

Lviv - Alberta Relations



This map is a generalized illustration only and is not intended to be used for reference purposes. The representation of political boundaries does not necessarily reflect the position of the Government of Alberta on international issues of recognition, sovereignty or jurisdiction.

PROFILE

Area: 21,833 km² (3.6 per cent of Ukraine's total territory)

Capital: Lviv City (pop. 750,000; 2017)

Population: 2.53 million (August 2017)

Language: Ukrainian

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

Head of Oblast (Appointed): Governor Oleg Synyutka

Head of Rada (Elected): Chairman Alexander Gunushin

Currency: Hryvnia (UAH),
CAD \$1 = \$19.64 UAH, 1 UAH = CAD \$0.051
(June 2017)

Key Industry Sectors: information technology (IT), automotive production, oil and gas extraction, agriculture, food processing, and tourism.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Lviv oblast is located in the extreme west of Ukraine bordering Poland and was founded on December 4, 1939.
- The oblast shares a 278 km northwestern border with Poland.
- Lviv consists of 20 districts and 44 cities, including seven towns of regional subordination, 34 urban-type settlements, and 1849 rural settlements.
- The oblast's administration centre is Lviv City, which is 535 km from Kyiv by highway.

- Lviv's city center was declared a World Heritage site by the UNESCO in 1998.
- Approximately 95 per cent Lviv's inhabitants are ethnic Ukrainians.
- 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 City celebrated its 750th anniversary in 2006.
- Lviv is home to many world-class cultural institutions, including a philharmonic orchestra and the famous Lviv Theatre of Opera and Ballet.
- Lviv City has a vibrant IT community with over 190 IT companies and 15,000 IT specialists calling it home.
- 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.

RELATIONSHIP OVERVIEW

- Alberta entered into a sister province relationship with Lviv in 2005, which expired in 2010.
- Alberta has strong ethnic and cultural ties to Ukraine, particularly in the western Oblasts, with over 350,000 Albertans claiming Ukrainian ancestry.
- Alberta has contributed to building social, political and economic reform in Ukraine.

ECONOMY

- Lviv sees the development of the engineering and food processing industries as the most promising.
- More than 72.4 per cent of Lviv's total industrial production is accounted for by the processing industry, 5 per cent by mining, and 21.1 per cent by the companies generating and distributing electricity, gas and water.
- Lviv is rich in oil, gas, shale gas, coal, sulphur, peat, potash, and salt.
- Lviv's major exports are textile, transport vehicles, industrial equipment and devices, wood and wood wares, commodities of light industry, and products of agro industrial complex.
- More than 100 countries are Lviv region's trading partners, while cooperation with Germany, Poland, Denmark, Italy and other EU countries is the most active.
- Lviv's leading investor countries include Poland, Austria, Cyprus, the UK, Germany, Denmark, Switzerland, and the Netherlands.

AGRICULTURE

- Fifty-eight per cent of the region's total land can be used for agricultural applications
- The region has 1.3 million hectares of agricultural lands, making up 3.1 per cent of the Ukraine's total agricultural lands.
- Lviv has an advantageous geographical position, favourable natural and climatic conditions, and fertile soils.

- Lviv is prioritizing the specialization of its agricultural sector in crop production (growing of grain, sugar beets, potatoes, vegetables, and fruits), food industry and processing of agricultural products.
- Production is almost evenly 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

- Lviv region has 42 independent higher education institutions.
- More than 125,400 students study at these institutions with 38,000 graduating each year.
- 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 benefiting 900 children per year (\$5,000 in 2004).
- An annual seven-month Canada World Youth community development exchange project between women from Western Ukraine and the Canadian Prairies (\$150,000 1999-2004).

CULTURE

- Lviv City considers itself the "Cultural Capital" of Ukraine.
- 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 three 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 2003-04, 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.
- Lviv boasts 4,000 historic and architectural relics from the 12th to 20th centuries (about 25 per cent of all objects in Ukraine)
- Lviv is home to 400 nature preserves, including three national parks and one nature reserve.

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 Zwodzdesky and MLA Dave Broda.

DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION

- The Ukrainian Ambassador to Canada is Mr. Andriy Shevchenko.
- Canada's Ambassador to Ukraine is Mr. Roman Waschuk.
- Canada also has a Consulate in Lviv.
- Ukraine's Consul General in Toronto with jurisdiction over Alberta is Mr. Andrii Veselovskyi.
- Ukraine's Honorary Consul in Vancouver is Mr. Mir Ihor Lubomyr Huculak.



For more information, contact:

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