



SUSK Holodomor Commemorations 2014

This fall marks the 81st anniversary of the Holodomor, the Ukrainian famine-genocide of 1932-1933. The Holodomor (which means “extermination by famine”) was an effort designed to exterminate the Ukrainian nation by means of deliberate starvation, engineered by the Soviet Stalinist regime. By imposing incredibly high grain quotas and sealing the borders of Soviet Ukraine, the Communist government sealed the fate of millions of Ukrainians, resulting in a horrendous tragedy.



This year’s National Holodomor Awareness Week will take place November 17-23, 2014. Commemorations will be held at a time when Ukraine and its people are being forced, once again, to defend their dignity and fundamental human rights. As we gather this year, let us pay tribute to the victims of the famine genocide in Ukraine while remembering the reality of the aggressor the Ukrainian people face today. SUSK calls upon its member Ukrainian Students’ Organizations to commemorate and raise awareness of the Holodomor at universities across the country. Events may include film screenings, informational exhibits/displays, lectures, seminars, and memorial events.

Included in this release is information from the Ukrainian Canadian Congress National Holodomor Awareness Committee, which lists useful resources for hosting Holodomor-related events, including personal stories from Holodomor survivors, instructions for black flag installations, and lists of victims’ names for readings. Also included is information about a national fundraising campaign for the month of November, and details for commemorations to take place on International Holodomor Memorial Day – Saturday, November 22, 2014.

Join us in remembrance during National Holodomor Awareness Week 2014, and in memory of the millions of innocent lives lost... share the story.

On behalf of the SUSK National Executive,

Christine Czoli
SUSK President



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Memorandum

To	UCC Board of Directors, Provincial Councils, Branches, Member Organizations and Committee Chairs
Date	October 3, 2014
From	UCC National Holodomor Awareness Committee
Re	National Holodomor Awareness Week November 17-23, 2014

Dear UCC Members:

The Ukrainian Canadian Congress is launching the seventh annual National Holodomor Awareness Week November 17-23 to commemorate the 81st anniversary of the Holodomor – Famine Genocide of 1932-33.

This year's commemorations will be held at a time when Ukraine and its people are being forced, once again, to defend their dignity and fundamental human rights. As we gather this year, let us pay tribute to the victims of the Famine Genocide in Ukraine while remembering the reality of the aggressor the Ukrainian people face today.

National Holodomor Awareness Week Events

As in past years, we kindly ask that you forward details about your events as planned for this year's commemoration of the Holodomor to the UCC Head Office (ucc@ucc.ca) as soon as they are finalized. We will post your information on the UCC web site which serves as an excellent resource for our community, the Canadian public, public officials and the media.

- **National components**

We encourage our communities to incorporate the following components into their local programs for national continuity.

1. **Honoring survivors** – We honour the survivors among us and include them in commemorations. We encourage survivors to share their story with our children, youth, the community, Canadians and the media. We also emphasize the need to include the descendants of survivors in our events. They are key to ensuring that the stories live on.

Share the Story – Please remember that we have two web sites that feature the poignant testimonies of Holodomor survivors. Please use these clips, which are available with English subtitles, during your commemorations.

We also encourage all of our member organizations to promote the sites by sharing the links on your organizational sites. The two sites are:

www.sharethestory.ca

www.holodomorsurvivors.ca

2. **Installation of black flags** – We ask that you continue with the black flag installations. It is proposed that every city set up a display of 33 black flags along with one Ukrainian flag in a high traffic area for the week. Alternatively, indoor installations can also be prepared for use in government buildings and schools.

3. Reading names of victims – We continue to personalize this horrific crime by remembering individuals by name. The names of victims should be read, including the village in which they resided and the age at which they perished. Lists of names can be forwarded upon request.

- **Resources**

A comprehensive list of resources has been made available by the UCC National Holodomor Education Committee. <http://www.ucc.ca/programs/committees/national-holodomor-education/>

- **International Holodomor Memorial Day: Saturday, November 22**

Let us remember together. On *Saturday, November 22* we encourage all Canadians to take a moment to remember the victims:

- At **19:32** (7:32 p.m.) local time pause for a moment of silence wherever one may be to honour the memory of the victims.
- Light a candle of remembrance in one's home.
- Request local churches to toll their bells ten times at 19:32 in honour of the victims.

On *Sunday, November 23*:

- As in previous years, memorial services will be celebrated in our Ukrainian parishes.

- **Fundraising Campaign**



The UCC National Holodomor Awareness Committee will be announcing the annual national fundraising campaign during the month of November. Funds will be raised for continuing awareness campaigns and educational initiatives.

We continue to distribute the awareness ribbon car magnet across the country. They are to be handed out as a thank you for a minimum \$5 donation in support of UCC Holodomor awareness initiatives.

The magnets can be ordered by contacting the UCC Head Office.

Ukraine remembers - the World Acknowledges

Irka Mycak, Chair
UCC National Holodomor Awareness Committee
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