



November 29, 2019

Dr. David H. Turpin
President and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Alberta
2-24 South Academic Building (SAB)
University of Alberta
Edmonton, Alberta
Canada T6G 2G7

Dear Dr. David H. Turpin,

Every year, on the 4th Saturday of November, millions of Ukrainians and those of Ukrainian heritage commemorate the Holodomor Genocide, remembering the millions condemned to death by starvation by the occupying Soviet regime in Ukraine in 1932-33.

Many countries recognize Holodomor as an act of genocide against the Ukrainian people. Canada was the first nation to recognize Holodomor as Genocide in 2008, and it is one of the five genocides recognized by Canada along with the Holocaust, Armenian genocide, the Rwandan genocide and the Bosnian ethnic cleansing.

In 2008, Conservative MP, James Bezan introduced a bill in order to establish a Ukrainian Famine and Genocide Memorial Day. This bill is now law. Despite recognition of the Holodomor by the Canadian Parliament and provincial legislatures across Canada, this is a stark reminder that, even in 2019, we cannot afford complacency in Holodomor education and awareness.

This week, University of Alberta students along with the Ukrainian Canadian Students' Union uncovered a series of public social media posts by Assistant Lecturer Dougal MacDonald that deny the Holodomor as a "pro-Nazi myth" and a "lie".

Ukrainian Canadian Congress - Toronto Branch calls on the University of Alberta to immediately censure and terminate Mr. MacDonald for his denial of the Holodomor.

Respectfully,

Taras Bahriy
President, Ukrainian Canadian Congress -Toronto

Oksana Rewa,
Holodomor Memorial, Chair