



КОНГРЕС УКРАЇНЦІВ КАНАДИ
Провінційна Рада Онтаріо
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Ontario Provincial Council
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Ukrainian Canadian Congress – Ontario Provincial Council applauds statement by Premier Dalton McGuinty marking the Holodomor

November 25, 2010 – Toronto, Ontario: The Ukrainian Canadian Congress – Ontario Provincial Council welcomed today's statement by Premier Dalton McGuinty commemorating the Holodomor, highlighting the need to raise international awareness and teach younger Ontarians about this tragedy.

"We express our gratitude to Premier McGuinty for his remarks as Ontarians commemorate the 77th anniversary of the Holodomor, a tragedy in which millions of innocent people were starved to death" stated Yvan Baker, President of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress – Ontario Provincial Council. "We thank the Premier particularly for reminding us that this genocide is one that touches all Ontarians, one that we must remember and one that we must teach to younger generations."

Millions of Ukrainians perished in 1932 and 1933 as victims of a man-made famine genocide, the 'Holodomor' under Joseph Stalin's brutal regime.

In April 2009, the Ontario Legislature unanimously passed Bill 147, the Holodomor Memorial Day Act, which recognized the Holodomor as a genocide and provided for the declaration of Holodomor Memorial Day on the fourth Saturday in November in each year in the Province of Ontario.

"...it is so important that all Ontarians recognize and remember the horror that took place in Ukraine during the darkest days of the Stalinist regime." Noted Premier McGuinty in his statement, "The deeply tragic events of the Holodomor touched the lives of Ontarians of Ukrainian descent — which means it touches all of us."

Premier McGuinty also noted the importance of further teaching the Holodomor: "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."

The UCC Holodomor Education Team has been working with local school boards in Ontario and with the Ministry of Education to include the Holodomor as a topic in the history and social studies curriculum in the province. "Today, the Premier has reinforced the importance of teaching our young people about the Holodomor. We look forward to continuing our work with the Government of Ontario to ensure that this goal is accomplished." noted Valentina Kuryliw, Chair of the UCC National Holodomor Education Committee.

As part of the statement Mr. McGuinty noted that the Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration's website contains a resource that parents and teachers can use to teach children about the Holodomor.



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“We thank Premier McGuinty and Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, Dr. Eric Hoskins for taking this initiative to help raise awareness about the Holodomor” stated Baker.

The Premier made his comments during National Holodomor Awareness week when commemoration ceremonies will be held in communities across Ontario including Brantford, Hamilton, London, Oshawa, Ottawa, St. Catharines, Toronto and Windsor to pay tribute to the millions of children, women and men who were victims of the Soviet regime’s ruthless genocidal policy.

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About the Ukrainian Canadian Congress – Ontario Provincial Council

The Ukrainian Canadian Congress – Ontario Provincial Council (UCC OPC) is the voice of Ontario’s Ukrainian community. There are more than 335,000 Canadians of Ukrainian heritage in Ontario. The Congress brings together under one umbrella the Ukrainian Canadian Congress branches and community organizations from across the province. The UCC branches it represents are located in Brantford, Durham, Hamilton, London, Ottawa, St. Catharines, Toronto, Welland and Windsor.

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