



NEWS RELEASE / COMMUNIQUÉ

## **THE HOLODOMOR MEMORIAL DAY ACT PROCEEDS TO SECOND READING**

*All Parties Work Together To Pass Legislation That  
Commemorates Victims Of The Man-Made Famine of Ukraine*

### **NEWS**

March 5, 2009

**Queen's Park** – Private Member's Bill 147, *the Holodomor Memorial Day Act* proceeded to second reading at Queen's Park today.

This is the first tri-sponsored Private Member's Bill by Dave Levac, Liberal MPP for Brant, Cheri DiNovo, NDP MPP for Parkdale-High Park, and Frank Klees, PC MPP for Newmarket-Aurora.

If passed, this legislation will provide for the declaration of Holodomor Memorial Day on the fourth Saturday in November in each year in the Province of Ontario.

The Holodomor is the name given to the man-made famine that occurred in Ukraine from 1932 to 1933, in which as many as 10 million Ukrainians perished as victims under Joseph Stalin's regime to consolidate control over Ukraine, with 25,000 dying each day at the peak of the famine in 1933.

Ukraine has established the fourth Saturday in November in each year as the annual day to commemorate the victims of the Holodomor. If passed, this Bill will extend the annual commemoration of the victims of the Holodomor to Ontario.

### **QUOTES**

"Today is an important day for Ukrainian-Canadians and especially, for family and friends who fell victim of the Holodomor," said MPP Dave Levac. "The remembrance of these horrors from the past requires our attention."

"Finally Ukrainian Canadians will have the respect for all the victims of Stalin's genocide they've been praying for in this Province," said Cheri DiNovo, MPP Parkdale-High Park.

"It is an honour for me as a Member of the Ontario PC Caucus to co-sponsor this Bill," said Frank Klees, MPP Newmarket-Aurora. "Those who have advocated for many years to have the truth concerning the Holodomor publicly recognized can take heart knowing that their persistence has been rewarded."

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**Lead by MPP Dave Levac, along with MPP Frank Klees, MPP Cheri DiNovo and members of the Ukrainian Community in Toronto join together on a historic day in Queen's Park.**