



UCC-Saskatoon Immigrant Settlement Program in full swing

Serhiy Kostyuk, UCC-SB Immigrant Settlement Program Coordinator, Slawko Kindrachuk, UCC-SB President



Set up in June 2007 with funding from the Immigration Branch of the Saskatchewan Government, the UCC-SB Immigrant Settlement Program has provided invaluable support for over 100 skilled workers and their families who have recently arrived from Ukraine to work at ten Saskatoon businesses.

UCC-SB's overall immigration strategy focuses on three areas: initial contact, settlement, and integration and retention. Despite limited resources, the

Program has accomplished significant results in all three areas.

Initial contact

In June–September 2007, over 60 Ukrainian immigrant workers and spouses were welcomed to Saskatoon by UCC-SB representatives Slawko Kindrachuk, Serhiy Kostyuk and Audrey Langhorst along with company employees. Every immigrant was provided with an information package containing *Welcome to Saskatoon*, the English-

Ukrainian handbook prepared by UCC-SPC, a map of Saskatoon, and a brochure about UCC-SB services for immigrants. As part of the “Welcome Program,” the UCC-SB Immigrant Settlement Coordinator visited 20 people in their Saskatoon apartments with salt and bread. Volunteers are needed for this traditional welcome visit!

Settlement

Although UCC-SB does not assist companies with employee orientation for Ukrainian workers or with filling out the necessary forms—HR departments in certain companies are responsible for this—it does help immigrants furnish their households in Saskatoon, and volunteers were instrumental in this.

Furnishing Program

To date, the UCC-SB Household Furnishing Program for Skilled Workers and their Families from Ukraine has helped about 40 Ukrainian immigrants. Under the Program the UCC-SB collects donations of furniture and other items of necessity from the local community for immigrants to furnish their living

rooms, bedrooms, and kitchens. The UCC-SB storage facility is filled and emptied weekly. In fact, immigrants pick up household items from the facility almost everyday. The top priority for donations is beds, mattresses, couches and kitchen tables. For details about the Household Furnishing Program, please refer to Information Bulletin № 3 on the UCC-SB webpage.

The collection and distribution of donations would not be possible without the assistance of Ivan Demkiw, Stan Hawryliw, Bruce and Audrey Langhorst, Slawko Kindrachuk, Serhiy Kostyuk and Saskatoon's community. Volunteers are needed for picking up donations on a bi-weekly basis!

Furnishing Program

Picked up in August-September after the arrival of 60 workers

- 22 microwaves
- 15 couches
- 7 beds
- 10 rocking chairs
- 9 desks
- 12 kitchen tables with chairs
- 10 TV sets
- 7 radios
- glasses, cups

ESL classes for immigrants

Based on the success of last spring's ESL classes offered by the UCC-SB for immigrants from Ukraine, registration for more classes took place on September 19. Forty immigrant workers and spouses registered for these free classes, which began October 2. We thank Mary Humen, Alicia Klopoushak and Audrey Langhorst for their volunteer work with the teachers and students. ➤





UCC Regina hires Immigration Coordinator

By Ed Lysyk

The Ukrainian Canadian Congress – Regina Branch wishes to announce that, through the financial resources made available by the Province of Saskatchewan's Immigration Branch, it has hired Stepan Tulchynskyy as Immigration Settlement Coordinator to facilitate the settlement and integration of immigrants under the provincial nominee program and their families.

In addition to assisting immigrants in the city of Regina, Stepan will also provide

outreach for immigrants living outside the city but in southern Saskatchewan. He will be assisted by UCC Regina Branch's Immigration Committee.

Fluent in English, Ukrainian and Russian, Stepan will be working from the UCC Regina Office, where he can be reached at 306-757-8835. His assistance will be available, on average, 25 hours per week.



Stepan Tulchynskyy

Stepan's job is a contract position for a one-year term. His work for the UCC commenced in late September and his immediate supervisor is Ed Lysyk, Chair of the Regina Immigration Committee.

Stepan is 32 years of age and married. He moved to Regina from Northern Manitoba where he had been teaching Computers at a junior school and high school. He came to Canada eight years ago from Uman, Ukraine. **B**

Program in full swing *continued*

Driver's licence

More than 30 newcomers have benefited from interpretation services offered by the UCC-SB for drivers tests at SGI. The Immigrant Settlement Coordinator has also helped by booking exams and providing transportation to the testing facility. In an effort to expedite written exams, UCC-SB and SGI have cooperated to establish group testing; the first group test at the end of October will involve six people.

Integration & retention

It can take years for immigrants to integrate into Canadian society. This process is often influ-

enced by various factors, but it would be impossible without a welcoming community. To this end, the UCC-SB organizes social events and information workshops for immigrants to meet their social and cultural needs. In particular, UCC-SB assists with résumé preparation for immigrants and family members, and informs about educational and cultural opportunities in Saskatoon.

About 100 recently arrived Ukrainians visited Ukraine Day in the Park (please see page 17), and it was gratifying to see them participating in and volunteering at this event. A week earlier, they enjoyed the popular Kar-



With members of North Battleford's Ukrainian community

paty Ukrainian pavilion at Saskatoon's Folkfest.

The UCC-SB is planning a social event for immigrants and their children at the end of October. Details will be available soon.

Connection with Ukraine

The majority of newcomers retain their Ukrainian citizenship. As such, they had the right to vote in Ukraine's parliamentary election September 30th. To address the desire of many immigrants to vote, the Immigrant

Settlement Coordinator provided relevant information in meetings with them. This information was also available at the UCC-SB and UCC-SPC offices.

The UCC-SB wishes to thank its partners: the UCC-SPC, the Immigration Branch of the Saskatchewan Government, Immigration Support Services, HR managers at companies who invite Ukrainian workers, SGI, and all the volunteers for their kind cooperation. **B**



At the UCC-SB storage facility with donated household items

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