



Saskatchewan 1905-2005....

The Ukrainian community has many reasons to be proud of its history in Saskatchewan, but we also have a responsibility to share this proud history with others. After all, we don't want these accomplishments to be forever laid to rest with the dedicated people who made things happen! Our accounts of Saskatchewan history should accurately reflect the province's people, places and events. For example, did you know that Saskatchewan has been a leader in Ukrainian language education in Canada for more than half a century? If you are curious, read on....

SASKATCHEWAN 'FIRSTS' IN UKRAINIAN LANGUAGE EDUCATION

Nadia Prokopchuk, Ukrainian Education Consultant, Saskatchewan Learning

FIRST to introduce Ukrainian language and literature courses at a Canadian university. 1945.



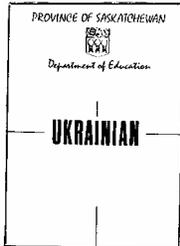
The University of Saskatchewan became a leader in the study of Slavic history and languages as early as 1937, when Dr. G. W. Simpson offered his first course in Slavic civilization. This was followed by his publication of *Ukraine – An Atlas of Its History and Geography* in 1941. As a result of Dr. Simpson's efforts in this area, Ukrainian language night classes began on the U of S campus in 1943, taught by Dr. T. Pavlychenko. This was followed by the appointment of Dr. Constantine Andrusyshen to an academic position at the University of Saskatchewan in 1945. Dr. Andrusyshen, the first Canadian-born Slavist, was given full administrative responsibility for the development of a Slavic Studies Department at the university.

Under Andrusyshen, the department introduced the first academic courses in Ukrainian language and literature to be offered at a Canadian university. In 1950, the University Senate recognized the scholarly level of these courses by placing them on an equal academic standing with other language courses, such as French and German. The legendary work of Dr. Andrusyshen at the University of Saskatchewan is highly respected by Slavists in North America. He helped define Ukrainian-Canadian consciousness by raising the prestige of Ukrainian studies in Canada. Dr. Andrusyshen's passion for language and literature inspired many Saskatchewan students to delve more deeply into studies about their linguistic, cultural and historic past as Canadians of Ukrainian heritage.



FIRST in Canada to introduce provincially-approved high school Ukrainian language credit courses. 1952.

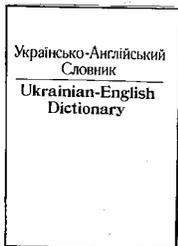
The request for provincial recognition of Ukrainian language courses at the high school level came from Saint Joseph's College in Yorkton, which had a reputation for promoting excellence in



education. Although negotiations with the Department of Education began as early as 1942, the climate for approval became favourable almost a decade later. The first Ukrainian Curriculum Committee met in the spring of 1952 in order to draft a Ukrainian curriculum which would meet provincial standards. The committee worked tirelessly over the next few months and in the fall of 1952, Brother Methodius Koziak, the principal of St. Joseph's College and chair of the Curriculum Committee, was able to introduce the first courses for credit on an experimental basis. The courses were enthusiastically received by high school

students and their parents. During the next few decades, demand for Ukrainian credit courses grew rapidly in Western Canada and Saskatchewan's leadership in this area led to course development for summer immersion programs, correspondence school courses and after-school credit classes.

FIRST to publish a comprehensive Ukrainian - English Dictionary for speakers of Ukrainian living outside Ukraine. 1955.



Dr. C. H. Andrusyshen's *Ukrainian-English Dictionary* (University of Saskatchewan, 1955; University of Toronto Press, 1957, with reprints in 1981, 1985, 1990) was his most remarkable contribution to Ukrainian studies in North America. This dictionary was the first comprehensive Ukrainian-English Dictionary to be published outside Ukraine and to date, remains one of the best references for standard Ukrainian. The work was funded by the Rockefeller Foundation, Ford Foundation and the University of Saskatchewan.

In the years following its publication, Ukrainian programs were introduced at six institutions of higher learning and numerous secondary schools across Canada. A Ukrainian dictionary of this calibre became a primary tool for Ukrainian language study in many other countries where Ukrainian emigre communities had become well-established, such as England, Brazil, Germany and the United States. Entries contain valuable linguistic, historical and cultural information unaltered by the Soviet period of history.

FIRST in Canada to offer high school Ukrainian Correspondence Courses for credit. 1963.



Following several years of successful delivery of Ukrainian correspondence courses by the University of Saskatchewan (beginning in 1958), the Department of Education received a request for correspondence courses to be written for Saskatchewan high school students. In 1963, curriculum writers Roma Franko and Sonia Cipywnyk (Morris) drafted the first five units of the Grade 9 Course, and the course was made available to students in fall of the same year. The Grade 9 Ukrainian course was met with such enthusiasm, that courses for Grades 10, 11 and 12 were written in subsequent years.

This was the first high school correspondence course for Ukrainian language study to be offered in Canada. The Saskatchewan courses have since been rewritten and they continue to be used by students studying Ukrainian across Canada.

FIRST in Canada to establish a provincial association of teachers of Ukrainian. 1966.



Established in 1966, the Saskatchewan Teachers of Ukrainian (STU) is a Special Subject Council of the Saskatchewan Teachers Federation. To date, the STU remains the only provincial professional association of teachers of Ukrainian in Canada. Its main objectives are to develop, promote and expand Ukrainian language programs for Saskatchewan youth while fostering professional development opportunities for teachers of Ukrainian.

In the decade following its inception, the STU was instrumental in initiating interprovincial cooperation between the Western Canadian provinces for Ukrainian program development. In 1991, building on the political freedom in Ukraine after the break-up of the Soviet Union, the STU worked together with Saskatchewan Learning (Education) officials to establish strong educational ties with teachers in Ukraine. This was a very important step which led to the organization of two *Canada-Ukraine Education Conferences* in Ukraine in 1991 and 1994.

In addition to its quarterly publication *Tema*, STU continues to organize annual professional conferences for teachers of Ukrainian in Western Canada.

FIRST to successfully implement a student exchange program between a university in Ukraine and a North American university. 1978.



In 1976, the University of Saskatchewan was gifted with a monument of the great Ukrainian poetess, Lesya Ukrainka, for the university campus. The monument, which stands before the College of Arts and Science, was the first of its kind to be placed at a North American university by Society Ukraina on behalf of the people of Ukraine.

This gift led to the signing of the first-ever exchange agreement between a university in Ukraine and a North American university in 1977. It was a great moment in the history of Saskatchewan-Ukraine relations. During the summer of 1978, four exchange students and a professor from the University of Saskatchewan spent five weeks studying at the University of Chernivtsi, touring historic sites in Ukraine and learning more about their ancestral heritage.



For more than two decades, the exchange fostered academic, cultural and linguistic benefits for students and university professors in both countries. Most importantly, it allowed Saskatchewan students to have the necessary contact with native speakers to make their language studies relevant. The university exchange led to the official twinning of the cities of Saskatoon and Chernivtsi, as well as the creation of a high school exchange program between the two cities facilitated by their respective Ministries of Education. Many positive educational initiatives were put into place as a result of this first agreement, elevating Saskatchewan to a position of special importance with education and government officials in Ukraine.

FIRST in Canada to sign an official agreement with Ukraine for *Cooperation in Education*. 1990.

In 1990, the Saskatchewan government signed a joint educational agreement with Ukraine which provided for cooperation in a wide range of areas, including exchange programs, curriculum writing, teacher preparation and educational administration.

This agreement was the first of its kind between the Ukrainian Ministry of Public Education and a Canadian provincial department of education. It made provisions for annual exchanges of high school students, university students and educators from Saskatchewan and Ukraine. Through such exchanges, participants could improve their language skills among native speakers, expand their knowledge of international issues and rediscover the historic links between both countries. The agreement also underscored the importance of cooperation at all levels of educational administration in areas of mutual interest.

FIRST in Canada to hold a Canada-Ukraine Educational Conference in Ukraine. 1991.



Joint educational agreements signed in 1990 by Saskatchewan's Department of Education, the Ukrainian Ministry of Education (Kyiv) and the Centre for International Ties with Ukrainian Educators (Lviv) created the momentum to arrange for an educational conference in Ukraine in 1991. Together with the province's teachers of Ukrainian, personnel from the Department of Education and the University of Saskatchewan planned the *Canada-Ukraine Educational Conference*, which took place in three major centres in Ukraine – Kyiv, Lviv and Chernivtsi – during the summer of 1991.

The primary purpose of the conference was to facilitate direct contact between Canadian and Ukrainian educators for mutual professional, linguistic and cultural benefit. Conference sessions and short courses on topics of mutual interest, such as educational psychology, administration, curriculum development, teacher training and special needs integration, were offered to conference participants.

This conference was so successful that a second Canada-Ukraine Conference took place in 1994, with conference participants travelling to three Ukrainian port cities along the Black Sea coast – Odesa, Mykolayiv and Kherson.

FIRST in Canada to successfully implement a high school student exchange program with Ukraine. 1992.



The first Canadian high school student exchange program with Ukraine took place in 1992 after the signing of an historic agreement between the Ministry of Education in Ukraine and Saskatchewan's Education Ministry in 1990. Senior Ukrainian bilingual program students from E. D. Feehan High School in Saskatoon participated in an exchange with students from the city of Chernivtsi in Western Ukraine.

The agreement made specific provisions for students to participate in an educational exchange program which would allow them to improve their language skills while living with host families in the respective country. Students would also gain first hand knowledge about the system of education, government, culture, history and daily lifestyle of students living in the host country.

Since 1992, several successful exchange programs have taken place between Saskatoon and Chernivtsi high school students. Several summer exchanges involving students from the Mohyla Institute Ukrainian Immersion Credit Program have also taken place.

FIRST in Canada to work with the Ukrainian Ministry of Education to prepare new Health Education materials for schools in Ukraine. 1995.

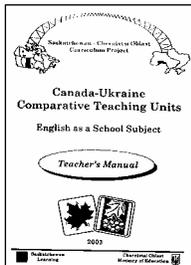


With Saskatchewan Learning (Education) as facilitator, the Saskatchewan Teachers of Ukrainian partnered with the Ukrainian Ministries of Education and Health for the development and implementation of instructional materials to support Health Education in pilot schools in nine different Ukrainian oblasts. An additional 12 pilot schools were included later, due to high interest among educators.

The "Healthy Schools" project produced Student Workbooks for Grades 1 through 11, Teacher

Manuals for the Elementary, Middle and Senior levels and an assortment of visual aids, all supporting four major themes in Health Education: Nutrition, Hygiene, Anti-smoking and AIDS prevention. All program/materials development, as well as the delivery of seminars for teachers in Ukraine, was planned and conducted jointly with Ukrainian educators. The project proved to be highly successful and laid the foundation for subsequent joint curriculum/materials and training projects with Ukraine.

FIRST in Canada to successfully complete a joint curriculum writing project with Ukraine. 1996.



Following the signing of a government memorandum on continued cooperation between Saskatchewan and Ukraine in 1995, a joint curriculum writing project was initiated between Saskatchewan Education and the Chernivtsi Oblast Ministry of Education. This was the first successful collaboration in curriculum development between education departments in Canada and Ukraine.

The project allowed for a curriculum writer from Chernivtsi to work with Saskatchewan Education consultants to create several comparative teaching units on topics of common interest to high school students in both countries, such as government, geography, history, the arts, sports and agriculture. Specific units about the province of Saskatchewan and Chernivtsi Oblast were also included in the teaching package. Teachers in both countries were invited to assist with the project by reviewing draft materials and piloting the units in their classrooms. The project led to the publication of teaching units which continue to be used by teachers of Ukrainian in Saskatchewan and teachers of English in Chernivtsi Oblast.

FIRST provincial Education department in Canada to develop a national health education program for Ukraine's Ministry of Education. 1998.



Київ 2001

In 1998 the Saskatchewan Government entered into an agreement with the Canadian Society for International Health to participate in a major project called "Youth for Health". One of the objectives was to empower Ukrainian youth to adopt and promote healthy living and engage in behaviours focusing on AIDS prevention, smoking cessation and reducing drug and alcohol abuse. The opportunity to focus on these topics was very timely, as Saskatchewan teachers had already participated in similar curriculum development in past years and had much to offer in terms of educational support.

Saskatchewan Learning coordinated work between educators in Saskatchewan and Ukraine for the preparation of national health documents (Grades 1-11) and joint delivery of workshops for teachers, administrators and parents. Eighteen major documents were prepared and implemented, including Student Workbooks, Teacher Manuals, Manuals for educational administrators and consultants and Parent Handbooks, totaling over 42,000 copies. Approximately 8,000 students from Kyiv pilot schools took part in the project. In 2001, Ukraine's Ministry of Education designated the Grade One health education program compulsory for all Ukrainian schools. The materials have been adapted for use in Ukrainian Bilingual Education classes in Saskatchewan.



Canadian International
Development Agency



Saskatchewan
Education



Canadian Society For
International Health

These are just a few of many great accomplishments in our province. A comprehensive list of 'Saskatchewan Firsts' is being gathered in a provincial campaign entitled 'Our Future's Wide Open'. Do you have any 'Saskatchewan Firsts' to contribute to this list? If so please contact either the UCC-SPC Office or Saskatchewan Learning at the numbers given below. Indicate which category best describes the achievement. Please limit the description to about 100 words and include important names, titles, dates and details.

Categories:	<i>Agriculture</i>	<i>Arts/Culture</i>	<i>Business</i>
	<i>Education</i>	<i>Health</i>	<i>Good Citizenship</i>
	<i>Public Policy/Government</i>	<i>Sports</i>	<i>Science and Technology</i>
	<i>Other (Please indicate)</i>		

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We would appreciate your contributions so that significant accomplishments such as those above may be properly noted in historical accounts about Saskatchewan.