

## **Holodomor Memorial Day – Friday November 23<sup>rd</sup> 2012**

Dufferin-Peel will recognize the **fourth Friday in November** as the Holodomor Memorial Day. The Holodomor, meaning "murder by starvation," is often referred to as the "unknown holocaust" that occurred in 1932 when Josef Stalin started a series of cruel and violent measures to eliminate the resistance of Ukrainian farmers to collectivization and to destroy the Ukrainian Orthodox church and Ukrainian national revival. Unrealistic grain quotas were established, internal travel was banned, borders were closed and all grain and other food was confiscated. Those who resisted were killed, imprisoned or deported. Millions starved to death while the Soviet Union exported grain to Western countries. News reports about the engineered famine in Ukraine were suppressed, records of deaths were sealed and all talk of starvation and the death of millions was denied. It was not until 1991 after the Ukraine gained its independence from the Soviet Union that information about the famine became available and the full extent of the genocidal actions of the Stalin became known.

Much like other genocides (Armenian, Nazi Holocaust, and the most recent genocide in Rwanda), the Holodomor is another example of an atrocity that directly destroys the dignity of the human person and the sacredness of life. You can find more information about the Holodomor on the website: [www.faminegenocide.com](http://www.faminegenocide.com) along with curriculum resources and lesson plans geared for secondary use. For any further inquiries please contact Arlene Aguilar or Joanna Newton in the program department, at Extension 24520 or 24465.

### **RESOURCES TO COMMEMORATE THE DAY**

#### **1) Holodomor Memorial Day Announcement**

Today people are starving in Somalia. The Ukrainian community in Canada is providing Somali famine relief. The Ukrainian –Canadian community knows first hand the devastating effects of starvation by famine having lost millions of Ukrainians to the Holodomor during which Stalin tried to eradicate the Ukrainian people.

**Friday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2012** (the 4<sup>th</sup> Friday in November) is **Holodomor Memorial Day**, to remember the millions who were deliberately starved to death in 1932-1933 in Ukraine. "Holodomor" means "inflicting death by starvation."

From 1932 to 1933, while Ukraine was republic of the Soviet Union, the Communist regime, led by dictator Joseph Stalin, forcibly seized the Ukrainian people's land, and all grain that they produced. All other food was confiscated in many areas of Ukraine by the Secret Police. Millions starved as the Soviets exported wheat the Ukrainians produced. Anyone found in possession of grain or any other food was prosecuted or executed.

Few accounts of the Famine-Genocide ever reached the West; those that did were ridiculed as 'anti-Soviet propaganda' by supporters of the Communist regime who denied the existence of any Famine Genocide.

The Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board, the Government of Canada, the Government of Ontario and the Ukrainian Canadian community have acknowledged the *Holodomor* as a genocide, and remember the millions of people who died in the *Holodomor*, many of whom have descendants living in Canada.

## 2) Prayer for Victims of Genocide

To assist with the marking of Holodomor Memorial Day, the attached prayer may be useful to help students and staff remember the victims of genocide in the world.



Prayer for Victims of  
Genocide.docx

## 3) Documentary Film: Harvest of Despair 55 min

<http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=3897393411603039499>

## 4) Lesson plans on the Holodomor

### The Unknown Genocide - Ukrainian Holodomor 1932 - 1933

By: **Valentina Kuryliw**  
[valmych@yahoo.com](mailto:valmych@yahoo.com)

Nov. 8, 2008

---

#### Table of Contents:

##### **An Introduction**

The 20th century was a century of many human tragedies - the Armenian Genocide, the Holocaust, and the Rwandan Genocide. Today, we will look at another human tragedy. We will study a genocide in which millions of men, women and children died seventy-five years ago, specifically because of the Famine/Genocide in Ukraine. This event is also known as "The Holodomor" - meaning "death inflicted by starvation" ... [more](#)

##### **B General Information**

1. [Map](#)
2. [Time lines of events leading to the Ukrainian Genocide - The Holodomor](#)
3. DVD "[Harvest of Despair](#)" (Background and Overview)

4. [Brief Writeup of events "The Ukrainian Famine/Genocide"](#)
5. ["Holodomor Genocide by Famine" - CD - \(Posters\)](#)
6. [Facts About the 1933 Famine/Genocide in Ukraine](#)
7. [Holodomor - Ukrainian Genocide in the Early 1930s](#) (booklet)
8. [Rafael Lemkin on Ukrainian Genocide](#)
9. [UN Convention and the Holodomor](#)
10. [Quotes about the 1933 Famine-Genocide in Ukraine](#)
11. [Findings of the Commission on the Ukraine Famine](#)
12. [A Hunger Most Cruel: The Human Face of the 1932-1933 Terror-Famine in Soviet Ukraine](#) (short stories for students)
13. [Famine-Genocide in Ukraine 1932-1933: Western archives, testimonies and research](#) (resource for teachers)
14. "Holodomor" CD (12 Survivors. Sponsored by **Canad Inns**)

### **C Lesson Suggestions for Grade 10 Civics**

1. [Teaching Unit on Human Rights Abuses - The Ukrainian Famine/Genocide](#)
2. [Map of Ukraine during Famine/Genocide](#)
3. [Write-up: "The Ukrainian Famine/Genocide"](#)
4. ["Through the Eyes of a Child" - poem](#)
5. [Art Exhibit Project](#) and [Lesson Plan](#)

### **D Lesson Suggestions for Senior Grades**

1. ["Harvest of Despair" DVD Worksheets](#) (4 sheets)
2. [Revisiting History](#)
3. [Analysis of a Historical Document Assignment](#)
  - [Five Ears of Corn Law](#) - Aug. 7, 1932
  - [Stalin to Kaganovich](#) - Aug. 11, 1932
  - [Ukrainization condemned](#) - Dec. 14, 1932
  - [Ban on Travel](#) - Jan. 22, 1933
4. **Eyewitness Accounts**
  - [Group Project CD: Holodomor: Survivors](#)
  - [Testimony of Two Eyewitnesses](#)
    - [Tatiana Pawlichka](#)
    - [Sviatoslav Karavansky](#)
  - [Project: Interview with an Eyewitness](#)
5. [Newspaper Analysis Assignment](#)
  - [The Forgotten Holocaust](#) - Michael Coren
  - [A Tale of Truth and Two Journalists](#) - Ian Hunter (media coverup)
  - [Remembering Modern History's Greatest Crime](#) - Eric Margolis (recognition of Holodomor as Genocide)
  - [Chicago American Newspaper Articles on Famine in Ukraine \(analysis of photos and headlines\)](#)
    - [Page 1](#)
    - [Page 2](#)

6. **Analysis of a Short Story from the Book: *A Hunger Most Cruel***
  - ["Without Doctors and Priests, without Graves and Crosses"](#)
  - [Lessons on Short Story](#) (3 sheets)
7. [Famous Quotations Assignment](#)
8. **Rafael Lemkin**
  - [Introduction to Lemkin and UN Convention of Genocide](#)
  - [Rafael Lemkin on Ukrainian Genocide](#)
  - [Assignment on R. Lemkin and the Ukrainian Genocide](#)
9. [Quotations](#)

## **E [Bibliography / Resources](#)**

1. [Web Sites](#)
2. [Books](#)
3. [Visuals](#)