

THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE UKRAINIAN CANADIAN FOUNDATION OF TARAS SHEVCHENKO IN PRESERVING OF CULTURAL TRADITIONS

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Abstract. Within the limits of this research considers the activities of the Ukrainian Canadian Foundation of Taras Shevchenko, which is a reliable guarantor of the national and cultural development of the Ukrainian nation in emigration. Already during the first wave of resettlement to Canada, Ukrainians gained authority not only as talented farmers, but also brought with them to foreign land sprouts of national culture, which enriched the Canadian multicultural environment. In order to provide material and spiritual support of Ukrainian art in the 1960s of 20th century a number of charitable organizations were opened in Canada, among which the Ukrainian Canadian Foundation of Taras Shevchenko, the study of which quite relevant today. The purpose of this study is to analyze the activities of the Shevchenko Foundation as a basis for the multiplication of Ukrainian cultural wealth in conditions of stay outside the ethnic territory. The tasks of the article include considering the genesis of the Shevchenko Foundation, analyzing its projects and programs, as well as studying the role of Canada 's outstanding Ukrainians in preserving national identity. The object of the research is the national and cultural activities of the Ukrainian diaspora of Canada. The subject of the research is to study of the work of the Ukrainian Canadian Foundation of Taras Shevchenko. The article uses such scientific methods as the method of analysis, systematization and historical-genetic method. Based on the study of historical sources and historiography, the article concludes that the activities of the Shevchenko Foundation influenced the development of Ukrainian culture in Canada, the successful course of multiculturalism policy and the increase of Ukraine 's image in the world.

Key words: Ukrainian diaspora of Canada, national culture, multiculturalism, Ukrainian organizations, The Ukrainian Canadian Foundation of Taras Shevchenko.

INTRODUCTION. The third wave of Ukrainian emigration took place in the 1950-1960's. New immigrants had higher educational and professional levels than their predecessors (Troshchinsky, 1999, 79). This fact affected the participation of the Ukrainian Diaspora in the political life of the state. The Ukrainian community began to prepare for the 100th anniversary of the death and 150th anniversary of the

birth of Ukrainian poet T. G. Shevchenko in 1959. With the support of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress and the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Manitoba, a fundraiser was started to erect the Great Kobzar Monument, resulting in not only \$ 145,000 but also an additional \$ 30,000. From these funds it was decided to create a special fund for the needs of the community. On July 9, 1961, at the Parliament Square in Winnipeg, Canadian Prime Minister J. Diefenbaker opened the monument to Taras Shevchenko, the work of sculptor L. Molodozhany. The solemn event brought together about 50,000 Ukrainians in Canada, a whole line of community and political figures. The meeting was attended by Metropolitan of UAOC Hilarion (I.I. Ogienko), Canadian Senator J. Hnatyshyn, and initiator of multicultural policy P. Yuzyk, member of the Bar Association of Canada and M.I. Mandzyuk and others. Historically, this event marked the foundation of the Ukrainian Canadian Foundation of Taras Shevchenko, as well as the first contribution to the cultural development of the Diaspora and the state as a whole. Thanks to the efforts of the Ukrainian community and its delegates - Senators J. Hnatyshyn, V. Wall and P. Yuzik, as well as deputy M. Mandzyuk, Bill S-21 – “The Law on Inclusion of the Ukrainian Canadian Foundation of Taras Shevchenko into the Legal Field” was successfully passed in Parliament and signed on July 22, 1962 by Governor General of Canada J.-F. Vanier. The first chairman of the foundation was the Canadian biochemist I. G. Glinka, who headed it in 1963-1978.

According to M. G. Marunchak: «The ultimate goal of the Foundation was to nurture, develop and improve Ukrainian culture in Canada» (Marunchak, 1991, 404). The Foundation provided grants for the development of Ukrainian art in Canada in reality. In 1965, a \$ 5,000 grant was awarded for the publication of 3 books: «Ukrainian Poets of 1189-1962», «Taras Shevchenko's Poetic Works», translated by S. Andrusyshyn and V. Kirkonnell, and «Taras Shevchenko - artist» by I. Cavanaugh. In 1969, a large donation of \$ 10,000 was made for the Ukrainian Literary Society named after Taras Shevchenko, which was aimed at supporting young writers. In the 1970s and 1980s, the Shevchenko Foundation increased its

fund to \$ 1.5 million, enabling it to support major museums and hold national festivals of folk and author art. Since the 1990s, the Foundation has been providing more than \$ 300,000 annually for the needs of Ukrainian festivals in Alberta, Quebec, Manitoba, Ontario. The Foundation also supports a number of artistic groups such as: «Dnipro», «Rusalka», «Shumka», «Spivogray», «Pokrova» and others. The \$ 25,000 «Kobzar» Literary Prize was established in 2003. In 2005, the Foundation's Board of Directors established the Journalist Prize I. Syrnyk, and in 2008 - the Fund for the recognition of interned persons in Canada during the First World War.

The Shevchenko Foundation contributes to the following major programs:

1. artistic direction: literature, music, painting, choreography and theater;
2. educational direction is related to the development of education in the Ukrainian diaspora, distribution of information about it and providing scholarships;
3. Ukrainian heritage - this project was created to preserve the history and source base of the Diaspora for the young generation of Ukrainians;
4. community development is a project that helps strengthen community organizations and aims to improve community life.

Thus, the Ukrainian Canadian Foundation of Taras Shevchenko not by word, but by the case makes significant contributions to the national and cultural development of the Ukrainian diaspora of Canada. The Ukrainians saw it more than half a century ago, and now they do. Celebrating celebrations' anniversaries, supporting artistic groups and artists, holding national festivals and name scholarships all point to a truly significant cause for the foundation. The Shevchenko Foundation has become an important center of material and spiritual support for the folk and author's art of the Ukrainian diaspora and has helped to introduce the world to our culture.

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