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Deputy Minister

Sous-ministre

Ottawa, Canada  
K1A 1L1

MAY 11 2009

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**MEMORANDUM TO THE MINISTER**

**UPDATE ON THE STATUS OF THE CANADIAN  
FIRST WORLD WAR INTERNMENT RECOGNITION FUND**

**FOR INFORMATION**

**SUMMARY**

- This is to provide you with an update on the status of the Canadian First World War Internment Recognition Fund established under the Community Historical Recognition Program and of its planned activities for the upcoming year.
- The first report from the Ukrainian Canadian Foundation of Taras Shevchenko, which manages the Fund, indicates that key activities related to implementing the Fund have taken place and the first grant has been provided; however the current global economic situation has hindered the ability of the Fund to fund more projects in the near future.

**BACKGROUND:**

- The Canadian First World War Internment Recognition Fund is a \$10 million endowment established under the Community Historical Recognition Program (CHRP) to support projects which commemorate and recognize the experiences of ethno-cultural communities affected by the First World War internment.
- A funding agreement to establish this endowment was signed on May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2008 between the Government of Canada and the Ukrainian Canadian Foundation of Taras Shevchenko in Toronto.
- The Foundation holds, invests and administers the Fund, and distributes the income it generates in accordance with the funding agreement.
- The agreement also requires the Foundation to submit two reports to the CHRP on an annual basis:
  - Corporate Plans outlining planned activities, revenues and expenditures for the year to come, at the latest, two months before the end of each fiscal year.
  - An Annual Report, four months after the end of each fiscal year, at the latest.

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**CURRENT STATUS:**

- The first Corporate Plans for the Fund were received on January 11, 2009. While these Plans essentially serve to provide information on future activities, the following updates were provided:
  - A part-time Manager was hired to implement the Fund.
  - An Advisory Board to review funding applications was established as per the terms of the Agreement.
  - The first grant was provided to the Spirit Lake Camp Corporation in Abitibi, Quebec.
  - A total of \$138,000 has been spent by the Fund to date.
  
- The Foundation also reports that due to the global economic situation, the value of the principal of the Fund has decreased from \$10 million to approximately \$8.5 million.
  
- As a result, the Foundation does not expect to be in a position to fund any projects in 2009-2010.
  
- Section 3.1 of the Agreement states that “the Principal Amount may not, over the long term, fall below the amount granted by the Minister.” The Foundation’s first objective for the coming year will therefore be to rebuild the Fund to its original level. Any income generated will be used first to restore the principal, in accordance with the Agreement.
  
- The CHRP has advised the Foundation that it will not apply the default and remedy provisions of the Agreement at this time, but will closely monitor the financial situation of the Fund as the year progresses.

**NEXT STEPS:**

- As per the agreement, the Fund’s Annual Report is due July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2009. It will describe, in more detail, the activities achieved by the Fund during its first year of operation and include the financial statements of the Fund.
  
- CHRP officials will continue to monitor the financial situation of the Fund and ensure that any income generated will be used first to restore the principal.



Richard B. Fadden