

MEDIA ANNOUNCEMENT

For Immediate Release



\$25,000 KOBZAR LITERARY AWARD 2006

KEY DATES

Toronto, November 4, 2005 – The Ukrainian Canadian Foundation of Taras Shevchenko (the Shevchenko Foundation) is pleased to announce the following key dates for the \$25,000 Kobzar Literary Award 2006:

Tuesday, November 15, 2005	Panel of Jurors announced
Monday, January 16, 2006	List of Finalists released
Thursday, March 2, 2006	Inaugural winner announced at a dinner and awards ceremony to be held at Toronto's Eglinton Grand.

The vision of the Shevchenko Foundation for the Kobzar Literary Award is to foster cultural development through the Literary Arts and create opportunities for all Canadian writers to explore Ukrainian Canadian themes that are relevant to Canadians.

Presented every two years, the \$25,000 Kobzar Literary Award (\$20,000 to the author; \$5,000 to the publisher) recognizes a Canadian writer who best presents a Ukrainian Canadian theme with literary merit through poetry, play, screenplay, musical, fiction, non-fiction or young people's literature.

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BACKGROUND- Shevchenko Foundation

The Ukrainian Canadian Foundation of Taras Shevchenko was established in 1961 when the Ukrainian Canadian community raised funds to celebrate the work of Taras Shevchenko, Ukraine's great poet (1814-1861), with a monument erected on the grounds of the Manitoba Legislature.

In July of 1962, the Ukrainian Canadian Congress (then the Ukrainian Canadian Committee) resolved to set aside a \$30,000 surplus from the Shevchenko monument project into a capital fund that became known as the Ukrainian Canadian Foundation of Taras Shevchenko. The Ukrainian Canadian Foundation of Taras Shevchenko became incorporated by an Act of Parliament on July 22nd, 1963.

In 1964, the Shevchenko Foundation began distributing project grants awarding \$400. In 1973, on its 10th Anniversary, total donations to the Foundation surpassed \$500,000.

Today, the Shevchenko Foundation awards nearly \$300,000 annually. To-date the Foundation has distributed over \$5.5 million in grants to organizations and individuals who support cultural development among Ukrainian Canadians.

From its small beginnings the Foundation has invested over \$7.3 million in capital, contributed to hundreds of projects by organizations and individuals, and become a well known part of the Ukrainian Canadian landscape.

For more information, contact:

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