

Shevchenko Foundation at Ukrainian Day on the Hill

OTTAWA - OCTOBER 28, 2011

On Monday October 24th, the Ukrainian Canadian community held its inaugural Ukrainian Day on the Hill with a grand celebration of Ukrainian culture and heritage at the Government Conference Center on Parliament Hill. This event was organized by the Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC) and followed two days of meetings between Ukrainian community leaders and political leaders, diplomats and government officials.

Shevchenko Foundation President Andriy Hladyshevsky, QC was part of the delegation which met with Ukrainian Minister of Culture Mykhailo Kulynyak; the Honourable Jason Kenney, Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism; Nycole Turmel, MP & Leader of the Official Opposition; Bob Rae, MP & Leader of the Liberal Party, MP Mark Warawa and Prime Minister's Office Policy Advisor Rachel Curran. Andriy Hladyshevsky, QC had the distinct opportunity to meet with Ukrainian Minister of Culture Mykhailo Kulynyak prior to the evening's event.

"It was extremely gratifying to meet with so many Government officials that understood the work of the Shevchenko Foundation" stated Andriy Hladyshevsky. "This was especially apparent given that the Ukrainian Canadian artistic community was largely represented by individuals who had received support from the Foundation. With such wide-ranging support it is important that the Foundation continues to express its' views on matters of importance to all Canadians such as the Canadian historical content of the Canadian Museum of Human Rights, policies of the Canada Council and economic support for the artistic endeavors of our Ukrainian Canadian community."

The formal evening celebration was attended by approximately 400 people from across Canada included numerous Senators, Federal Government Ministers and MP's. It began with a reception which featured Ukrainian cuisine, a compendium of films on Ukrainian Canadian themes by award-winning Ukrainian Canadian director Halya Kuchmij* and the music of Toronto bandurist Borys Ostapienko. The evening program featured remarks by Ukrainian Minister of Culture Mykhailo Kulynyak; the Honourable Jason Kenney; Nycole Turmel; Ralph Goodale and UCC National President Paul Grod.

The Shevchenko Foundation's display which outlines our mission and vision as well as the Kobzar® Literary Awards shortlisted and winning books from 2008 and 2010 were among several artistic, cultural and educational displays featured and which the delegation perused throughout the evening. The evening's festivities were completed with a concert featuring performances by Svitanok Ukrainian Dance Ensemble; violinist Carissa Klopoushak; singer-songwriter Theresa Sokyryka*; folk duet Pochersk Tsytry and AKORD* men's choir.

**Shevchenko Foundation grant recipients*

Photo: Andriy Hladyshevsky QC, Shevchenko Foundation President with Mykhailo Kulynyak, Ukrainian Minister of Culture.