



## LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ALBERTA

# News Release

November 23, 2009

### Legislative Assembly remembers victims of Holodomor

**Edmonton** – Members of Alberta’s Ukrainian community gathered at the Legislature today in a ceremony to commemorate the one-year anniversary of the proclamation of the *Ukrainian Famine and Genocide (Holodomor) Memorial Day Act* and pay tribute to the survivors and descendants of the Holodomor.

On November 4, 2008, Bill 37 came into force, proclaiming every fourth Saturday in November as Ukrainian Famine and Genocide (Holodomor) Memorial Day in Alberta. Bill 37 received unanimous support by all Members of the Legislative Assembly. The Hon. Ken Kowalski, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta and host of the ceremony, said: “When the Act was passed in this House, I was proud to be a Member of this Assembly and proud to be an Albertan. On that day we recognized the survivors and descendents of the Ukrainian Famine of 1932-33, who now have a voice that is recognized not only in their own communities but in their province.”

The Hon. Ed Stelmach, Premier of Alberta said, “It is a day that brings both sorrow and hope, sorrow in remembering those who suffered and continue to suffer from the merciless acts that were committed during Holodomor, and hope in that by remembering, we will educate people so that it does not happen again.”

“The Ukrainian Famine and Genocide (Holodomor) Memorial Day unites the Ukrainian community and all Albertans in remembering the victims and raising awareness of the horrific legacy of this tragedy,” said the Hon. Gene Zwozdesky, Co-chair of the Advisory Council on Alberta-Ukraine Relations, who sponsored and introduced Bill 37.

Ukrainians around the world continue their awareness campaign. Canada is nearing completion of the documentation of survivors' testimonies, ensuring that their stories are preserved.

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