

OTTAWA TARAS SHEVCHENKO MONUMENT PROJECT



Project to Establish Taras Shevchenko Monument in Ottawa

Response to Issues Raised by UCC Executive Committee

Submitted to:
Executive Director, Ukrainian Canadian Congress

Submitted by:
Ottawa Taras Shevchenko Monument Committee

June 11, 2006

SUMMARY

On May 31, 2006, the Executive Committee of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress met and reviewed the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on the Ottawa Taras Shevchenko Monument proposal.

In an e-mail dated June 1, 2006, UCC Executive Director Ostap Skrypnyk provided the following response, which included specific issues that are being addressed in this response:

1. The consensus is that having a Shevchenko Statue in Ottawa is a desirable thing, but the location for it to have national impact has to be in a more public and central place. The Executive Committee also offered to investigate through its own political ties whether a location on public property can still be found.
2. The Executive Committee was taken aback that there is no budget showing real expenses and anticipated revenues. What is UCC national's exposure on the fundraising?
3. The agreement raised concerns. The fact that UCC won't own the statue and that access to it controlled by the Church was problematic. Taking into account this issue, the Executive Committee felt is unfair that costs of maintaining the statue would be the long term responsibility of UCC.
4. The Executive Committee was uncomfortable with the fact that the initiative group does not include the UCC Branch in Ottawa.

The Executive Director stated that UCC wants to help but that the UCC Committee can not offer its support until the issues raised above are dealt with to its satisfaction in the MOU.

Following an urgent meeting of the Ottawa Taras Shevchenko Monument Committee on June 8, 2006, the Committee drafted the following responses to each the issues raised by the UCC, for submission to the UCC Executive Committee meeting of June 15.

ISSUES AND RESPONSES

- 1. The consensus is that having a Shevchenko Statue in Ottawa is a desirable thing, but the location for it to have national impact has to be in a more public and central place. The Executive Committee also offered to investigate through its own political ties whether a location on public property can still be found.**

The UCC Executive may not be not fully aware of the work that has been done to-date on site selection for the Taras Shevchenko Monument in Ottawa. This work includes meetings over the past 3 years with officials from the National Capital Commission, the City of Ottawa and the National Beechwood Cemetery, at their locations and at the Embassy of Ukraine in Ottawa.

At its meetings and discussions with the NCC, Ottawa Committee was informed that, unless there is a big Canadian theme to the monument, there will be little support from them as a federal agency. If they allowed one ethnic community group to acquire land for a statue, this would set a precedent for other groups. This situation was similar with the City of Ottawa. There are now new NCC and City of Ottawa guidelines on monuments and, while we may develop a proposal to enter the process, the timetable for any proposal to get approved through either routes could take some 1-3 years. As for a possible Beechwood Cemetery site, this was rejected since the only site offered for our Shevchenko monument was not the optimum location that the Committee had expected.

The Committee therefore determined that the only response to UCC with respect to a site for the Shevchenko monument in Ottawa was a strong recommendation to proceed with the Catholic Shrine site at this time. An urgent commitment is required to continue our excellent partnership with Margareth and Leo Mol and to get the Taras Shevchenko statue from Germany to Ottawa as soon as possible, which is their wish.

If the UCC Executive proposes to re-examine the possibilities of another possible site through the NCC or City of Ottawa using its political channels, the Committee has requested that this be communicated as soon as possible.

UCC Executive should note that the MOU with the Catholic Shrine clearly allows this option at a future date:

“... 6. **MODIFICATION AND RELOCATION**

After installation at the Site, the Shrine shall not make any modifications to the Monument or the Site without prior approval of the Congress. In the event that at some future date the Congress wishes to relocate the Monument to another site in the City of Ottawa, it shall be free to do so provided that the entire Monument, including foundation, be removed at the expense of the Congress and the Site returned to its original condition at the expense of the Congress. ...”

2. The Executive Committee was taken aback that there is no budget showing real expenses and anticipated revenues. What is UCC national's exposure on the fundraising?

a. Budget Estimates for Ottawa Taras Shevchenko Monument (June 9, 2006)

		Estimated Cost
EXPENSES		
1.	Purchase of Statue and Accompanying Sculptures	
	Honorarium to Sculptor Leo Mol (1)	14,000.
2.	Transportation from Germany to Ottawa	
	Main Taras Shevchenko Statue and accompanying Kateryna, Haydamaky, Kobzar sculptures (2)	10,000.
3.	Monument Architectural Design and Installation	
	Granite Base	24,000.
	Architectural design of Main Taras Shevchenko Monument, Accompanying Sculptures and Site	10,000.
	Installation of Monument and Sculptures	*
4.	Site Preparation and Landscaping	
	Pathway, Benches, Lawn Repairs	6,000.
	Shrubs, Perennial Planting, Compost (soil amendment)	6,000.
5.	Ongoing Costs Associated with Monument and Site	
	Maintenance	*
	Insurance (full replacement costs)	*
6.	Advertising, Promotion and Web Site (3)	
	Ottawa Community, UCC, UCPBA, Business, Media	6,000.*
Total		76,000.*
INCOME		
1.	Fundraising and Donations Fund (3)	
	Ottawa Community, UCC National, Shevchenko Foundation, Other Organizations and Individuals (4)	*
Total		*

* **NOTES:**

(1) Honorarium to Leo Mol will be paid upon monument installation and presentation to the public.

(2) Immediate Expenditure: The statues cannot be transported from Germany prior to UCC National signing onto the Memorandum of Understanding with the other partners.

(3) A Fundraising and Donations Fund will be established under the supervision of the UCC National, immediately upon agreement on the MOU, for Ottawa Committee operations and to maintain special dedicated income for use by the Ottawa Committee to cover ongoing costs of financial liabilities, annual maintenance and insurance for the Shevchenko monument and site.

(4) Categories of donations will be established for organizations and individuals.

- b. The Committee expects UCC's obligations to include promotion, advertising and fundraising, which will also give UCC full national exposure with respect to this project as a national initiative. Financial liabilities will be covered by the Fundraising and Donations Fund. This is our interpretation of this term exposure and, if this is not the case, we would like a clarification.

3. The agreement raised concerns. The fact that UCC won't own the statue and that access to it controlled by the Church was problematic. Taking into account this issue, the Executive Committee felt is unfair that costs of maintaining the statue would be the long term responsibility of UCC.

- a. Financial liability will be covered from Fundraising and Donations Fund which will be established under the supervision of the UCC National, immediately upon agreement on the MOU (See Budget item #2). This dedicated Fund can be strictly defined in scope and should isolate UCC from any liability or long-term responsibility for the monument.

The ownership options were raised earlier by UCC Executive Director Ostap Skrypnyk and this was addressed by Ottawa Barrister Ron Tomosk who, on request from the Ukrainian Catholic Shrine, provided the following reply:

"...regarding the issue of ownership of the monument, if UCC wishes to retain legal ownership after installation, a problem arises from a legal standpoint in that the monument would become a fixture and thus would belong to the owner of the property to which it is affixed. I understand that in Winnipeg, UCC retains ownership of a statue erected on public lands belonging to the Province of Manitoba. Perhaps there is an agreement in place between UCC and the Province which deals with that ownership issue and if so, we should try to obtain a copy to see if the same or a similar contractual arrangement can be made in our situation. I do not see this as an insurmountable obstacle but rather it is simply a matter of how best to deal with it in contractual terms."

If liability still remains problematic tied into ownership, the Committee would like a full clarification and possible solutions. This can also be addressed through a special clause in the MOU.

- b. The type of access measures written into the MOU are similar to those in place for any public location, and are not unreasonable:

"... 8. COMMUNITY ACCESS

The parties to this MOU acknowledge and agree that the Monument is intended for the Ukrainian community at large and not solely for members of the Shrine Parish. Neither the Shrine nor the Order of St. Basil the Great Holding Corporation shall restrict individuals, groups or organizations from visiting the Monument or engaging in commemorative celebrations, subject to the following conditions:

- a) Groups or organizations intending to have more than ten (10) persons in attendance at the Monument shall notify the Pastor of the Shrine at least one (1) week in advance as to the date and time of arrival, and the nature of the activity proposed.

- b) Groups or organizations intending to have more than ten (10) persons present at the Monument shall not be permitted to visit the Monument at a time when religious services are being held in the Shrine.
- c) Food or drink of any kind shall not be served or consumed on the Site without approval of the Shrine.
- d) The playing of recorded music or musical instruments shall comply with the noise by-laws of the City of Ottawa. ..."

If UCC Executive wishes to discuss amending any of the clauses, this can be brought up with the Shrine.

- c. The Ottawa Committee will establish a Fund from the fundraising and donations income to pay for the ongoing annual costs for insurance, maintenance and landscaping of the Monument and Site, under the supervision of National UCC.

4. The committee was uncomfortable with the fact that the initiative group does not include the UCC Branch in Ottawa.

There is full community support for the initiative and the site. The President of the UCC Branch in Ottawa Marta Wynnycyk is a member of the Ottawa Committee and participated in the initial March 25, 2006, meeting which established the formal structure and organization of the Committee, and discussed and approved the Catholic Shrine site selection for the Monument.

The Committee also includes the key organizations of UCC Ottawa, with representatives including both Ukrainian Catholic and Ukrainian Orthodox churches, Ottawa Seminary, University of Ottawa Sheptytsky Institute and the Ukrainian Professional and Business Association of Ottawa.

Orest Dubas
Chair
Ottawa Taras Shevchenko Committee