



ECSD to recognize Holodomor (Ukrainian Famine Genocide) Memorial Day

The Edmonton Catholic School District has declared the last Friday in November as Holodomor (Ukrainian Famine Genocide) Memorial Day. This recommendation was passed unanimously at tonight's Board meeting.

The Holodomor (Ukrainian Famine-Genocide) claimed millions of innocent lives. This little known genocide committed against the Ukrainian population in 1932-1933 was denied and hidden from world scrutiny by the Soviet regime. As Soviet archives in Russia and Ukraine have become available, the true nature of this atrocity has become known, revealing that there were millions of innocent victims. Today, Holodomor remains as the largest mass-murder of civilians undertaken during peacetime.

More than 250,000 Canadians of Ukrainian origin live in Alberta. Of these, almost half live in Edmonton. Senior Administration and Bishop David Motiuk of the Ukrainian Catholic Edmonton Eparchy requested the Edmonton Catholic School District to recognize the tragic importance of the Holodomor and the devastation this caused to the Ukrainian nation. "The purpose of this request is to raise awareness of the Ukrainian Famine. All too often we remain unaware of our common history. A case in point is the Holodomor, an event of unimaginable death, claiming millions of lives and resulting in the attempted destruction of the Ukrainian nation," said Bishop Motiuk.

Edmonton Catholic Schools has a well-respected tradition of social justice, empathy and regard for the plight of minority groups. "In light of recent events in the world, we must educate future generations about the horrors of intolerance," said Board Chairperson Debbie Engel. "This tragic genocide and its significance to our Ukrainian-Canadian community must never be forgotten," added Engel.

On Friday, November 25, 2011 all 87 schools and sites within the Edmonton Catholic School District will be encouraged to undertake a moment of silence in recognition of the millions of Ukrainians who died as a result of this genocide.

For more information call:

DANA PREFONTAINE

•Communication Team
Coordinator

- 780 441-6075 (office)
- 780 720-8979 (cell)