yourself in promoting community development and in the development of projects that the Ukrainian Canadian community is very proud to support.

Andrew Hladyshevsky Q.C.
President

Dr. Judy Lupart, Professor, University of Alberta

Congratulations to the Ukrainian Resource and Development Centre (URDC) directed by Dr. Roman Petryshyn on their 25th anniversary. In my role as Canada Research Chair in Special Education at the University of Alberta, I first became involved with URDC as a member of the Canada Ukraine Research Team (CURT) in the fall of 2004. The collaboration of members from MacEwan University and the University of Alberta and colleagues in Ukraine initially resulted in the development of a website and the translation of several Canadian papers, chapters and books into Ukrainian that were posted on the website. We also began a series of visits to Ukraine and obtained funding to bring key Ukrainian colleagues to Edmonton. These trips allowed us to share our areas of expertise and to begin initial planning for a Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) grant application to promote inclusion in Ukraine. Many good friendships developed particularly with Drs. Bondar and Kolupayeva from the Institute of Special Pedagogy in Kiev, and I was delighted to meet with many educators, parents and students in various cities in Ukraine.

In 2008, after extensive consultation with Canadian and Ukraine colleagues, the grant application for Inclusive Education to Children with Disabilities in Ukraine was approved by CIDA. I was awarded a university grant to survey parents, educators and parents in 10 Ukrainian schools in Kyiv, Lviv, Dnipropetrovsk, Zaporizhia and Sevastopol. In April 2008 a team of 5 Canadian researchers, over a 2-week period, collected all the data with the welcome assistance of Ukrainian colleagues. This was used to develop school profiles of the ten schools just prior to the initial implementation of the year one of the CIDA grant. The education component of the CIDA for the first few years was the development of 5 new courses to be introduced in Ukraine universities in programs to prepare in-service teachers for inclusive schools. Associated activities for the implementation of inclusive schools have been ongoing. I continue
Debra Russell, Director of Western Canadian Centre for Deaf Studies, University of Alberta

Congratulations to URDC on your 25th anniversary. It has been our pleasure at the Western Canadian Centre for Deaf Studies (WCCDS) to be part of your exciting developments over the years. Our shared work in Ukraine began in the late 1990's and since that time it has been amazing to watch the impact of offering summer camps for deaf and hard of hearing children and their families, to witness the recognition of Ukrainian sign language and the introduction of sign language into the school system, to support the documentation of the linguistic structure of Ukrainian Sign Language, and see to the radical changes in educational reform. Your work has significantly touched both the Deaf community and Interpreter community in Ukraine, supporting linguistic human rights as they pertain to using a signed language and access to a civil society through qualified interpreters. There is so much to be proud of and there many more elements to attend to our shared work in Ukraine. We look forward to another 25 years of successful collaboration with URDC and with the Ukrainian communities.

Debra Russell,
WCCDS Director

Dr. Cheryl Crocker, MacEwan University

I have been involved in the Inclusive Education for Children with Disabilities in Ukraine project since its inception in 2007. The purpose of this project was to influence educational policy and practice in order that all children would be welcomed in all schools and receive a quality education along with their regular and same age peers. In addition, this project intended to influence the curriculum used to prepare teachers for the classroom as well as the in-service training offered to practicing teachers and administrators. The final purpose of the project was to help develop civil society, such that children and adults with disabilities would be viewed as valued and contributing members of society.

The outcomes of this project have been significant. We have been able to forge partnerships with schools, learning institutions, government and community organizations that will last long after the project completes in 2013. The premise of all of our work has been to help Ukraine build capacity relative to individuals with disabilities. Even during our initial visit, I was struck by the welcoming nature of our Ukrainian partners. They were eager to share experience, knowledge and discuss the issues and concerns about inclusive education. I learned much during those trips and only hope that I was able to offer as much as I was given.

The project has achieved its projected outcomes in that there is now a curriculum for pre-service and in-service teacher training. The curriculum, while based on Canadian content, has been adapted to reflect the Ukrainian context, school and classroom experience. The Institute of Special Pedagogy is to be commended for taking a leadership role in curriculum adaptation and in sharing that with other Ukrainian universities. Educational and training materials have to be amazed at the productivity and tenacity of the Ukrainian people and their growing vision and implementation of inclusive education in such a short period of time.

Dr. Judy Lupart, Professor
Luba Boyko-Bell, President, Ukrainian Music Society of Alberta

Congratulations to the Ukrainian Resource and Development Centre on your 25th anniversary! We, the members of the Ukrainian Music Society of Alberta, are also celebrating an anniversary – our 40th. During these years we have co-operated on several projects which we would love to mention.

• A number of our Ukrainian Carol Concerts were held in the John L. Haar theatre at the Centre for the Arts and Communications Campus at the suggestion of URDC. Each choir performed before a sea of embroidered shirts in the audience – that of the members of all the other choirs and even of the guests.

• National Choral Music Conference: Organized by UMSA with the theme “Ukrainian Choir Music: Today and Tomorrow”, the conference was held on February 24-26, 1989, at MacEwan University (then Grant MacEwan Community College) and attracted participants from across the country, as well as the US and Ukraine.

• Mykola Lysenko concert, January 24, 1991, organized by UMSA together with URDC on the 150th anniversary of the composer’s birth and on the occasion of UNESCO’s pronouncing 1991 as “The Year of Lysenko”.

• UMSA donated a music library to MacEwan University.

• The Serhiy Eremenko Music Scholarship fund, which UMSA collected, was administered by URDC (1999-2006).

Because our interactions have always been pleasant and positive, we have approached URDC recently to administer again the S. Eremenko Scholarship funds we hope to collect at our 40th anniversary concert on October 28, 2012.

Luba Boyko-Bell  Halyna Kotovych
President  Secretary

Dr. Cheryl Crocker, MacEwan University

been developed that I am using in my classroom as examples of what is possible.

The two pilot schools, School #95 in Lviv and School #3 in Simferopol, have demonstrated excellence in including children in the neighborhood school and regular classroom. Teachers, administrators and parents have worked diligently to ensure that all children have access to a quality education. They too have shared their work with other observer and interested schools, with a view to enhancing positive practices in inclusive education.

I have been impressed with the various government Ministries as they strive to develop and implement policy changes so that issues of accessibility are addressed. This has not been an easy task as, like other governments, change occurs slowly. Key people, however, have been persistent and have a commitment to ensuring that all citizens have access to community life and all that entails.

Parent and other community groups engaged with the project have done their best to support the overall objectives of the projects. They have been instrumental in supporting work in the schools, government and the community.

As the project comes to an end, I am proud to have been associated with it and am confident that this very important work will continue. Partnerships will continue to be strong and inclusive education for children with disabilities will continue.

Dr. Cheryl Crocker, MacEwan University
Dr. Ernest Skakun, President, Ukrainian Foundation for College Education

On behalf of the Ukrainian Foundation for College Education (UFCE), I extend congratulations to the Ukrainian Resource and Development Centre (URDC) on the occasion of their twenty-fifth anniversary. For twenty-five years, URDC has provided outstanding service by supporting innovative projects that link Ukrainian Communities in Canada and Ukraine in various disciplines such as agriculture, business, education, nursing, and medicine. URDC’s achievements and successes in capacity building at the personal and community levels across these different disciplines is attributed to the vision of its Director, Dr. Roman Petryshyn and the dedication of the many staff that have served URDC. URDC has served the Ukrainian Communities in Canada and Ukraine very well. UFCE is very proud to be a supporter of URDC; we look forward to the next 25 years and wish URDC every success in its future endeavors. We wish URDC continued success in the future.

Dr. Ernest Skakun, President

Jars Balan, Kule Ukrainian Canadian Studies Centre, University of Alberta

Dear Colleagues and Friends of the Ukrainian Resource and Development Centre!

I am pleased to extend these greetings on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Ukrainian Resource and Development Centre at Grant MacEwan University. The work of the URDC is a great asset to the Ukrainian Canadian community and complements the activities of the Kule Ukrainian Canadian Studies Centre at the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, whose primary mission is the scholarly documentation of the history and contemporary life of Ukrainians in Canada.

I have enjoyed many opportunities to work collaboratively with Dr. Roman Petryshyn, the Director of the URDC, who began his academic career in the province with the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies at the University of Alberta. In 1979, we organized an historic conference that examined the ethnic contribution to Canadian literature, and since then have maintained an on-going discussion on topics such as multiculturalism, research in Ukrainian Canadian studies, and the on-going evolution of Ukraine and Ukrainian Canadian society.

Over the decades I have worked alongside Dr. Petryshyn on various community and academic endeavours, most recently as members of the Canada Ukraine Committee for the Ukrainian Canadian Congress and on the board of the Canada Ukraine Foundation. As beneficiaries of the generous philanthropy of Drs. Peter and Doris Kule we have also cooperated on a book project and an academic symposium held in their honour, and I am confident there will be other similarly fruitful initiatives involving both of our institutions in the future.

Dr. Petryshyn’s experience, sociological expertise, and broad understanding of Ukrainian affairs have made the URDC an invaluable community resource, and like many people I often consult with the Centre on a wide range of issues in the realms of education, Canada-Ukraine relations, and community development. I look forward to continuing this productive relationship in the years ahead, and wish the Centre continued success as it enters its second quarter century.

Jars Balan
Administrative Co-ordinator

Dr. Ernest Skakun, President, Ukrainian Foundation for College Education

On behalf of the Ukrainian Foundation for College Education (UFCE), I extend congratulations to the Ukrainian Resource and Development Centre (URDC) on the occasion of their twenty-fifth anniversary. For twenty-five years, URDC has provided outstanding service by supporting innovative projects that link Ukrainian Communities in Canada and Ukraine in various disciplines such as agriculture, business, education, nursing, and medicine. URDC’s achievements and successes in capacity building at the personal and community levels across these different disciplines is attributed to the vision of its Director, Dr. Roman Petryshyn and the dedication of the many staff that have served URDC. URDC has served the Ukrainian Communities in Canada and Ukraine very well. UFCE is very proud to be a supporter of URDC; we look forward to the next 25 years and wish URDC every success in its future endeavors. We wish URDC continued success in the future.

Dr. Ernest Skakun, President
Шановний докторе Петришин!

Прийміть щирі вітання від імені Національного університету "Києво-Могилянська академія" з нагоди 25-річчя від дня заснування Українського Центру засобів і розвитку Університету Грента МакЮена! Ми вдячні багаторічній співпраці із Вашим Центром та хотіли б поділитися спогадами про проекти, над якими спільно з Вами працювали.

І. 1994– 2007 рр. Професійний обмін викладачами між кафедрою англійської мови НаУКМА та кафедрою англійської мови факультету гуманітарних і точних наук Університету Грента МакЮена за підтримки Українського центру засобів і розвитку та факультету гуманітарних і точних наук Університету Грента МакЮена.

За період дії проекту був ініційований регулярний професійний обмін-стажування між кафедрами Національного університету "Києво-Могилянська академія" та Університету Грента МакЮена. Загалом, 13 викладачів НаУКМА отримали можливість професійного стажування у канадському університеті, вивчаючи на практиці новітні методики та прийоми викладання англійської мови, оволодіваючи новими навчально-методичними ресурсами, встановлюючи безпосередні контакти з канадськими колегами для подальшого обміну професійним досвідом, а НаУКМА відвідали понад 15 викладачів англійської мови від Університету Грента МакЮена.

Практичними наслідками такої багаторічної співпраці стали розробка і впровадження нових навчальних курсів з вивчення англійської мови у НаУКМА, зокрема, "Public Speaking" та "Academic Writing" для магістерських програм, модифікація та удосконалення чинних програм мовних курсів для студентів І-ІІ р.н. та розробка нових вибіркових програм для студентів III р.н. бакалавріату (зокрема, курсів бізнес-англійської, англійської для засобів масової інформації та ін.), посилення практичним матеріалом та новітніми ресурсами комунікативної моделі вивчення мови, неоцінене збагачення кафедри англійської мови сучасною методичною та навчальною літературою, яка широко використовується у процесі вивчення англійської мови на різних рівнях.

Серед найважливіших практичних результатів співпраці з Університетом Грента МакЮена – заснування в 1996 р. Україно-канадійської школи англійської мови у НаУКМА, яка успішно здійснює діяльність щодо професійного викладання курсів англійської мови у НаУКМА та за його межами.

Наслідком тривалої співпраці також стало встановлення багаторічних професійних контактів між колегами-викладачами із НаУКМА та Університету Грента МакЮена, що тривають по сьогодні, та допомагають викладачам нашої кафедри й надалі підтримувати високий рівень професійних знань з методики викладання англійської мови. Окремо варто підкреслити потужний струмінь професійної мотивації для викладачів кафедри англійської мови НаУКМА, завдяки чому робочим стосункам, які склалися між викладачами кафедр двох континентів, можливості безпосереднього обміну досвідом із носіями мови.

2. З 2010 - Співпраця із Центром канадських студій НаУКМА.

Результати співпраці: допомога в облаштуванні Центру канадських студій НаУКМА необхідним обладнанням, участь у забезпеченні Центру літературою країнознавчого та навчального характеру, організація професійних обмінів викладачів між НаУКМА та канадськими університетами.

Завдяки безпосередній підтримці Українського центру засобів і розвитку відбулося узгодження концепції, відкриття та перші кроки діяльності Центру канадських студій у НаУКМА. Зокрема, у 2011 р. Центром канадських студій був співорганізатор візиту д-ра Нуелль Новік (Dr. Nuelle Novik) від Школи соціальної роботи
Dear Dr. Petryshyn,

On behalf of the National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy, please accept sincere congratulations on the 25th anniversary of the foundation of the Ukrainian Resource and Development Centre at Grant MacEwan University! We are thankful for the long-term cooperation with your Centre and we would like to share some memories of our joint projects we have worked on together.

I. Project Name: Professional faculty exchange between the department of English at the National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy and the department of English, Faculty of Arts and Science, MacEwan University, supported by Ukrainian Research and Development Centre and Faculty of Arts and Sciences, MacEwan University.

Period of cooperation: 1994 – 2007

Results of cooperation: the project initiated long-term regular professional exchange between the departments of English at Kyiv Mohyla Academy and Grant MacEwan University. In total, thirteen NaUKMA instructors went through professional internship in the Canadian university, receiving practical opportunities to master innovative technologies in teaching English, become enriched with modern teaching and learning resources, establish direct professional relationship with Canadian colleagues for further professional experience exchange, and the NaUKMA enjoyed the visits of over fifteen Canadian instructors of English and literature from Grant MacEwan University.

The practical outcomes of this long-term cooperation have embodied in the development and introduction of new English courses at Kyiv Mohyla Academy, such as “Public Speaking” and “Academic Writing” for graduate programs; adjustment and improvement of the mandatory English programs and opening of new optional courses for students at bachelor programs (in particular, English for business communication, for mass media, etc.); reinforcement of the communicative model in teaching English with international practical experience and new resources; the inestimable enrichment of the NaUKMA's Department of English with modern resource materials which are widely used for teaching and learning English at all levels.

Among the most important outcomes was the opening of NaUKMA's Ukrainian-Canadian English Language School that has been successfully offering English courses within the university and beyond.

This long-term project has resulted in establishing strong professional relationship between Kyiv Mohyla and Grant MacEwan University instructors. This relationship continues today and helps the department of English to maintain the high professional level in English teaching, as well as contributes to the professional motivation among the faculty of the Department of English at Kyiv Mohyla Academy today.

2. Project name: Cooperation with the Canadian Studies Centre at the National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy.
Period of cooperation: since 2010.

Results of cooperation: contribution to the equipment of the Canadian Studies Centre at Kyiv Mohyla Academy; contributing to the Centre’s literature resources; arranging professional faculty exchange between the NaUKMA and Canadian universities.

The Ukrainian Resource and Development Centre directly contributed to developing the concept and implementing the first steps of the NaUKMA’s Canadian Studies Center. In particular, in 2010-11, a visit of Dr. Nuelle Novik from the School of Social Work, University of Regina (Saskatchewan) to the NaUKMA’s V.Poltavets School of Social Work (headed by Prof. Nadiya Kabachenko) was co-organized, during which Dr. Novik implemented a joint research among Ukrainian elderly women and taught practical seminars for the NaUKMA’s students.

Current cooperation between the Ukrainian Resource and Development Centre and the Canadian Studies Center at Kyiv Mohyla Academy includes joint efforts to arrange other professional faculty exchanges (most recent, in sociology and culture studies, involving instructors from the Departments of Sociology and Cultural Studies).

Sincerely,
Serhiy Kvit, PhD in Philology, Professor
President, the National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy

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O.V.Yeresko, Director, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport of Ukraine

Щиро сердечно вітаю колектив Українського Центру засобів та розвитку університету Гранта МакЮена, який вже понад 20 років підтримує зв’язки з Україною, і зокрема, з Національною Асамблеєю інвалідів України!

Завдяки тісній співпраці партнерських організацій націїи, зокрема, Канадського центру вивчення неповносправності, національної Асамблеї інвалідів України, значні зрушення відбулися в напрямі формування державної політики щодо забезпечення рівного доступу до якісної освіти для всіх дітей без виключення, у тому числі з інвалідністю.

Починаючи з 2008 року в Україні стартував українсько-канадський проект “Інклюзивна освіта для дітей з особливими потребами в Україні”, який став загальнодержавним надбанням у сфері захисту прав дітей з особливими освітніми потребами.

Завдяки проекту відбулися багато семінарів, засідань круглого столу, тренінгових занять. Яскравим заходом в рамках проекту була конференція “Інклюзивна освіта для дітей з особливими потребами в Україні: теорія, практика, законодавство”, яка відбулася 13-15 квітня 2010 року у Відкритому міжнародному університеті розвитку людини «Україна».

Учасники конференції ділилися досвідом, обговорювали досягнення проекту, визначали виклики і перспективи
запровадження інклюзивного навчання. Як результат, водночас, посилилися партнерські зв’язки між владою і громадським сектором та сформувалося більш глибоке усвідомлення проблем інвалідності в ширших колах суспільства.

В рамках проекту спільно з Інститутом спеціальної педагогіки Національної академії педагогічних наук України розроблено навчальний курс та навчально-методичний посібник до нього «Вступ до інклюзивного навчання», який включено до навчальних планів вищих навчальних закладів педагогічного спрямування, навчально-методичні посібники „Путівник для вчителів“, „Путівник для батьків дітей з особливими потребами“.

Я хотів би подякувати усім за спільну роботу щодо покращення життя дітей з особливими освітніми потребами та глибоко переконаний, що ця співпраця наблизить наші країни одна до одної.

Бажаю вам успіхів та наснаження до наступних звершень.

З повагою,
директор департаменту
О. В. Єресько

Dr. A. Kolupaeva, Associate Director, Institute of Special Pedagogy

Співпраця, яка визначає майбутнє

Чверть століття – це ювілей, який дає змогу не тільки підводити підсумки й ділитися спогадами, а й прогнозувати майбутнє. Подвійна радість, якщо все це робити разом з колегами та друзями. А саме цим словами можна охарактеризувати відносини Інституту спеціальної педагогіки Національної академії педагогічних наук України та Українського Центру засобів і розвитку Університету Мак Юена впродовж останніх 15-ти років. Саме Український Центр засобів і розвитку, на чолі з його директором д. Р.Петришиним, відкрив нашій установі широку дорогу міжнародної співпраці, оскільки саме співпраця з канадським колегами стала поштовхом, відправною точкою розвитку міжнародної діяльності Інституту.

У 2007 році між Інститутом спеціальної педагогіки НАПН України та Університетом Грента МакЮена було укладено офіційну Угоду «Про основи спільних наукових досліджень та співробітництва у галузі спеціальної педагогіки». Відповідно до укладеної угоди започатковано співпрацю з різних напрямів: проведення спільних наукових досліджень, експериментальної роботи, популяризації наукових здобутків тощо.

Складно стисло сказати про все, що відбулося за цей час, спробуємо окреслити найбільш значуще, перш за все:

• створення Канадсько-української мережі досліджень (CURT), завдяки якому був реалізований проект перекладів наукових праць „Ластівка“ та створений електронний канадсько-український журнал зі спеціальної педагогіки, розміщений на сайті канадсько-української мережі досліджень (CURT). Ця робота надала унікальну можливість допомогти всім освітянам до міжнародного досвіду, праць видатних вчених, знайти нових партнерів.

Забігаючи наперед, варто зазначити, що сьогодні справа розширюється – в рамках канадсько-українського проекту з інклюзивної освіти здійснюються переклад та адаптація навчальних матеріалів з інклюзивної освіти провідних фахівців світу, їх поширення серед педагогічної та батьківської громадськості. Публікуються праці провідних зарубіжних вчених (Канада, Австралія тощо) з актуальних проблем навчання дітей з особливими потребами у фаховому виданні Інституту – журналі «Дефектологія. Особлива дитина: навчання та виховання».

• започаткування в Інституті бібліотеки праць, в т.ч. електронних ресурсів, канадських науковців в галузі освіти дітей з особливими потребами, що сприяє підвищенню фахового рівня співробітників та аспірантів;
• проведення міжнародних спільних заходів (науково-практичних конференцій, семінарів тощо);

• молоді науковці Інституту спеціальної педагогіки майже 10 років мають можливість брати участь у програмі Alberta International Education Award – Ukraine Scholarship, яка передбачає здобуття стипендії на стажування у Канаді (м. Едмонтон, провінція Альберта) з метою вивчення досвіду організації допомоги дітям з особливими потребами. На такому стажуванні перебували 16 молодих науковців, які, повертаючись, пропагують та впроваджують у практику передовий досвід та досягнення зарубіжних колег;

• організація Українсько-Канадського Альянсу для глухих та слабочуючих, проведення тематичних Інститутів (таборів) за участі науковців, педагогів, батьків та учнів з порушеннями слуху.

Найважливіший напрям канадсько-української співпраці – розбудова в Україні інклюзивної освіти, в першу чергу це – зміна світогляду, розбудова громадянського суспільства через впровадження демократичних тенденцій в освіті.

Й наостанок, особливу вдячність хотілось би висловити нашим колегам: д. Р.Петришину почесному іноземному члену Національної академії педагогічних наук України, члену редколегії журналу «Дефектологія. Особлива дитина», людині, яка вболіває за розвиток української освіти, успіхи співробітників Інституту, ініціює та підтримує інноваційні проекти; п. Ю. Конкіну – керівникові канадсько-українського проекту "Інклюзивна освіта для дітей з особливими потребами в Україні", професіоналу, який вибірує стратегію проектної діяльності й надає неоцінену допомогу в розбудові інклюзивної освіти в Україні, а також ми щиро вдячні за співпрацю Л.Гайдук, В.Іжак, нашим шановним канадським професорам: М.Роді (світла пам’ять), Д.Лупарт, Т.Лорману, Ш.Крокер, Д. МакГі-Річмонд, всім з ким працювали і нині складаємо плани на майбутнє.

Від імені всього колективу Інституту спеціальної педагогіки НАПН України дозвольте щиро привітати Український Центр засобів і розвитку Університету МакЮен з нагоди 25-річчя з дня заснування. Зичимо творчих успіхів, наснаги, нових ідей і проектів, маємо надію на подальшу співпрацю з вами, наші шановні канадські Українці.

Заступник директора Інституту спеціальної педагогіки НАПН України., д.пед.н., проф. Колупаєва А.А.
життя.

Бажаємо Вам і Вашим колегам міцного здоров'я, подальших наукових та творчих успіхів, нових міжнародних проектів.

З повагою,
директор школи

Юрій Моклович

Dr. E. Danaivelaichute, Speech Therapy Laboratory, Institute of Special Pedagogy

З квітня 2008 року Інститут спеціальної педагогіки НАПН України став одним із партнерів у Канадсько - Українському проекті „Інклюзивна освіта для дітей з особливими освітніми потребами в Україні” та став дотичним до процесу впровадження експериментального інклюзивного навчання в Україні. Український Центр Засобів та Розвитку Університету Грента МакЮена провінції Альберта (м. Едмонтон) репрезентує провідний освітній компонент канадської сторони проекту, а також забезпечує участь молодих науковців з України у програмі Alberta International Education Award – Ukraine Scholarship, яка передбачає отримання стипендії на стажування у Канаді (м. Едмонтон, провінція Альберта) з метою вивчення досвіду організації допомоги дітям з особливими потребами, в тому числі, майже 50тирічного досвіду в галузі інклюзивної освіти.

У 2009 році черговим учасником цієї програми стала старший науковий співробітник лабораторії логопедії, кандидат педагогічних наук Данілавічютє Еляна, яка відвідала Канаду з 14 вересня по 25 жовтня. Програма візиту містила три основні напрями:

• організація підготовки майбутніх спеціалістів для роботи з дітьми, які мають особливі потреби;
• організація шкільної освіти учнів з особливими потребами;
• теоретичне підґрунтя організації навчання в галузі „Спеціальна Освіта”.

Набуті під час стажування досвід дозволяє краще зрозуміти відмінності в системах освіти двох країн, визначити та проаналізувати їх причини, знайти спільні проблеми та організувати подальші сумісні дослідження, а також розпочати вітчизняні дослідження з урахуванням новітніх технологій. Отримані дані використовуються співробітниками лабораторії логопедії з метою удосконалення якості досліджень у галузі патології мовленнєвого розвитку дітей різних вікових груп.

Без сумніву, отримання такого цінного досвіду стало можливим завдяки чітко спланований, раціонально організованій діяльності команди працівників Українського Центру Засобів та Розвитку Університету Грента МакЮена, які проявили надзвичайну відповідальність, здійснюючи постійний професійний супровід та забезпечуючи необхідну допомогу під час стажування науковця.

Дозвольте привітати з ювілеєм, висловити щирі слова подяки за надану можливість взяти участь у зазначеній програмі та побажати подальших творчих успіхів у Вашій корисній праці, що сприяє утворенню міцних міжнародних зв’язків, а значить удосконаленню системи освіти в усьому світі!

З повагою,
Еляна Данілавічютє,
Інститут спеціальної педагогіки НАПН України