

Tryzub Awards Gala 2023
May 11, 2023

Opening Remarks delivered by TSF President Boris Balan

On behalf of the Shevchenko Foundation, it gives me great pleasure to welcome you this evening to the 2023 Tryzub Awards Gala.

We're proud to partner with the Myhal Family Foundation in recognizing individuals who make a difference to the world in which we live. We congratulate Boris Horodynsky for his incredible generosity and leadership in the Ukrainian Canadian community and we thank William Browder for his tireless support for Ukraine in its ongoing struggle against Russian aggression.

The Shevchenko Foundation was founded 60 years ago by a group of individuals who strongly believed in the power of our culture to unite and strengthen a community. Today, TSF is a leading nation-wide charitable organization that builds community, fuels creativity, and inspires philanthropy.

We are blessed in Canada to be able to preserve our heritage and nurture it freely, and proud that Canada acknowledges Ukrainian Canadians and our culture as integral to the Canadian identity.

As we continue to watch the genocidal attempts of an aggressor nation to eradicate Ukrainian culture and identity, TSF understands that its role as part of the broader community response has only intensified. We have an obligation to amplify our commitment to enrich the Canadian and the global experiences with the beauty, passion and diversity of Ukrainian culture. It is our role to contribute to the entire world's understanding of what it is to be Ukrainian.

Canada has provided refuge for tens of thousands of Ukrainians fleeing for safety. Among them we have welcomed thousands of culture-makers – artists, musicians, curators, and educators. We have watched them engage with our community collaboratively and with sincere appreciation for the achievements of Ukrainians in Canada since first settling over 130 years ago. They choreograph for our dance groups and conduct our choirs. Visual artists teach their craft. Filmmakers share their stories. Students pursue their studies without worrying about the basic necessities of heat and electricity.

In partnership with our donors, TSF is proud to be a part of this story in supporting these creators of our culture. The influences on Ukrainian Canadian culture as a result of the war will resonate for generations. And it is our hope that after the war many will take their experiences here in Canada back to Ukraine and that too, will leave its mark. We can be assured that the Ukrainian identity will be even more powerful and cohesive, and truly inclusive. Together, we are one culture strong.

Thank you, ladies and gentlemen, for your attendance here this evening and for your generous financial support with which you are making a significant contribution in support of the Ukrainian people and the eternal Ukrainian identity. Thank you, Tryzub Award recipients, for your leadership.

Please continue to stand with Ukraine and always celebrate who we are. *Slava Ukraini!*