

# HOLODOMOR 1932-1933

GENOCIDAL FAMINE IN UKRAINE  
90<sup>TH</sup> COMMEMORATION 2022-23

## HOLODOMOR MEMORIAL DAY IN SCHOOLS

Fourth Friday in November

*The famine was brought about in Ukraine in order to reduce the number of Ukrainians, resettle in their place people from other parts of the USSR, and in this way kill all thought of independence.*

— Prokopenko

Party member, government Soviet plenipotentiary, 1933

PRODUCED BY:

**Holodomor Research & Education Consortium**

at the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, University of Alberta

National Holodomor Education Committee, Ukrainian Canadian Congress



NHEC



# HOLODOMOR MEMORIAL DAY

IN SCHOOLS 4<sup>TH</sup> FRIDAY OF NOVEMBER  
WORLDWIDE 4<sup>TH</sup> SATURDAY OF NOVEMBER

## BASIC FACTS

- Stalin issued a series of policies targeting the population of Ukraine which led to genocide by starvation in Ukraine.
- The Holodomor occurred in a time of peace, not as a result of war or natural disaster.
- Food was used as a weapon.
- Wheat and other grains were confiscated from farmers by the Communist government. Some of it was sold for export to fund Stalin's Five-Year Plan.
- 1/3 of all villages in Ukraine were blacklisted, blockaded and the people were left to starve to death.
- Millions of innocent people died.
- 28,000 people died per day at the height of the Holodomor in June of 1933.
- 31% of those who died were children under the age of 10.
- Additionally, the cultural, religious and political leadership of Ukraine was largely destroyed during the 1930s.
- The Holodomor was denied, covered up and ignored by the world for over five decades.
- The Government of Canada officially recognized the Holodomor as genocide in May 2008.



## MEMORIAL DAY ANNOUNCEMENT

*"I'm starving – let's get something to eat."*

We hear expressions like this often, but the truth is we are not starving, we're just hungry. There's a difference. Between 1932 and 1933 millions of Ukrainians were forcibly starved to death by Joseph Stalin's brutal plan to restructure the Soviet Union – a plan that included destroying the Ukrainian population by removing the food they had grown. Ukrainian farmers were singled out and bullied into turning over their farms to the state, which was called collectivization. Those who refused – were killed on the spot. The Soviet regime also imposed impossible quotas for wheat and forcibly took from families even the smallest of means by which they could survive. The Law of Five Stalks of Grain, passed in 1932, stated that anyone caught taking miniscule amounts of grain from a collective farm could be shot – even children. It is impossible to calculate the misery of the, at least, 4 million people who were starved to death as they watched their mothers, fathers, siblings, and children slowly die around them. To this day, Russia denies that this genocide known as the Holodomor occurred. The persecution of Ukrainians under Russian rulers is nothing new, however. Over the last 350 years, Ukrainians have had their intellectuals imprisoned or killed and their language and cultural practices banned. They have seen those who crave power attempt to erase their identity as a Ukrainian people; and yet, they have survived and thrived.

2022-2023 marks the 90th Commemoration of the Holodomor. In 2022, as Russia attempts to assert its will over their proud and independent nation, Ukrainians are once again facing genocide through Russian destruction of their population. This Holodomor Memorial Day, let us remember the millions who suffered and died at the hands of Stalin's cruel Soviet dictatorship. Let us also remember the 42 million courageous Ukrainian citizens now living in Ukraine, and the millions more who form the Ukrainian diaspora throughout the world. Let us stand with them in solidarity in our schools, in our communities, and with our governments. Let us remember that the oppression and destruction of a single democratic nation and its identity – of Ukraine and its people – is a threat to all democracies throughout the world.

*Written by Dr. Sue Kenney, educator at Immaculate Heart Academy in New Jersey, and 2020 recipient of the HREC Educator Award for Holodomor Lesson Plan Development*

## HOLODOMOR FILMS

### **Holodomor: Voices of Survivors**

A 30 minute DVD with firsthand accounts of 25 Canadian survivors who tell their stories as children during the Holodomor.  
Contact: [office@ucrdoc.org](mailto:office@ucrdoc.org)

### **The Soviet Story**

The first 11 minutes are an excellent introduction to the Holodomor.

[https://youtu.be/zZTA8xc4\\_8w](https://youtu.be/zZTA8xc4_8w)

### **Hunger For Truth: The Rhea Clyman Story**

The Canadian journalist and eyewitness of the Holodomor in Ukraine was amongst the first to write about it.

[www.holodomortour.ca/product/hunger-for-truth-the-rhea-clyman-story-dvd/](http://www.holodomortour.ca/product/hunger-for-truth-the-rhea-clyman-story-dvd/)

### **Genocide Revealed**

This award-winning documentary features personal and historical archival information on the Holodomor. Educational versions are available on DVD in 26 & 52 minute segments.

Contact: [yurij@yluhovy.com](mailto:yurij@yluhovy.com)

### **Harvest of Despair**

This award-winning documentary provides background information with media coverage from the 1930s.

Ukrainian Canadian Research and Documentation Centre  
416-966-1819, [office@ucrdoc.org](mailto:office@ucrdoc.org), [www.ucrdc.org/Films.html](http://www.ucrdc.org/Films.html)

### **Stalin's Secret Genocide**

<https://youtu.be/JYG7fKe4JHA>

### **Bitter Harvest**

A feature film presenting life in Ukraine before and during the Holodomor through the life of two young adults.

[www.bitterharvestfilm.com](http://www.bitterharvestfilm.com)

<http://georgemendeluk.com/projects/>

### **Mr. Jones**

Welsh Journalist Gareth Jones risks his life to expose the truth about the devastating famine in the Soviet Union in the early 1930s. [www.samuelgoldwynfilms.com/mr-jones/](http://www.samuelgoldwynfilms.com/mr-jones/)



## HOLODOMOR WEBSITES

### **Holodomor Research & Education Consortium (HREC)**

Teaching materials, lesson plans and other resources and educational materials. **HREC Education is an Accepted Educational Partner of the Toronto District School Board (TDSB)** [education.holodomor.ca](http://education.holodomor.ca)

### **Ukrainian Canadian Research & Documentation Centre (UCRDC)**

*Share the Story:* Short excerpts of 80 Canadian survivors of the Holodomor.

[www.sharethestory.ca](http://www.sharethestory.ca) • [www.holodomorsurvivors.ca](http://www.holodomorsurvivors.ca)  
And 21 Canadian children of survivors: [ucrdoc.org/cohs](http://ucrdoc.org/cohs)

### **Edmonton Catholic School District**

Lesson plans and suggested activities for all grades.  
[www.ecsd.net/page/1585/holodomor-memorial-day](http://www.ecsd.net/page/1585/holodomor-memorial-day)

### **Manitoba Education and Training**

Lesson plans and suggested activities for all grades.  
[www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/cur/multic/holodomor.html](http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/cur/multic/holodomor.html)

### **Connecticut Holodomor Committee**

[www.holodomorct.org](http://www.holodomorct.org)

### **"Exposing the Ukrainian Holodomor—How starvation was used as a political weapon"**

Unit 2, Chapter 5 – "FAST" lesson plans

[www.voicesintoaction.ca/Learn/Unit2/Chapter5/](http://www.voicesintoaction.ca/Learn/Unit2/Chapter5/)

### **"How A Grain of Wheat Linked Two Worlds"**

Unit of study

[www.stf.sk.ca/unit-plan/how-grain-wheat-linked-two-worlds](http://www.stf.sk.ca/unit-plan/how-grain-wheat-linked-two-worlds)

## SPEAKERS & WORKSHOPS

To visit, view exhibits and hear survivor testimonies book speakers and workshops, contact:

### **Holodomor Research & Education Consortium (HREC) at CIUS, University of Alberta**

Conducts teacher training sessions, workshops, class visits and presentations, with educational materials.

Website: [education.holodomor.ca](http://education.holodomor.ca)

Phone: 416 923 4732

Email: [hrec@ualberta.ca](mailto:hrec@ualberta.ca)

### **Ukrainian Canadian Research & Documentation Centre (UDRDC)**

Conducts class visits and presentations featuring testimonies of survivors and their children, shows documentary films and exhibits photos and posters.

Website: [www.ucrdc.org](http://www.ucrdc.org)

Phone: 416 966 1819

Email: [office@ucrdoc.org](mailto:office@ucrdoc.org)

Both are located at:

620 Spadina Avenue, 2nd Floor  
Toronto, ON M5S 2H4

## HOLODOMOR PRINT MATERIAL

### **Winterkill**

by Marsha Forchuk Skrypuch, Scholastic Press  
(Sept. 6 2022)

[www.calla.com/wordpress/winterkill](http://www.calla.com/wordpress/winterkill)

### **The Photograph**

by Kat Karpenko, NJ: BookBaby, 2020

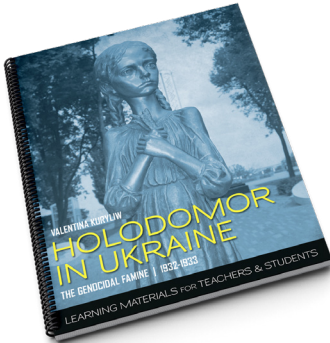
### **Philipovna: Daughter of Sorrow**

by Valentina Gal, Toronto: Guernica Editions Inc.  
(Miroland), 2019

### **Holodomor In Ukraine,**

#### **The Genocidal Famine: 1932-1933**

by V. Kuryliw, Edmonton: CIUS Press, 2018  
Teaching materials, lesson plans and assignments with straightforward, sensible and basic information about the Famine. The book is accessible, instantly useable and packed with ideas and photocopiable resources.  
Contact: [hreced@ualberta.ca](mailto:hreced@ualberta.ca)



### **Red Famine: Stalin's War On Ukraine**

by A. Applebaum, NY: Doubleday Books, 2017

### **The Holodomor Reader**

by B. Klid & A. Motyl, Edmonton: CIUS Press, 2012  
[www.ciuspress.com/product/the-holodomor-reader](http://www.ciuspress.com/product/the-holodomor-reader)

### **Stalin's Genocides**

by N. Naimark, Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2010

### **Bloodlands: Europe Between Hitler and Stalin**

by T. Snyder, New York: Basic Books, 2010  
One major chapter specifically on the Holodomor.

### **Holodomor of 1932-1933 in Ukraine: Documents and Materials**

by R. Pyrih, Kyiv: Kyiv-Mohyla Academy Publishing House, 2008  
73 archival documents about the Holodomor.  
Print copies: [hreced@ualberta.ca](mailto:hreced@ualberta.ca)  
E-version: [education.holodomor.ca/educational-resources-list/pyrih-documents/](http://education.holodomor.ca/educational-resources-list/pyrih-documents/)

## HREC EDUCATOR AWARD FOR HOLODOMOR LESSON PLAN DEVELOPMENT

The annual HREC Educator Award for Holodomor Lesson Plan Development is intended to foster the development of innovative, creative and interactive lessons for grades K-12 that develop critical thinking skills while addressing the topic of the Holodomor, and to recognize the outstanding educators who create them. The winning lesson plans will be posted on the HREC Education website.



**This year's applications must be submitted by May 1, 2024.**

For further details and to download application form visit: [education.holodomor.ca](http://education.holodomor.ca)

## TORONTO HOLODOMOR MEMORIAL

### **Holodomor Memorial Parkette, Exhibition Place**

The *Bitter Memories of Childhood* monument by Ukrainian sculptor Petro Drozdovsky was unveiled in October 2018 for the 85th Commemoration of the Holodomor in Ukraine. The statue depicts the most vulnerable of the Holodomor's victims and provides an opportunity for student reflection.

Located just inside the Princes' Gate entrance of the Canadian National Exhibition (CNE) grounds, the memorial site includes a pathway through a small park leading to 3 millstones, each of which provides QR code information about the Holodomor, and the statue. Students can reflect on the history, survivor testimonials and legacy of the Holodomor.

For more information on this and other monuments, visit: [education.holodomor.ca/introduction/monuments/](http://education.holodomor.ca/introduction/monuments/)



# APRIL 16, 2024 HOLODOMOR REMEMBRANCE DAY IN SCHOOLS

## During April Genocide Remembrance, Condemnation, Prevention & Education Month

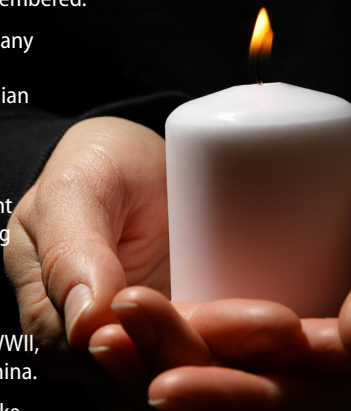
The Ukrainian Canadian Congress designated April 16 as **HOLODOMOR REMEMBRANCE DAY IN SCHOOLS**, together with HREC and UCC's National Holodomor Education Committee (NHEC).

The Holodomor is one of nine global genocides recognized by the Government of Canada and by six of Canada's provincial legislatures. It was in the Spring of 1933, during the Holodomor's deadliest year, that the number of deaths escalated significantly.

Every year in April, Ukrainians worldwide traditionally visit cemeteries and remember the dead with special memorial ceremonies held the week after Easter, when victims of the Holodomor are specifically remembered.

Canada has been affected by many genocides and recognizes: the Armenian Genocide, Ukrainian Holodomor, Jewish Holocaust, the Genocide Against the Tutsi in Rwanda and the Genocide in Bosnia. The Canadian Parliament has also recognized the ongoing genocide being committed against the Yezidi in Syria and Iraq today, the Rohingya in Myanmar, the Romani during WWII, and currently the Uyghurs in China.

Educators are encouraged to take time in April to remember those who suffered and lost their lives in the Holodomor and other genocides, and to commit to using education to protect and defend human rights and dignity everywhere.



Kharkiv, Ukraine, 1932-33

Photo: A. Wienerberger, Innitzer Collection