

Thank you very much for your inquiry, on behalf of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress, regarding the policy program the Conservative Party of Canada has put forward for consideration by Canadians. That policy program is contained in our party's platform, "Here for Canada – Stephen Harper's Low-Tax Plan for Jobs and Economic Growth". I have attached a copy, in both official languages.

Aspects of our platform address matters raised in your inquiry, including the 'Memorial to Victims of Communism' commitment on page 39. The section reads as follows:

*Memorial to Victims of Communism*

For much of the 20th century, many countries suffered under the murderous dictatorships inspired by communism. Canada was a haven of freedom for tens of thousands of newcomers fleeing communist regimes. Stephen Harper's Government has spoken out and taken action to recognize these facts of history:

- in 2009, our Government celebrated the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall, which represented the culmination of 40 years of foreign policy objectives pursued in partnership with our NATO allies.
- in 2007, under Prime Minister Stephen Harper's leadership, Canada proudly co-sponsored Ukraine's motion at UNESCO, honouring the millions who perished in the Holodomor and acknowledging that their deaths were caused by Josef Stalin's Soviet regime; and
- in 2008, we strongly supported Conservative MP James Bezan's bill establishing Ukrainian Famine and Genocide Memorial Day and recognizing the Ukrainian Famine of 1932-33 as an act of genocide.

As announced in the Speech from the Throne in 2010, we will continue to support the establishment of the Memorial to Victims of Communism.

The Memorial will stand in the National Capital Region as a reminder that all political systems are not the same, and that our democracy and our freedoms are to be cherished, exercised, and protected.

Thank you again for your inquiry. In closing I wish to note, and express sincere appreciation for, the February 6, 2011 selection by the Board of Directors of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress, upon the recommendation of its Awards Committee, of Prime Minister Stephen Harper to receive the Shevchenko Medal "for his contribution in recognizing the Holodomor as a genocide against the Ukrainian people, reconciliation for Canada's First National Internment Operations (1914-20) which effected thousands of Ukrainian Canadians, for enhancing Canada-Ukraine relations, and supporting democracy and human rights in Ukraine."

Please feel free to share this information and our platform with your members.

Yours Truly,

Fred DeLorey  
Director of Communications