



October 2, 2011

Ms. Valentina Kuryliw, Chair
National Holodomor Education Committee
Mr. Yvan Baker, President
Ukrainian Canadian Congress — Ontario Provincial Council
2811-8 York Street
Toronto, Ontario
M5J 2Y2

Dear Ms. Kuryliw and Mr. Baker:

Thank you very much for your letter and 2011 provincial election questionnaire on behalf of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress — Ontario Provincial Council. I am grateful for and welcome this opportunity to respond, and to outline the Ontario Liberal Party's position on the important issues you have raised.

Ontario Liberals deeply value the vital contributions of Ukrainian Canadians to the life of our great province. We are proud of the Ukrainian Canadian community, which has enhanced our society on many different levels — and made Ontario an even better place to live, work and raise a family.

Ontario Liberals appreciate the concerns you have highlighted with respect to the upcoming revisions to the Ontario history and social studies curriculum. The purpose of the review process is to ensure that a current, relevant and age-appropriate curriculum, based on research and extensive consultation, is maintained for all Ontario students. My Liberal colleagues and I are pleased that, since the reviews began in 2009, the Ukrainian Canadian Congress has been actively involved in the processes for the review of Social Studies, Grades 1—6, History and Geography, Grades 7 and 8, and Canadian and World Studies, Grades 9—12.

We welcomed the opportunity to read your position paper and agree that the suggested course-specific examples will enrich students' knowledge of the Holodomor and their appreciation of Ukrainian Canadian contributions to our nation's development. We value your suggestions and advice, which are being carefully considered as part of the next phase in the curriculum review process, beginning this fall.

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Currently the Holodomor appears in the Grades 10—12 History curricula — and the review to begin this fall will consider the additional ways in which students can be educated about this tragic event.

Ontario Liberals stand with Canadian Ukrainians in recognizing and condemning the injustice, cruelty and tragic events of the Holodomor, which must never be forgotten. We were proud to support the *Holodomor Memorial Day Act* — and we will always be very proud to stand with you in officially marking Holodomor Memorial Day in our province every November, and to solemnly commemorate those who so tragically lost their lives.

Again, on behalf of Ontario Liberals, thank you for bringing forward the concerns of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress — Ontario Provincial Council, and for allowing me the opportunity to address these issues of key importance. I would also like to thank you for your commitment to the curriculum review process for history and social studies. My colleagues and I hope to have the privilege of continuing to work with you to ensure the best possible curriculum — and education — for Ontario students so that, together, we can build a brighter future for all Ontarians.

Please accept my sincere best wishes.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dalton McGuinty". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Dalton" being more prominent and the last name "McGuinty" following in a similar style.

Dalton McGuinty
Leader of the Ontario Liberal Party
Premier

2011 Pre-election Questionnaire from the Ukrainian Canadian Congress – Ontario Provincial Council

Ontario Liberals recognize the importance of the tragic events of the Holodomor and the valuable contributions, past and present of Ukrainian Canadians to Ontario. In 2009, Liberal MPPs were proud to unanimously support Bill 147, which declared *Holodomor Memorial Day* each November. This past March, we were proud to unanimously support Bill 155, the Ukrainian Heritage Day Act, that proclaimed Ukrainian Heritage Day in Ontario on September 7th of each year.

The Holodomor, Famine/Genocide, in Ukraine 1932-33

The Ontario Liberal Party recognizes the significance of the tragic events of the Holodomor when some ten million people starved tragically and needlessly. It is important that all Ontarians recognize and remember the horror that took place in Ukraine during these dark days. Ontario Liberals also understand the important role that government has in helping Ontarians become aware of this horror.

Liberal MPPs were proud to unanimously support Bill 147, which declared Holodomor Memorial Day each November. Premier Dalton McGuinty has also spoken out on this issue.

In November 2010, Premier McGuinty stated:

“We can — and we must — remember this genocide and teach our young people about it — and about the sanctity of all human life. That is why it is important that governments do their part to promote awareness of the Holodomor. We all have a duty to make knowledge and information available to our children and grandchildren.” (Premier’s Statement on the Holodomor, November 2010)

On August 20, 2011, during Ukrainian Independence Day celebrations at Centennial Park in Toronto, Premier McGuinty said:

“..we still have more work to do when it comes to revising the Ontario curriculum so that we can ensure that all our young people grow up with an understanding of that genocide [the Holodomor], of that horror and a continuing commitment to make sure that we never allow any such thing to recur on the face of this planet again.”

Ontario Liberals created the Curriculum Council to conduct cyclical reviews of the curriculum in Ontario schools as part of our commitment to world-class student achievement. We believe it is vital that curriculum remains relevant.

As the curriculum review process begins this fall, Ontario Liberals support exploring opportunities to include greater study of the Holodomor Famine / Genocide in the Ontario history and social sciences curricula. My Liberal colleagues and I are pleased that, since the reviews began in 2009, the Ukrainian Canadian Congress has been actively involved in the processes for the review of Social Studies, Grades 1—6, History and Geography, Grades 7 and 8, and Canadian and World Studies, Grades 9—12.

As you are aware, the Holodomor currently appears in the Grades 10—12 History curricula — and the review to begin this fall will consider the additional ways in which students can be educated about this tragic event.

The First Canadian Internment Operation of World War I, 1914-1920

During Canada's first national internment operations of 1914-1920, thousands of Canadians of Ukrainian descent were interned in camps across Canada. It is important that future generations be aware of this important episode in our history.

As the curriculum review process begins this fall, Ontario Liberals support exploring opportunities to include greater study of the First Canadian Internment Operation of WWI in the Ontario history and social sciences curricula.

The contributions of Ukrainian Canadians to the development of the concept of Multiculturalism in Canadian history

The Ontario Liberal Party recognizes the valuable contributions, past and present of Ukrainian Canadians to Ontario. This past year, we were proud to unanimously support Bill 155, the Ukrainian Heritage Day Act, which proclaimed September 7th of every year Ukrainian Heritage Day in Ontario.

As the curriculum review process begins this fall, Ontario Liberals support exploring opportunities to include greater study of the contribution of Ukrainian Canadians to Canadian Multiculturalism and Canadian history in the Ontario history and social sciences curricula.