

**Ukrainian Canadian Congress
Election Observers in Ukraine
October 2004**

Frequently Asked Questions

GOALS

1. What is the purpose of observing elections?

Ukraine is on the threshold of one of the most important elections in its history. If fair and democratic elections are held, it is widely believed that Ukraine will elect a president that will enable Ukraine to significantly progress and reach its full potential as a new democracy.

2. Why is the UCC organizing observers?

There is a large number of Canadians who wish to support Ukraine in its transition to a modern democracy. The opportunity to provide observers aligns well with this view and the UCC is the obvious choice to lead this initiative.

3. What is the UCC?

The UCC is the acronym for the Ukrainian Canadian Congress, a non-profit community-based organization. The UCC is the umbrella organization for over 40 national Ukrainian Canadian community organizations. It provides coordination and representation on a variety of issues affecting Ukrainians across Canada.

4. Who is managing this project?

The UCC has mandated the UCC Election Project Committee, a sub-committee of the UCC Canada Ukraine Committee, comprising members from across Canada to manage the Elections Observer Project.

5. Is the UCC coordinating efforts with other organizations monitoring the elections?

Yes, the UCC is organizing its observer program in cooperation with the Ukrainian World Congress (UWC) and the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA). The UCC is also closely aligning its efforts with the Canadian government.

OBSERVER SELECTION

6. Who qualifies as an observer?

The UCC is looking for observers who are:

- Over 18 years of age
- Good general physical health/condition
- Able to adapt to unexpected situations

7. How do I register as an observer?

Contact the UCC National office toll free at: 866.942.4627
email address: electionsinukraine@ucc.ca

8. What is the process of selecting observers?

After registering with the UCC National Head Office, observers should wait for an official confirmation from the UCC that they have been selected as an observer. The UCC will review all applications with UCC provincial councils and UCC local branches, and then make a final selection. All those who register should expect a written response.

9. When should I expect a reply regarding confirmation of my request to be an observer?

The UCC is expected to make a selection of observers by the end of June. This date will be reviewed subject to new information as it becomes available.

10. What should I expect when I register as an observer ?

If you are selected as an observer, you will receive an information package providing further information as it becomes available.

OBSERVER ROLE

11. What is an observer expected to do?

- Participate in observer training in Kyiv [2 days]
- Observe election process in Observer City [2 days]
- Provide a written summary of events
- Participate in UCC debriefing in Kyiv [1 day]
- Participate in community debriefing in Canada [1 evening]

12. What amount of time do I need to be in Ukraine?

You should plan on a minimum of 1 week in Ukraine. You will be asked to arrive in Kyiv on a specified date for training and will return to Kyiv after your observer assignment has been successfully completed.

13. How many hours per day is training?

Training requirements are currently under development. More to come as soon as information becomes available.

14. What do observers do if they find election irregularities?

Observers will undergo elections observer training in Kyiv, where they will be trained on the appropriate steps to take if election irregularities are observed.

15. Do I need to speak Ukrainian to be an observer?

Ukrainian is the official language of Ukraine and therefore it is highly recommended that you speak Ukrainian to better communicate. However, it is not a prerequisite for participation in the program.

16. Will you provide translators if I speak only English ?

No, the UCC will not provide interpreters. English-only speaking observers would have to arrange for Ukrainian-English interpreters in Ukraine.

EXPENSES

17. For what expenses am I responsible, and for what will the UCC be responsible?

The UCC is responsible for the overall coordination of the project. However, observers are responsible for their own expenses. As a general rule, expense responsibilities are as follows:

ITEM	ESTIMATED COST	OBSERVER		UCC	
		Organize	Pay	Organize	Pay
Observer Accreditation	n/a			✓	
Visa	\$ 75	✓	✓		
Flight to/from Kyiv	\$ 1,400	✓	✓		
Taxi to/from Airport/Kyiv [2 trips]	\$ 60	✓	✓		
Hotel in Kyiv [5 days]	\$ 500	✓	✓		
Observer Training in Kyiv	\$ 500			✓	✓
Transportation to/from Observer City [2 trips]	\$ 500	✓	✓		
Hotel in Observer City [2 days]	\$ 200	✓	✓		
Food during Observer Role [7 days]	\$ 300	✓	✓		
Medical Insurance	\$ 200	✓	✓		
Total	\$ 3,735				

18. Can observers expect community financial support?

The UCC has directed UCC Provincial Councils, UCC local branches, and UCC member organizations to individually organize observers and financing. The UCC is approaching this project with a “think globally, act locally” approach. The UCC will provide general direction, while local communities will manage local requirements. For further information, contact your local UCC branch or local branch of your national organization.

SITUATION IN UKRAINE

19. Will observers have international observer accreditation?

The UCC is making every effort to obtain international observer accreditation via a number of different ways. This is a complex process. More information will become available in the next couple of months.

20. Do observers require a visa?

All visitors to Ukraine require visas.

21. Will the UCC have coordinators in Ukraine?

The UCC will organize an office/coordinator in Ukraine. Negotiations are currently in progress.

22. Can observers select the riding in which they want to be observers?

The riding selection process has not been established due to a number of factors, such as conditions of international accreditation regulations, local logistical issues, and coordination with other Ukrainian Diaspora organizations and other election monitoring bodies. The UCC generally feels that optimum observer benefit can be achieved by having observers concentrate efforts in Central and Eastern

Ukraine. The UCC is also working with the Ukrainian World Congress to assign regions of Ukraine to the various Ukrainian Diaspora umbrella organizations. Final plans are being developed.

23. Will observers have local contacts at their observer riding?

In an ideal situation, the UCC would like to support Ukrainian Canadian observers with local observers. At this time it is too early to comment on this topic except to say that this would be one of the many items the UCC is trying to resolve. More to come in the coming months.

24. Are there any security concerns?

Observer security is always of paramount importance to the UCC. It is impossible to accurately predict security issues, however, all observers should be aware that since the election stakes are high for many candidates, some may resort to winning using illegal or irregular means.

NOTE: SECURITY IS THE PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY OF EACH OBSERVER. IN NO WAY CAN THE UCC, THE UWC, OR ANY OF ITS AGENTS, VOLUNTEERS, OR ASSOCIATE ORGANIZATIONS BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR SECURITY.