



### National Holodomor Memorial Day

*The Holodomor: Genocide of the Ukrainian people*

November 27, 2021 - Today, the Ukrainian Canadian Students' Union (SUSK) joins in acknowledging and commemorating National Holodomor Memorial Day. 2021 marks the 88th anniversary of the 1932-1933 Holodomor forced famine genocide carried out by the Soviet regime against the Ukrainian people.



By the end of the 1920s, Joseph Stalin undertook a rapid industrialization plan by employing impossibly high grain quotas on regions of Ukraine and began confiscating independent farmers' lands and placing them on collective farms. Those who opposed this were seized of their food, seeds for planting crops, and any livestock they owned. By forcefully placing peasants into kolkhoze, or collective farms, productivity decreased while protests proliferated, especially in Ukraine. As a punishment and to completely exploit grain production in the Soviet Union's most fertile republic, Stalin and the Politburo established policies that resulted in the Holodomor and Ukrainian national repression. Ultimately, Stalin's goal was to curtail Ukraine's cultural autonomy, to destroy the Ukrainian nation. The world sat silent as nineteen people per minute, 1,200 per hour and 28,000 per day were dying of famine.

Along with the Holodomor claiming millions upon millions of lives, the impacts of this genocide continue to this day. Research on the intergenerational trauma affecting the Ukrainian community is in its early stages and the resources required have only been developed recently. Additionally, the Holodomor affected all members of the society: culture figures were repressed, textbooks and buildings were purged and destroyed, and the Ukrainian language was Russified. The remnants of Soviet disinformation campaigns continue to be an obstacle in uncovering the true extent of the physical and cultural genocide. Today, we are continuing to rediscover what was forcefully taken away from our community during the Holdomor.

Across Canada, Ukrainian Canadian students are engaging in events, such as film screenings, social media campaigns, hosting lectures, seminars, and webinars, that aim to educate and commemorate our peers on the horrors and history of Stalin's regime. As young people, we have a unique responsibility to be caretakers and bearers of the knowledge and experiences of our shared history; the lessons and tragedies of the past reverberate to the present. SUSK aims to inspire and encourage youth to empower themselves with the leadership and



UKRAINIAN CANADIAN STUDENTS' UNION  
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confidence to take on this responsibility. For more information, we encourage survivors and descendants to engage with the global [Holodomor Descendants' Network](#), a platform that aims to provide a space for sharing, healing, and advocacy.

Today, **on Saturday, November 27**, we encourage all to take a moment to remember the victims by pausing at 7:32 pm and lighting a candle of remembrance moment of silence to honour the memory of the victims. Afterwards, please share images of your reflections and moments of silence on your social media. May we eternally remember the lives that were lost.  
Вічна Пам'ять.

SUSK Advocacy Committee