

Canada's international role in the future could well be that of being a purveyor of electoral betterment. Helping to establish the democratic process or helping to advance and better the electoral mechanisms would be an honourable role for our country internationally.

cluding those affected by various diasporas, to assume major roles in assisting emerging democracies. Canada, after all, is possibly the most multicultural country in the world. Canada really is all of the world's cultures in one country.

**International Election Monitoring by Canada in Ukraine: Observations and Recommendations**

Having spent much of November and December 2004 observing the election processes in two presidential elections in Ukraine, I have some suggestions in relation to Canada's role in assisting emerging democracies. Overall, I believe that it is fair to say that the concerns and actions of the Canadian people, over 1,000,000 of whom are of Ukrainian descent, played a significant role in the ultimately fair presidential election of December 26. I hope that Canada will use this experience to consider engaging its cultural communities, in-



Many questioned the use of clear ballot boxes versus solid boxes. Ukraine's typical clear ballot boxes shown above, before being sealed for use.

Recently, Canada assisted in the monitoring of the elections in Iraq, where Canada's own Chief Electoral Officer, Jean Pierre Kingsley, was a participant. Canada has committed approximately \$20 million to ensuring the integrity of electoral processes in Haiti, where elections are anticipated to be held in October and November of this year. My observations and recommendations for the Ukrainian elections are as follows:

**Observations: Government of Canada Response to Election Crisis in Ukraine**

Canada was clearly caught ill-prepared, without a plan or resources to respond to the



electoral crisis in Ukraine. Previous elections in Ukraine had involved little government-sponsored Canadian involvement, save \$ 2.2 million in CIDA (Canadian International Development Agency) funding given to the University of Alberta's Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies in 1996, to support a three year democratic development program. The funding was not renewed. CIDA grants around the world are being moved away from brick and mortar, school and hospital developments to other areas, particularly involving human rights issues, where it is extremely difficult to monitor outputs. A refocusing on democratization would provide output-based measurements that also is in keeping with CIDA's current focus on the broader issue of political rights issues.



Peter Goldring, Member of Parliament for Edmonton East, at the Canadian Embassy in Kiev, with the Alberta delegation of election monitors.

What should not be repeated is the ad hoc nature of recent democratization assistance provided to Ukraine. For example, in the days immediately after the November 21 election in Ukraine, there evidently was little pre-planning, exemplified by an announcement that 75 observers would be supported and, three days later, by an announced increase in the number of government-

sponsored observers from 75 to 500. No military aircraft were available to provide transport for the 500 observers; instead, charter aircraft were engaged. To the credit of CANADEM and the government, with some notable Liberal Party exceptions, there was resistance to pressure to sponsor observers with demonstrated political biases that would have compromised the integrity of Canada's assistance.

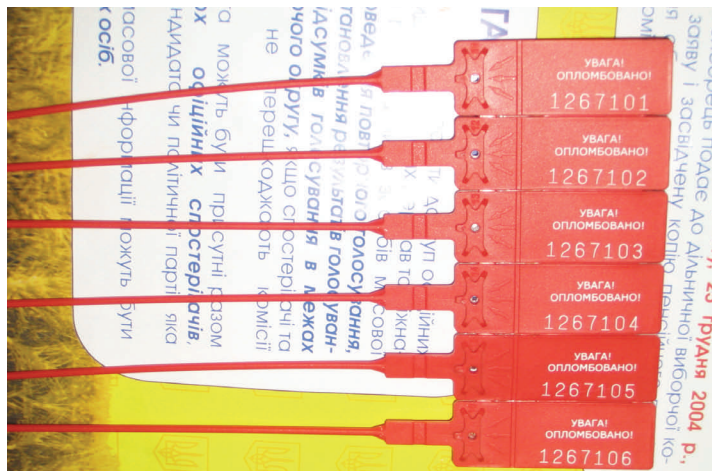
**Recommendations**

Canada, through CIDA, could be more actively engaged in global efforts at democratization. The allocation of CIDA resources is currently subject to serious reservations as to the actual impact of such resources disbursed through a plethora of programs and initiatives. Specialization in democratization efforts in emerging and insipient democracies, such as the CIDA initiative that was so successful in Ukraine, could have a positive impact in other countries, such as Haiti. In addition, as mentioned, CIDA played a role, through United Nations participation, in observing the recent election in Iraq. Canada's own Chief Electoral Officer, Jean-Pierre Kingsley, coordinated Canada's participation. Also as mentioned earlier, Canada's multicultural nature and sensitivity to diasporas



makes it an ideal contributor to enhanced global democracy.

In contrast to questions relating to economy, efficiency and effectiveness of various CIDA programs, a CIDA-sponsored specialization in global democratization would result in outcomes and accountabilities that could be more readily measured. Based on Canada's experience with democratization in Ukraine, such outcomes and accountabilities would also



Numbered seals used to secure ballot boxes. Unfortunately, serial numbers were not recorded in papers put inside ballot boxes before sealing.

be anticipated to involve broad-based public support and participation, particularly from Canada's ethnic communities. Similar to Canadian participation in the elections in Ukraine, members of other ethnic diasporas in Canada would feel empowered and would want to participate and to be part of the success.

Developing a more internationally-accredited and standardized protocol for conducting elections also would benefit Canada's electoral processes. As good as our system is, everyone can and should try to improve. In Ukraine, technical aspects can and should be improved, from logging and recording seal numbers on ballot box insert registration

forms to finding solutions to maintaining the integrity of voting secrecy. For example, in the elections in Ukraine, ballots were dropped into clear plastic boxes, where many votes were able to be read as they were deposited.

Because some emerging democracies have serious internal security problems, Canada's military and various police forces could be coordinated with other forces to provide interim security and aid, until government constitutions are formulated that would lead towards strife-free democratic elections. Canada's foreign affairs involvement, given our very weak military capability, could be peace-keeping, rather than peace-making, with well-formulated efforts in support of democracy.

Canada has much to be proud with respect to its contribution to democratic integrity in Ukraine. It is to be hoped that the experiences of Canadians supporting democracy in Ukraine will form the basis for a more permanent international election monitoring role for Canada.

**Recommendation Highlights**

- Develop a plan with resource allocation.
- Specialize in international electoral monitoring and observation, helping to develop standardized protocols.
- Integrate and coordinate specialized Canadian forces—military and police—to help stabilize emerging democracies, prior to constitutionally-sanctioned elections.
- Engage Canada’s cultural communities in providing assistance to global democratic processes.

**Ukraine’s Election Results Timeline**

***October 31st Presidential Election (First Round)***

Viktor Yushchenko - 39.87%  
 Viktor Yanukovych - 39.32%  
 Other Candidates - 18.83%

***November 21st Presidential Election (Cancelled Second Round)***

Viktor Yushchenko - 46.69%  
 Viktor Yanukovych - 49.42%

***December 26th Presidential Election Results (Re-run Second Round)***

Viktor Yushchenko - 51.99%  
 Viktor Yanukovych - 44.19%

**Update:** This Issue # 27, along with Issues # 22 “In the Eye of the Revolution,” and Issue # 26 “Ukraine Election: December 26th,” will collectively serve as a report on Peter Goldring’s involvement in Ukraine.

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*This brochure series is intended to highlight special issues that Member of Parliament, Peter Goldring, has been involved in. If you wish to comment, please take a moment to fill out the survey below, write or call to the address above.*

**Your Opinion Matters...**

**Question #1** Should Canada specialize in international election monitoring and do more to support emerging democracies?

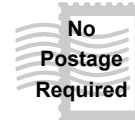
Yes  No

**Question #2** Should Canada delegate a parliamentarian specifically to do more to develop a special economic and political association with Ukraine?

Yes  No

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
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