

TO:	CHAIR AND MEMBERS CORPORATE SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING OF JULY 22, 2014
FROM:	GRANT HOPCROFT, DIRECTOR OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND COMMUNITY LIAISON
SUBJECT:	CANADA UKRAINE MUNICIPAL LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (MLED UKRAINE)

RECOMMENDATION

That, on the recommendation of the Director of Intergovernmental and Community Liaison, the following report on the Canada Ukraine Local Economic Development Program (MLED Ukraine) **BE RECEIVED**.

PREVIOUS REPORTS PERTINENT TO THIS MATTER
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Board of Control: January 27, 2010: Canada Ukraine Municipal Local Economic Development (MLED) Program – FCM Mission to Ukraine
 Finance and Administration Committee: December 15, 2010; March 30, 2011; June 15, 2011; November 16, 2011: Canada Ukraine Municipal Local Economic Development Program – FCM Mission to Ukraine
 Finance and Administrative Services Committee: July 16, 2012: Canada Ukraine Municipal Local Economic Development Program; Canada Caribbean Local Economic Development, November 5, 2012
 Corporate Services Committee March 19, 2013, September 24, 2013: Canada Caribbean Local Economic Development. March 19, 2013: Canada Ukraine Municipal Local Economic Development Program.

BACKGROUND

As part of London’s commitment to the FCM International program on municipal local economic development London received a delegation from Ukraine through the Municipal Local Economic Development (MLED Ukraine) program, May 28 - 29, 2014. This is the fifth year of a five year project between Canada and the Ukraine with the goals of promoting business growth and economic development, strengthening intergovernmental cooperation, and advancing economic and political gender equality, through better service planning and delivery. The project is funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development, and is supplemented by significant in-kind contribution from Canadian and Ukrainian partners. It will wrap up on December 31st, 2014 and a new five year program is expected to begin January 1st, 2015.

Under the proposed new project, FCM will continue to focus on municipal local economic development but will also include a focus on democratic governance. If approved, the project will include components on open and transparent government at the municipal level, small and medium-sized business support, and the professionalization of local economic development through training programs, as well as investment and trade readiness. The project will expand to sixteen cities in four oblasts (regions) in east, central and west Ukraine as well as some continued work in the current two oblasts of Lviv and Dnipropetrovsk.

The May 2014 delegation from MLED Ukraine consisted of senior representatives of four member cities of the Association of Ukrainian Cities – Pavlograd (city of 118,000 in the oblast of Dnipropetrovsk oblast in eastern Ukraine), Luhansk (a city of 503,000 in Luhansk oblast in eastern Ukraine), Novyi Rozdil (a city of 29,000 in the Lviv oblast of western Ukraine), and City of Rivne (Rivne oblast in western Ukraine, population 249,000). As new cities involved in the MLED, the Mayors and Deputy Mayors were in London for an intensive two-day learning experience to introduce the Ukrainian officials to leading practices in municipal local economic development. During their time in London, they were welcomed by Councillor Harold Usher and received a presentation from Civic Administration. Councillor Joe Swan spoke to delegates about the London Prosperity Plan, and London Economic Development Corporation (LEDC) staff spoke on the LEDC model. The Ukrainian visitors also received presentations on business support services from the Small Business Centre and on business improvement areas from Downtown London. The London Ukrainian Centre hosted a dinner to welcome the delegation.

Following their meetings in London, the delegation participated in the FCM Annual General Meeting in Niagara Falls.

Upcoming MLED Ukraine events include a Mayors' Forum organized by the Association of Ukrainian Cities, a Local Economic Development Day, and a closing conference in Ukraine scheduled for October 30-31, with a potential opportunity for virtual participation.

PREPARED BY:	RECOMMENDED BY:
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