

NDP Responses to Ukrainian Canadian Congress – Ontario Provincial Council Pre-Election Questionnaire

Response to Question #1

Ontario's New Democrats are proud to have been instrumental in the historic passing of the Holodomor Memorial Day Act. The purpose of this legislation was to bring greater attention and awareness to the crimes committed against the millions of Ukrainian people who lost their lives during this dark period of history—and we continue to stand behind this goal. Ontario's New Democrats support regular reviews of the Ontario curriculum and we support the inclusion of Holodomor Famine/Genocide into history and social sciences courses.

Response to Question #2

Ontario's New Democrats support the inclusion of the First Canadian Internment Operation in WWI into history and social sciences courses.

Response to Question #3

Yes.

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

The Holodomor was a famine orchestrated by the Soviet regime in great part to destroy Ukrainian national resistance to Soviet communism. Confiscation of all foods in Ukraine by the Soviets in 1932-33 resulted in the death, by starvation, of millions. In April 2009, the Ontario Legislature unanimously passed Bill 147, the Holodomor Memorial Day Act, which declares the fourth Saturday of November of each year Holodomor Memorial Day in the Province of Ontario. Nevertheless, this genocide, which was ignored, denied and concealed for many years, is barely mentioned in the Ontario history and social sciences curricula, despite the fact that the Holodomor is an event of major consequence in the history of human rights, and the history of many Ontarians of East European descent.

Do you support the inclusion of the study of the Holodomor Famine/Genocide as a required topic to be taught in the Ontario history and social sciences curricula?

YES ____ NO ____ NOT SURE ____

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

The First Internment Operation in Canada resulted in the internment of over 8,000 people by Canadian authorities on the grounds they were 'enemy aliens'. 5,000 of those interned were Canadians of Ukrainian descent who were labelled 'enemy aliens' because they had been born in territories ruled by what was then the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

The Canadian government has recognized this historical injustice and has established an endowment fund to further the study of this episode. As a key moment in Canadian history and in the development of Canadian concepts of human rights, freedom, and citizenship, we believe that the First Canadian Internment Operation of WWI deserves inclusion in the Ontario curriculum.

Do you support the inclusion of the First Canadian Internment Operation of WWI as a permanent and required topic in the Ontario history and social sciences curricula?

YES ____ NO ____ NOT SURE ____

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

This year, Canadians of Ukrainian descent celebrated the 120th anniversary of Ukrainian settlement in Canada. Along with many others, Ukrainian Canadians have long contributed to the richness of diversity that is the essence of Canadian history and identity. The pivotal role played by Ukrainian Canadians in the establishment of Multicultural policies in Canada through the work of J.B. Rudnycky, the Bi and Bi Commission, and the broader contributions of Ukrainians such as Senator Paul Yuzyk and the Hon. John Yaremko to Canadian civic identity should be recognized in the Ontario history and social sciences curricula.

Do you support the inclusion of the contribution of Ukrainian Canadians to Canadian Multiculturalism and Canadian history in the Ontario history and social sciences curricula?

YES ____ NO ____ NOT SURE ____