



## UKRAINIAN CANADIAN CONGRESS

ALBERTA PROVINCIAL COUNCIL

## КОНГРЕС УКРАЇНЦІВ КАНАДИ

ПРОВІНЦІЙНА РАДА АЛЬБЕРТИ

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### UCC-APC Announces Launch of “Youth Interface Project”

June 1, 2005 - The Ukrainian Canadian Congress – Alberta Provincial Council (UCC-APC) has begun work on a project to strengthen our youth community, introducing them to the world of volunteerism and community activism.

On May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2005 thirty-nine students (aged 13-25) met at St. John’s Cultural Centre (10611 – 110 Ave., Edmonton) for a round table discussion, the first initiative under the Project. The “*Preparing Youth for the International Community*” discussion was held with special guest Mr. Oleh Belokolos, Councilor of Economic and Commercial Affairs from the Embassy of Ukraine in Canada.

The students and Mr. Belokolos discussed the current political situation in Ukraine and how the Ukrainian political scene has changed because of the effects of the Orange Revolution and how this influences Ukrainian people, especially youth, internationally. The participants asked questions about student exchange programs, possibilities of working in Ukraine, and expressed their concern about the importance of the preservation of the Ukrainian language. Mr. Belokolos discussed at length the opportunities available to Ukrainian Canadian youth that are able to speak Ukrainian, and he expressed his commitment to programs that are in place to ensure that the Ukrainian language is kept alive.

Future plans for the Project include more round-table discussions, a weekend leadership retreat for all Ukrainian Youth between the ages of 18 and 30 in November, and a workshop for all ages in the Spring of 2006.

The Ukrainian Canadian Congress – Alberta Provincial Council would like to thank The Community Initiative Program, The Alberta Lottery Fund, The City of Edmonton, and The Ukrainian Canadian Foundation of Taras Shevchenko for their sponsorship.

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#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

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