



**MINISTER
OF SPORT, CULTURE AND HERITAGE**

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HOLODOMOR**

*As read before the House of the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba
On Thursday November 25, 2021*

Madam Speaker, I rise today to shine a light on the Holodomor, remembered as one of the darkest times in Ukrainian history when Ukrainians were starved to death during the Stalin regime.

This year marks the 89th anniversary of this tragic chapter in history where an artificial famine in Ukraine was created through the deliberate seizure of lands and crops where millions of people slowly starved to death on Ukraine's fertile lands known as the breadbasket of the world.

Madam Speaker, for decades, the Holodomor went unrecognized and even denied. Our government is committed to shedding a light on the Holodomor genocide through public education and commemorative events.

This year, we are again not able to host Holodomor survivors, but I am forever grateful for those brave survivors like Mrs. Luba Semaniuk, who bravely shared her heart-wrenching story to help ensure this horrific chapter in Ukrainian history is never repeated or forgotten.

Madam Speaker, I will never forget when Mrs. Luba Semaniuk shared her personal story, recalling the sad memory of her neighbours crying because they had no food to feed their families. Her story is forever etched in my mind and serves as a terrible reminder of the horror inflicted on innocent Ukrainians.

We must forever shine a light on this dark time in Ukrainian history to ensure atrocities like the Holodomor are never, ever repeated.

Just a few moments ago, I was humbled to stand together with our Ukrainian community at the Bitter Memories of Childhood Monument to light candles and offer prayers in memory of those lives who perished during this dark chapter in Ukrainian history.

And today, as we remember the Holodomor, we also recognize the universal values of compassion, acceptance, equality and human rights. It is by recognizing and acting on these values that we foster peace, mutual respect and understanding.

Madam Speaker, on this solemn anniversary, I invite all of my colleagues, in the Manitoba Legislature and virtually, to join me in a moment of silence in honour of those who perished in the Holodomor.


Honourable Cathy Cox
Minister of Sport, Culture and Heritage