

Lviv – Alberta Relations

Government
of Alberta



PROFILE

Area: 21,800 km² (3.6% of the Ukrainian territory)

Capital: Lviv City (pop. 750,000, 2007)

Population: 2.5 million (2009 est.)

Language: Ukrainian

Government: Appointed Regional Administration and elected Regional Council (Rada)

Head of Oblast (Appointed):
Governor Mykhaylo Mykhayloych Tsybaliuk

Currency: Hryvnia, \$1CDN = 7.64 UAH (August 2010)

Key Industry Sectors: forestry, paper, oil and gas, food processing, textiles, agriculture, cattle, and sheep farming.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Lviv City is approximately 535 km from Kyiv.
- The oblast shares a 278 km northwestern border with Poland.
- Lviv spent most of its near nine centuries of existence first, as part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, then later as an important city in independent Poland.
- Lviv was declared a World Heritage site by the UNESCO in 1998.

- Lviv is home to many world-class cultural institutions, including a philharmonic orchestra and the famous Lviv Theatre of Opera and Ballet.
- The Oblast is a member of the international organization "Carpathian Euroregion", which includes the cross-border administrative areas of Poland, Romania, Hungary, Slovakia and Ukraine.
- In 2006, the City of Lviv celebrated its 750th anniversary.

RELATIONSHIP OVERVIEW

- Alberta has strong ethnic and cultural ties to Ukraine, particularly in the western Oblasts: 332,000 Albertans (10%) claim Ukrainian ancestry.
- Alberta has had a long history of involvement with Ukraine and has contributed to building social, political and economic reform in Ukraine.

ECONOMY

- By 2007, total foreign direct investment (FDI) in Lviv was over US\$653 million. Major investors include: Poland, Germany, Denmark and Hungary.
- The Lviv region is one of the most effective in Ukraine in attracting FDI, with over 1,200 businesses using foreign capital and working

successfully in the region.

- Future economic growth in the Western regions of Ukraine will be due to industrial development, with most industrial potential located in Lviv Oblast.
- Growing economic sectors in the oblast include public health, recreation and tourism.
- Lviv's main export destinations are Russia, Poland, Slovakia and the United Kingdom.
- Lviv's main export products include: buses, alcoholic drinks, textiles, beef, sunflower oil, mineral fertilizers, paper, cardboard, and auto-loaders.
- Lviv is rich in many minerals, including coke, sulfur, peat, salt, limestone and clay.
- Lviv has some energy reserves, including natural gas, oil and coal.
- Lviv is a significant energy transportation hub. Every year, 17-19 million tonnes of oil is transported from Russia and Kazakhstan through Lviv to Central and Eastern Europe.
- The food industry and agricultural processing, mechanical engineering and energy sectors comprise more than half of industrial production in Lviv.

AGRICULTURE

- The region has 1.3 million hectares of agricultural lands, making up 3.1% of the Ukraine's total agricultural lands.
- Production is almost even split between livestock and crops (especially grains, sugar beets, and flax).
- Agricultural Reform: In April 2000, all collective agricultural entities in Lviv were restructured. The process of privatizing land and registering its ownership is ongoing.

EDUCATION

- Every year, over 150,000 students graduate from 62 postsecondary institutions in Lviv oblast.
- Alberta's agreement with the Department of Education and Science of Lviv Oblast State Administration has resulted in a special advisor of Ukrainian language and culture to Alberta Education since 2006.
- The Canada-Ukraine Foundation ([CUF](#)), with offices in Winnipeg and Lviv, has sent several dozen Ukrainian women to Red Deer on academic exchanges in the last several years. Former Premier Klein met with the alumni of this exchange program during his Ukraine mission in May 2002.
- In 2001, Alberta Education, through the CUF Education Consortium, sent two Alberta teachers to Lviv to assist in selecting resources and various learning materials for Alberta's Ukrainian bilingual program.
- In 2003, the University of Alberta (U of A) renewed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ivan Franko National University of Lviv (IFNUL) to facilitate academic exchanges.
- Every summer, the U of A offers its students an opportunity to participate in a travel-study Ukrainian course in Lviv called [Ukrainian Through its Living Culture](#).

GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA FUNDING

- Alberta's former Wild Rose Foundation has matched funds raised by Alberta organizations for assistance programs in Western Ukraine in the following areas:
 - To rebuild a Regional Physiopulmonary Centre in Lviv and to provide technology for early detection and treatment of Tuberculosis (\$25,000 in 2005)
 - Purchase of a portable digital X-ray machine in Western Ukraine (\$20,000 in 2004).
 - To assist with the establishment of a trade school in Malechkovitchi (Lviv Oblast) benefiting 900 children per year (\$5,000 in 2004).
 - An annual 7-month Canada World Youth community development exchange project between women from Western Ukraine and the Canadian Prairies (\$150,000 1999-2004).

CULTURE

- In September 2006, the Government of Alberta signed an agreement with Lviv, establishing genealogical research offices in Lviv and Edmonton which will provide a link between archival institutions and record depositories in the two regions (\$200,000 over 3 years donated by Alberta government). This project was renewed in 2010 and will soon embrace four Oblast archives in Western Ukraine.
- Alberta's former Ministry of Community Development has established formal relations with cooperating museums and scholarly institutions in Lviv and Chernivtsi in the areas of folklore, ethnography, and genealogy.
- In 2003/2004, Lviv and Alberta participated in reciprocal traveling exhibits. From April to October 2003, the Ethnographic Museum in Lviv's exhibit of traditional weavings was showcased at the Ukrainian Village, while the Alberta exhibit on Josef Oleskow (the father of organized Ukrainian immigration to Canada at the end of the 19th century) has been travelling throughout museums in Western Ukraine.

- The [Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village](#) is twinned with a historical village museum in Lviv, facilitating various scholarly exchanges of information with universities.

RECENT VISITS

- June 2006: Premier Ralph Klein led a mission to Lviv.
- August 2005: Chairman Petro Oliynyk visited Alberta in honour of the Centennial and proceeded to the signature of a Memorandum of Agreement on Cooperation (twinning) between Alberta and Lviv Oblast.
- May 2002: while in Lviv during his mission to Ukraine, Premier Klein met with the Deputy Chairman of the Lviv Administration. Premier Klein was accompanied by Community Development Minister Gene Zwozdesky and MLA Dave Broda.

DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION

- The Ukrainian Ambassador to Canada is currently vacant.
- Canada's Ambassador to Ukraine is Mr. Troy Lulashnyk.
- Ukraine's Consul General in Toronto, with jurisdiction over Alberta, is Mr. Oleksandr Danyleiko.
- Canada's Honorary Consul in Lviv is Dr. Oksana Wynnyckyj.

