



FOR RELEASE: MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26 1:50 P.M. E.S.T.

RUDY WIEBE WINS THE 2007 CHARLES TAYLOR PRIZE FOR LITERARY NON-FICTION

THE WINNER OF the 2007 Charles Taylor Prize for Literary Non-Fiction is RUDY WIEBE (Edmonton, Alberta) for his book, *Of This Earth: A Mennonite Boyhood in the Boreal Forest*, published by Alfred A. Knopf Canada. The prize of \$25,000.00 was awarded Monday, February 26th at the Charles Taylor Prize for Literary Non-Fiction Awards Ceremony and Luncheon held at the Windsor Arms Hotel, Toronto. The two runners-up, John English and Ross King, each received \$2,000.00.

NOW IN ITS 6TH AWARDING, the Charles Taylor Prize for Literary Non-Fiction is the largest prize of its kind in Canada and has contributed significantly to the recognition of the genre. The prize was founded to commemorate the life and work of the late Charles Taylor, one of Canada's foremost essayists and a prominent member of the Canadian literary community.

OF THE BOOK, the jury said: "Rudy Wiebe's evocative and moving memoir of his childhood in rural Saskatchewan finds universal truths amidst an isolated, little-known community. In prose that is both spare and eloquent, he conveys the riches of a hardscrabble inheritance: a love of words, reading and music, a sustaining yet unsentimental faith, and a bond with the natural world, all of which have provided a compass for his writing life."

RUDY WIEBE is widely published internationally and the winner of numerous awards, including two Governor General's Literary Awards for his novels *The Temptations of Big Bear* and *A Discovery of Strangers*. His most recent novel is entitled *Sweeter Than All the World*. Rudy Wiebe is an Officer of the Order of Canada. He lives in Edmonton.

THE JURORS for The 2007 Charles Taylor Prize for Literary Non-Fiction were the Honourable Laurier LaPierre (Ottawa), Dr. Margaret MacMillan (Toronto), and Jan Walter (Kingston). They selected *Of This Earth: A Mennonite Boyhood in the Boreal Forest* from among 98 books, submitted by 23 publishers, from across Canada. Books in the genre of literary non-fiction, published between November 1, 2005 and October 31, 2006 were eligible for submission if authored by a Canadian citizen or landed immigrant, and widely available for purchase in Canada.



THE TRUSTEES of the Charles Taylor Foundation are Michael Bradley (Toronto), Judith Mappin (Montreal), David Staines (Ottawa), and Noreen Taylor (Toronto). The trustees gratefully acknowledge the support of their partners: AVFX Audio Visual Services, Book Television, CBC Radio One, *The Globe and Mail*, *Quill & Quire* Canada's Magazine of Book News and Reviews, Windfields Farm, and the Windsor Arms Hotel. Today's prize announcement was broadcast live on CBC Radio One's "Ontario Today" with host Rita Celli.

— 30 —

MEDIA CONTACT: Stephen Weir & Associates

STEPHEN WEIR: 416-489-5868 CELL: 416-801-3101 sweir5492@rogers.com

KIM GRAHAM: 416-537-0954 CELL: 416-537-0954 kim.graham@sympatico.ca

LINDA CRANE: 905-257-6033 CELL: 416-727-0112 cranepr@cogeco.ca

JUNE DICKENSON: 647-477-6000 junedickenson@cogeco.ca

TO DOWNLOAD HIGH RESOLUTION IMAGES OF THE FINALISTS
AND THEIR BOOKS

please go to: www.thecharlestaylorprize.ca/photogallery_2007.asp