



MEMO

October 9, 2020

From: UCC National Holodomor Awareness Committee

To: UCC Board of Directors, UCC Provincial Councils, UCC Branches, UCC Member Organizations and Committee Chairs

NATIONAL HOLODOMOR AWARENESS WEEK NOVEMBER 23-29, 2020

National Holodomor Awareness Week will be launched from November 23-29, 2020, commemorating the 87th anniversary of the Holodomor.

As we gather this year in remembrance, we pray for the souls of the victims of the Holodomor. We pray for the good health of the survivors among us and their families who, by sharing their stories, continue to educate and unite us in our mission to raise awareness of the Holodomor. We pray for the Ukrainian people who continue to defend the territory of Ukraine from the aggression of the Russian Federation and protect the right of every Ukrainian to live with dignity on Ukrainian soil where fundamental human rights and freedoms are respected.

INTERNATIONAL and NATIONAL HOLODOMOR MEMORIAL DAY Saturday, November 28

On Saturday, November 28 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.
- Post photos of your candles on social media with your thoughts of remembrance.
- Request local churches to toll their bells at 19:32 in honour of the victims.

On Sunday, November 29:

- Memorial services will be celebrated in our Ukrainian parishes.

Our priorities

Honoring survivors – We are grateful to the survivors of the Holodomor living in our communities for their active engagement with commemorative initiatives and for sharing their stories with our children, youth, the community, Canadians and the media.

Remembering the victims – We continue to personalize this horrific crime by remembering individuals by name.

Engaging descendants of survivors - We encourage descendants of Holodomor survivors to participate in events across the country. They are key to ensuring that the stories live on to educate future generations.

Focus for 2020

- **Descendants network**

The Ukrainian World Congress International Holodomor Coordinating Committee will be announcing its new initiative to create a network for descendants of Holodomor victims. The goal of the global network will be to create a platform for communication, support, advocacy and activism.

Every Canadian community and organization is encouraged to actively engage descendants in commemorations while building a database of individuals interested in participating and learning more about the Holodomor as well as the network itself.

- **Petition to include Holodomor in dictionary**

The Holodomor National Awareness Tour, a project of the Canada Ukraine Foundation, has launched a campaign including a petition for the inclusion of the word “Holodomor” in English-language dictionaries.

All commemorations in 2020 should prioritize information about the campaign along with instructions on how to sign the online petition. Please share widely and repeatedly throughout the month of November with your membership via websites, social media sites, newsletters and bulletins. We also encourage reaching out to smaller communities that may not necessarily receive regular communication from UCC.

For more on the campaign and the petition visit www.deeprtruth.ca

- **Virtual national commemoration**

The annual Holodomor commemoration on Parliament Hill will be replaced this year by a virtual commemoration being organized by UCC National staff and, as in the past, in partnership with the Canada-Ukraine Parliamentary Friendship Group and the Embassy of Ukraine in Canada.

The commemoration will include photos of past commemorations from our communities across Canada.

NOTE: Please send us at least one high resolution photo from a Holodomor commemoration in your community from last year (or any past year) to be included in the virtual national commemoration. Photos can be sent to nationaloffice@ucc.ca no later than October 30.

The taped commemoration will air prior to Holodomor awareness week on Saturday, November 21 and repeated on Saturday, November 28. Details to follow.

- **Local commemorations**

We commend all of our communities across Canada for their creativity in raising awareness of the Holodomor and engaging the Canadian public in remembrance. This year, despite restrictions on activities in the reality of 2020, commemorations will be taking place across the country in a combination of live and virtual formats.

Regardless of the format, we encourage communities to find creative ways to include broad segments of the local community, including youth and elected officials, in an effort to share the story of the Holodomor. With the curtailment of some traditional indoor activities it is a good opportunity to shift the focus to:

- outdoor signage and awareness billboards;
- black flag installations
https://www.ucc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Black-Flag-Installations_REV-min.pdf;
- small car rallies with messaging designed to help raise awareness on National Holodomor Awareness Day;
- food and blood drives to give back to local communities in memory of the victims.

Information on all commemorative initiatives in Canada will be posted on the UCC National website as it becomes available.

• Resources

1. Updated logo (87th anniversary) is available for download on the UCC site.

<https://www.ucc.ca/about-ucc/committees/holodomor-national-awareness-committee/>

2. Booklets and brochures in the English, Ukrainian and French languages are available for download on the UCC site:

<https://www.ucc.ca/about-ucc/committees/holodomor-national-awareness-committee/>

3. Holodomor Brief (3 pages) on the relevance of the Holodomor today is available in the English, Ukrainian and French languages at this link:

<https://www.ucc.ca/issues/holodomor/>

4. 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: www.sharethestory.ca and www.holodomorsurvivors.ca .

5. Resources - Links to documentaries, other audio-visual resources including presentations during the First International Symposium on the 1932-33 Famine in Soviet Ukraine (1983), and websites with additional information are available on the UCC website:

<https://www.ucc.ca/about-ucc/committees/holodomor-national-awareness-committee/> .

5. Additional resources have been made available by the UCC National Holodomor Education Committee:

<https://www.ucc.ca/about-ucc/committees/national-holodomor-education-committee/> .

Ukraine remembers - the World Acknowledges



Irka Mycak, Chair
UCC National Holodomor Awareness Committee