

Holodomor Awareness and Education

ucc.sk.ca/about/about-ukraine/holodomor

ENCOURAGING THE ACQUISITION OF KNOWLEDGE...

Holodomor Awareness and Education Committee (HAEC) Activity Report Nadia Prokopchuk, Co-Chair

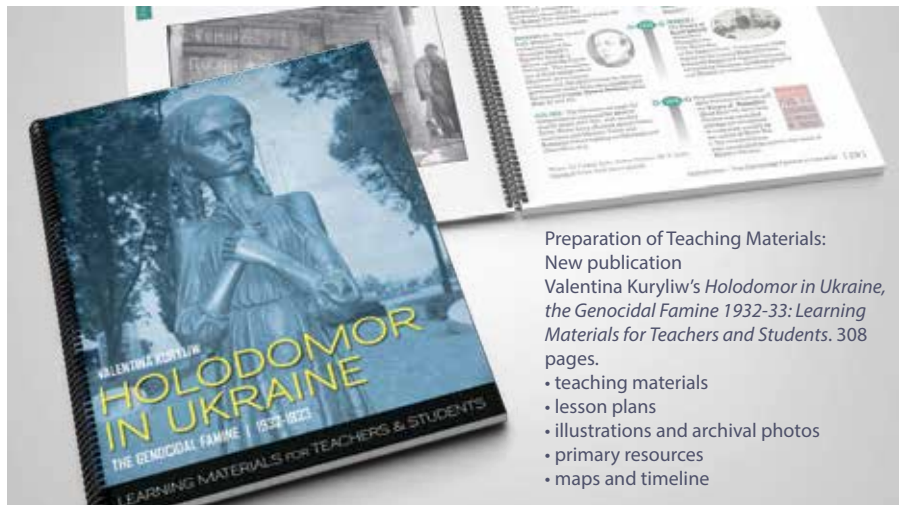
■ Social Studies Saskatchewan Conference Sessions

Moose Jaw – October 17-18, 2019

- ▶ Holodomor Awareness and Education Committee (HAEC) members were instrumental in arranging to have **Valentina Kuryliw, Director of the Holodomor Research and Education Consortium**, as the conference's **Keynote Presenter**. All 40 conference participants received a copy of her book *Holodomor in Ukraine: The Genocidal Famine 1932-33: Learning Materials for Teachers and Students*, thanks to a very generous donation from the Ukrainian Catholic Brotherhood of Canada – Bishop A. Roborecki Branch #304.
- ▶ HAEC member Nadia Prokopchuk delivered a conference session titled **Genocide Through Starvation: The Holodomor Story**, highlighting the chapter on Holodomor written for the online teaching resource **Voices into Action** (www.voicesintoaction.ca).
- ▶ HAEC member Larry Mikulcik spoke about the Holodomor in his **workshop session on Hate and Fake News** given at the Regina Teachers Association Conference.

■ Book Launch

Holodomor in Ukraine: The Genocidal Famine 1932-33: Learning Materials for Teachers and Students by Valentina Kuryliw – October 18, 2019



Preparation of Teaching Materials:
New publication
Valentina Kuryliw's *Holodomor in Ukraine, the Genocidal Famine 1932-33: Learning Materials for Teachers and Students*. 308 pages.
• teaching materials
• lesson plans
• illustrations and archival photos
• primary resources
• maps and timeline

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- ▶ This book launch, held at McNally Robinson Booksellers, was made possible by three co-sponsors: University of Saskatchewan Ukrainian Students' Association, Saskatchewan Teachers of Ukrainian, and the Ukrainian Canadian Congress of Saskatchewan. The event was attended by 30 people.

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Holodomor 1932-33 *Ukraine Remembers – The World Acknowledges*

■ Holodomor Awareness Week

November 18-24, 2019

The Holodomor Awareness and Education Committee (HAEC) supported two major initiatives during Holodomor Awareness Week. These initiatives were organized through the UCC Saskatchewan office.

- ▶ **Commemorative Memorial**, which took place in the Rotunda of the Saskatchewan Legislative Building in Regina on November 19th with **over 200 people** (see pp. 14-15 of the Winter 2019 *Visnyk*)
- ▶ Publication of a three-page **Holodomor newspaper insert** in the November 18th issues of the Saskatoon Star-Phoenix and Regina Leader Post (approx. **readership: 100,000** plus **488,000 unique visitors** online). The insert included a historical synopsis of the Holodomor as well as a calendar of **community commemorations**.



- ▶ UCC Saskatchewan ran awareness ads in the *Battlefords News Optimist, Canora Courier, Prince Albert Daily Herald, Swift Current Prairie Post, Warman Clark's Crossing Gazette, Weyburn This Week, Yorkton This Week*. Total circulation: **63,541**



At the provincial Holodomor commemoration in Regina: Rev. Fr. Vladimir Simunovic, Rev. Fr. Volodymyr Feskiv, Rev. Fr. Vasyl Tymishak, Leader of the Official Opposition Ryan Meili, students Kaitlyn Klemetski and Anatoliy Prystupa, UCC Saskatchewan President John Denysek, Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan-Ukraine Relations Greg Ottenbreit, Saskatchewan Premier Scott Moe.

■ HAEC Response to U of A Lecturer's Denial of Holodomor

In November 2019, a sessional lecturer at the University of Alberta called the Holodomor a "lie" and perpetuated "myth" in a series of personal Facebook posts.

- ▶ The Holodomor Awareness and Education Committee (HAEC) responded with a **letter to the University of Alberta President** (see p. 15 of the Winter 2019 *Visnyk*).
- ▶ An article on this topic was also written by HAEC member Nadia Prokopchuk and Dr. Jay Wilson of the College of Education, University of Saskatchewan. The **article** was titled "**Universities should stand up for integrity and public trust in university teaching**" and appeared in the online journal *The Conversation* (research.usask.ca/our-impact/highlights/the-conversation-canada).

■ Voices into Action

Ukrainian Translation of Unit 2, Chapter 5 on Holodomor



- ▶ **Translation** of the Voices into Action chapter titled **Exposing the Ukrainian Holodomor: How starvation was used as a political weapon** (http://voicesintoaction.ca/Learn/Unit2/Chapter5/?_role=student) was completed in December 2019. The work was a collaborative effort involving translators from UCC Saskatchewan and the HAEC Chair. The Ukrainian translation is scheduled to be available in **March 2020** in PDF form on the Voices into Action web page. English and French versions are currently available.

■ Planned Activities in 2020

- ▶ **Holodomor Mobile Classroom (HMC) Visits**
Holodomor Awareness and Education Committee member Larissa Van Caesele will coordinate visits to schools and communities if the HMC comes to Saskatchewan in 2020.
- ▶ **Teaching Unit for the Elementary Grades**
A sub-committee of HAEC is currently working on a teaching unit that will **highlight the incredible story of Halychanka wheat**, also known as Red Fife wheat in Canada. The wheat story will be linked to the Holodomor using a creative, hands-on teaching strategy.

COMMUNITY COMMEMORATIONS

November 17

Panakhyda/Memorial Services

- Dormition of the Blessed Mother of God Ukrainian Catholic Church, Saskatoon
- St. George's Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral, Saskatoon
- Film Screening of "Genocide Revealed" – UCC Saskatoon
- Frances Morrison Library, Saskatoon
- Memorial Service – UCC Saskatoon
- Civic Square, Saskatoon City Hall

November 18

- Book Launch *My Dearest Dido: The Holodomor Story* by Author Marion Mutala
- Musée Ukraina Museum, Saskatoon

November 19

- Provincial Commemoration of the Holodomor
- Rotunda of the Saskatchewan Legislative Building, Regina

November 19-21

- Commemorative Exhibit – St. Petro Mohyla Institute, Saskatoon

November 20

- Commemorative Event: Book Launch Featuring Author Marion Mutala – Battlefords Ukrainian Canadian Cultural Council
- Don Ross Centre Chapel Gallery, North Battleford

November 22

- Commemoration – Bishop Filevich Ukrainian Bilingual School, Saskatoon

November 23

Panakhyda/Memorial Services

- Holy Eucharist Ukrainian Catholic Church, Foam Lake
- St. Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Church, Yorkton

November 24

Panakhyda/Memorial Services

- Sacred Heart Ukrainian Catholic Church, Ituna
- St. George Ukrainian Catholic Church, Melville
- St. George Ukrainian Catholic Church, Prince Albert
- Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, Saskatoon
- Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church, Wishart
- Sacred Heart Ukrainian Catholic Church, Wynyard
- Holy Transfiguration Ukrainian Orthodox Church, Yorkton

Holodomor Mobile Classroom

Holodomor National Awareness Tour to Saskatchewan April 29-May 22

Roma Dzerowicz, Executive Director
Holodomor National Awareness Tour



The Holodomor Mobile Classroom across from Sacred Heart High School in Yorkton, May 2019

The Holodomor National Awareness Tour once again had the privilege of visiting schools and communities across Saskatchewan during 2019.

- ▶ During our three weeks in the “Land of the Living Skies” we engaged **14 schools** where approximately **1,650 students and educators** boarded the Holodomor Mobile Classroom (HMC) to take part in our interactive lessons about the Holodomor. This equated to 60 individual classes being taught by our facilitator, Dr. Alexandra Marchel. We are honoured to have such a great educator who passionately engages all who come onto the HMC.
- ▶ During our three-week stay in Saskatchewan we also had the opportunity to be **open to the public in Quill Lake, Canora, Yorkton, Middle Lake and Imperial with the showing of our short documentaries about the Holodomor**, including our award-winning *Hunger For Truth: the Rhea Clyman Story* that is based on the articles written by Canadian journalist Rhea Clyman, one of the first western journalists to report the events of the Holodomor that she witnessed first hand.
- ▶ Thank you to the **over 700 people** who took the time to visit the Holodomor Mobile Classroom in your communities.

The Holodomor National Awareness Tour would like to thank the Yorkton Kalyna Dance Festival for funding our visit to Yorkton Regional High School and Sacred Heart High School with a very generous donation. *Thank you!*

- ▶ **Schools visited**
Saskatoon École St. Matthew
Saskatoon College Park
Kenaston Kenaston School
Quill Lake Quill Lake School
Canora Composite School
Yorkton Columbia High School
Yorkton Yorkton Regional HS
Yorkton Sacred Heart
Strasbourg William Derby School
Middle Lake 3 Lakes School
Imperial Imperial School
Watrous Winston HS
Yorkton MC Knoll/St. Michael’s



Students in the Battlefords were encouraged to do artwork related to the Holodomor.

This is by Abbigail Adair, Grade 11, John Paul II Collegiate.

See page 33 for how the Holodomor was commemorated in North Battleford.



UCC Canora and the Canora Ukrainian Heritage Museum took the opportunity to sponsor the Holodomor National Awareness Tour in Canora for two days at the Composite School. We readily agreed because this was a rare opportunity to be able to contribute to something so important in the school. The bus set up for community viewing on May 5th and was available to the school on the 6th and 7th.

In addition, the local branch of the Canadian Legion made a generous donation toward the Community Day. That day featured the film, *Hunger for Truth: The Rhea Clyman Story*, the story of a Canadian journalist who wanted to know the real story.

We also have some fine testimonials from students thanking us.

[Dorothy Korol, President, UCC Canora](#)
 See page 35 for more branch activity

“I truly did appreciate all the messages and knowledge that I got to take away from the Holodomor Bus. The topic of the [sic] Ukraine Genocide is not one that we (the students) get taught about in school, and so it was very interesting to learn about a foreign subject. Thank you so very much for all the effort and money that was put into bring [sic] the Holodomor bus to Canora from us.”
 — Felicity, Grade 12 student

“It was a great opportunity for our students! I feel it was a very important story to bring to Canora because of the prevalent heritage of our students. Thank you from all of us for this opportunity.”
 — Cindy Smith, Principal, Canora Composite School

UCC Canora and the Canora Ukrainian Heritage Museum sponsored the Holodomor Mobile Classroom visit to Canora Composite School, May 2019

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF CINDY SMITH, PRINCIPAL, CANORA COMPOSITE SCHOOL