



# HOLODOMOR MEMORIAL TORONTO

UNVEILING | 10.21.2018

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HOLODOMOR MEMORIAL PARKETTE  
EXHIBITION PLACE  
TORONTO, ONTARIO

The Holodomor Memorial Parkette is dedicated  
to the millions of innocent victims who died  
during the genocidal famine in Ukraine in 1932–33.

ВІЧНАЯ ПАМ'ЯТЬ • MEMORY ETERNAL

The Toronto Holodomor Memorial was established  
by the Ukrainian Canadian Community in 2018,  
under the leadership of the  
Ukrainian Canadian Congress – Toronto Branch  
with financial support of the  
Toronto Ukrainian Foundation  
and its generous Donors.



Зроніть сльозу. Бо ми не мали сліз...  
Заплачте разом, а не наодинці.  
Зроніть сльозу за тими, хто не зріс,  
Що мали зватись гордо – українці!  
Заплачте! Затужіть! Заголосіть!!  
Померлі люди стогнуть з тої днини  
Й благають: українці, донесіть  
Стражденний біль голодної країни!  
Згадайте нас – бо ми ж колись жили.  
Зроніть сльозу і хай не гасне свічка!  
Ми в цій землі житами проросли,  
Щоб голоду не знали люди вічно.

— Ніна Виноградська

Shed a tear. Because we did not have tears ...  
Let us weep together, not alone.  
Shed a tear for those who did not grown up  
To be proud Ukrainians!  
Cry! Weep! Scream this out!!  
Dead still moan from those days, and  
They pleaded: Ukrainians, let all know the  
Painful suffering of a hungry nation!  
Remember us – for we once lived.  
Shed a tear and let the candle not die!  
We lived in a land that sprouted wheat,  
Where people never before knew of such hunger.

Oleh Lesiuk, Five Ears of Wheat



*Посол України в Канаді*  
*Ambassador of Ukraine to Canada*  
*Ambassadeur d'Ukraine au Canada*

**Dear friends!**

These days the Ukrainians around the world and the international community commemorate the millions of victims of Holodomor - the artificial famine genocide of 1932-33 in Ukraine. It is one of the most heinous crimes in the history of mankind, intended to subdue a nation's determined struggle for liberty, human dignity and independence.

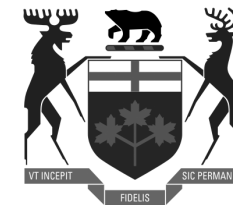
The Soviet regime denied the truth about these darkest pages of Ukraine's history. It was by the efforts of the Ukrainian community around the globe that the world knew about Holodomor. And I can't but praise Canada's contribution to this process. It was in Edmonton, Canada where the first memorial to the victims of Holodomor was placed in 1983. It was due to the efforts of the World Congress of Free Ukrainians, whose headquarters are in Toronto, that the Commission of Jurist was established in 1988 to investigate into the matter. It was a Ukrainian Canadian, who shot the very first feature movie about the tragedy "Bitter Harvest". And it was Canada's parliament that unanimously passed Bill C-459, recognizing Holodomor as genocide of the Ukrainian people.

Today, we are honored to witness the opening of the Holodomor Memorial in Toronto, another important milestone in commemorating the victims of the tragedy. I would like to extend the sincerest words of appreciation to the Ukrainian community of Canada, Toronto City Hall authorities, all volunteers and donors for their efforts in realizing this meaningful initiative.

Memory makes us stronger. We must learn from the past, we must be vigilant and careful, and we must be sure that the lessons of the Holodomor are well learned. No one should ever forget the horrors of the Holodomor – not only in memory of 10 million souls lost in the tragedy, but for the sake of all humanity, to make sure that those horrors would never be repeated.

Sincerely,

**Andriy Shevchenko**



Ontario

## **Message from the Premier of Ontario About the Holodomor**

It is with a heavy heart that we gather here today to remember the victims of the Holodomor famine genocide.

In Ukrainian, Holodomor means to die by hunger. This monument will help ensure that Ontarians know the word and the terrible times it remembers.

At the height of this artificial and intentional famine, an estimated 28,000 Ukrainian men, women and children were dying each and every day from hunger. Officially, the death toll is estimated to be in the millions – a mass genocide by a terribly oppressive totalitarian regime.

Thank you to the Ukrainian Canadian Congress and Toronto's Ukrainian community for coming together to dedicate this memorial to the victims of Holodomor.

As the Premier of Ontario, it is an honour to stand side by side with our Ukrainian community to commemorate the victims of this horrible tragedy.

Let us forever remember the innocent that suffered this dark time. May their memory be eternal! Vichnaya Pamyat!

**Doug Ford**  
**Premier**



### Message from the Mayor

I would like to welcome everyone here today to mark this important event, the unveiling of the Holodomor Memorial in Toronto.

This monument recognizes the millions of lives lost in the genocide from famine in Ukraine from 1932 to 1933, known as the Holodomor. This memorial was built to help raise public awareness of this dark chapter in history.

Today we remember the millions of Ukrainian men, women and children whose lives were lost. By building memorials like this one, it helps us to remember our history in the hope that we don't repeat such injustices in the future.

I am proud to join Toronto's Ukrainian community to dedicate this memorial and am thankful we were able to work with the Ukrainian Canadian Congress to help establish this site on the Exhibition Grounds.

This monument will be a place for all Torontonians to pay their respects. Despite the years that have gone by, we must not – and we never will – forget Holodomor and the victims of this tragedy. It also stands as a testament to the united strength and perseverance that our Ukrainian community continues to demonstrate.

On behalf of Toronto City Council I thank everyone for the work and commitment to this important project.

Yours truly,

  
John Tory  
Mayor of Toronto

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
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Шановна українська громадо!

Від імені Конгресу Українців Канади, відділ Торонто, та від себе особисто щиро вітаю вас із значною подією в житті багатотисячної української громади міста Торонто та Південного Онтаріо – відкриттям Меморіалу пам'яті жертв Голодомору.

Відкриття цього Меморіалу в 85-ті роковини Голодомору 1932-33 р. увінчає довголітню наполегливу працю Конгресу Українців Канади, відділ Торонто, та дозволить українській громаді та її майбутнім поколінням належно вшановувати багатомільйонні жертви геноциду українського народу та ще більше інформувати канадську громадськість про цю трагічну сторінку історії України.

Висловлюємо щирю вдячність всім жертводавцям Торонто та поза його межами, завдяки яким мрія громади побудувати Меморіал Голодомору стала реальністю.

Особлива подяка Голові Комітету з будівництва Меморіалу Голодомору при КУК-Торонто пані Оксані Реві за всю її невтомну працю та присвяту здійсненню цього проекту.

Побудова такого Меморіалу потребувала згуртованості та жертвовності нашої громади. Лише спільними зусиллями ми успішно дійшли до нашої мети – побудови Меморіалу жертв Голодомору.

**Разом – сила!**

З повагою,



Тарас Багрій, Голова  
КУК-Торонто



# HOLODOMOR IN UKRAINE

One of the most devastating events of the twentieth century occurred in Ukraine after it was incorporated into the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) in 1922. A genocide was carried out against the Ukrainian population in 1932–33, which subsequently was denied, dismissed and hidden from world scrutiny for more than five decades.

Although Ukrainians in the West had long maintained that millions had died as a result of the Soviet state's policies, the true nature of the Holodomor came to light only when archives in Moscow and Ukraine were opened following the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991. In addition to those who died of starvation, countless numbers of Ukrainians were executed by firing squads, deported to Siberia or sent to the Gulag.

The word **Holodomor** is used to describe death inflicted by starvation. It comes from two Ukrainian words: *holod*, meaning starvation, and *moryty*, to cause a torturous death.

Most foreign journalists stationed inside the USSR largely ignored or did not accurately report on the Holodomor in the 1930s. A few, like Canadian journalist Rhea Clyman, dared to write about it. Most governments whose countries were going through the Great Depression knew, but did nothing about it.



## Holodomor • Голодомор (Ukrainian) *derived from* *морити голодом, death inflicted* *by starvation*

In Ukraine, it was impossible to mention publicly, teach about or discuss the Holodomor openly until the late 1980s. Information about the Famine was only available in the West, mostly from eyewitness testimonies of refugees who had survived the event and escaped from the Soviet Union during World War Two.

The truth about the Holodomor started to become openly available to the citizens of Ukraine only on the eve of the breakup of the USSR. Eyewitness accounts and documentary evidence emerged that showed that Ukraine was indeed targeted for starvation in the wake of a shift in Soviet nationality policy.

Until recently, the Holodomor was denied, covered up and ignored. Today, the Holodomor is commemorated worldwide each year on the fourth Saturday in November. Canada and numerous other countries have recognized the Holodomor as genocide.

Across Canada, many school boards commemorate Holodomor Memorial Day each year on the fourth Friday in November. We remember and honour its victims and resolve to prevent such crimes from occurring again.

– **Valentina Kuryliw**



# HOLODOMOR MEMORIAL PARKETTE

The Holodomor Memorial Parkette is a space for reflection and acknowledgement of the extreme inhumanity and tragic events that occurred in the past. It unites contemporary citizens of all backgrounds in the spirit of mutual empathy for past sufferings, while affirming the value of individual human life and fostering aspirations for a just and humane society.

The parkette organizes the movement of visitors on several levels, both in its physical space and on a psychological and emotional plane. It is designed as the memorialization of a multitude.

Walkways, which form the external and internal rings, lead visitors around the parkette and link the tangible elements spatially and conceptually. Amidst the memorial features, ornamental grass sprouts white spikes symbolizing lifted human souls. Seating areas are both design elements of the environment and places for contemplation and reflection on the fluidity of life.

The centrepiece of the memorial is the statue of a life-sized girl holding the forbidden five sprigs of grain, sculpted by Petro Drozdowsky. The statue’s scale and placement allow visitors to relate to the child’s reality, approach her and empathize with her. This statue is set in a plaza featuring stonework symbolic of Ukrainian embroidery. Visible from the Princes’ Gates – the main entrance to Exhibition Place – the lone girl’s vulnerability is poignant.

Directly east of the sculpture, the plaza narrows into a pathway with distinct paving material. This is the main alley to Strachan Avenue and the most direct route to the sculpture from outside of Exhibition Place. A secondary paved pathway veers left into a wooded area, arriving at a millstone garden. This pathway continues through a treed area eastward to a gate opening onto Strachan Avenue.

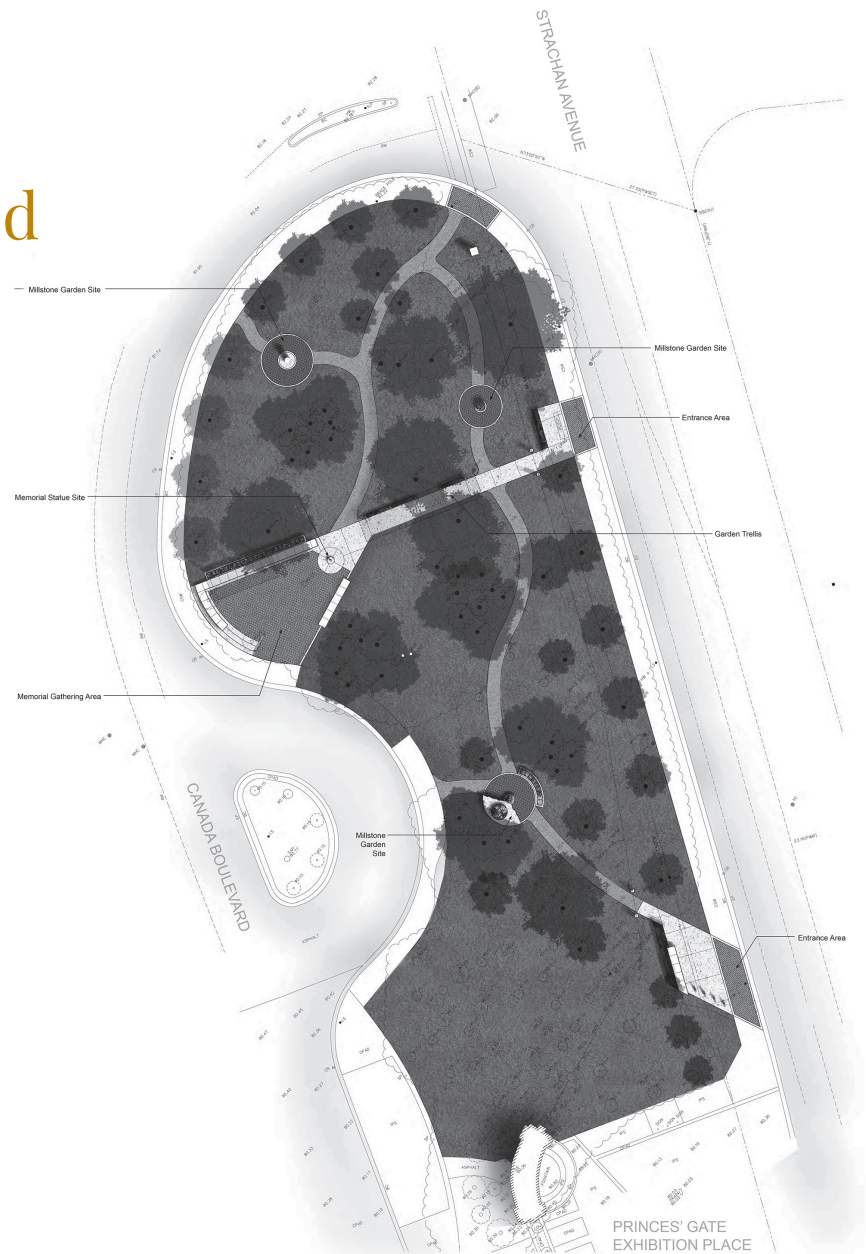
While exploring the route, visitors can reflect on the full horror of the Holodomor, feel the despair and helplessness, and arrive at a place of peace. Beyond the statue, visitors see openness, symbolizing new hopes. In the open area, another path intersects the paved pathway. To the left is the second millstone garden and to the right is a path winding through the treed area to the third millstone garden.

This place is  
to be the place  
of memory,  
learning and  
respect  
for the tragic  
moments and  
periods of  
our history.

From Strachan Avenue, there are three entrances to the Holodomor Memorial Parkette: the most southerly one by the Princes’ Gates, the middle one leading to the paved alley, and the northern one at the corner of Fleet Street. At the north and south entrances, visitors find themselves on the secondary paths of the parkette where they encounter a millstone garden before they reach the plaza with the sculpture. Pedestrians beyond the parkette will be drawn to these paths by the open gates in the fence. The secondary routes are designed to lead visitors to the millstone gardens and then back out to paved walkways or the plaza.

The Holodomor  
is commemorated  
worldwide each  
year on the  
fourth Saturday  
in November.

The Holodomor Memorial Parkette was created to convey the value of remembrance, as well as ideas of humanism, tolerance, democracy, civil society, human-rights defense, and natural and spiritual ecology – in effect, life-affirming responses to the evils of the Holodomor and other atrocities. Memorial ceremonies will be held here annually on the fourth Saturday of every November.







*Bitter Memory of Childhood*  
Kyiv, Ukraine

## BITTER MEMORY OF CHILDHOOD

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### PETRO DROZDOWSKY SCULPTOR

The artist Petro Drozdowsky was born in 1957 in the village of Ozerna, Kyiv oblast, Ukraine. His works in bronze, marble, stone, wood and metal have been exhibited in Ukraine and beyond, but his arresting statue of a young girl clutching five stalks of wheat may be his most iconic. Drozdowsky dedicated the statue, titled *Bitter Memory of Childhood*, to the most vulnerable victims of the Holodomor – children.

The original statue was installed on the grounds of the National Museum "Holodomor Victims Memorial" in Kyiv in 2008, on the 75th anniversary of the Holodomor.

Casts of *Bitter Memory of Childhood* stand in outdoor Holodomor memorials in Regina, Winnipeg and Toronto, as well as inside the Canadian Museum for Human Rights in Winnipeg.



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Holodomor Genocide  
1932-1933



This Memorial was contributed by the Ukrainian Canadian Community  
in 2015, under the leadership of the  
Ukrainian Canadian Congress of Canada Branch  
and the Ukrainian Canadian Council.



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To contribute to the Toronto Holodomor Memorial Project, please visit [www.HolodomorMemorialTO.com](http://www.HolodomorMemorialTO.com)

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