



Delegation of Canada
to the OSCE

Délégation du Canada
auprès de l'OSCE

**STATEMENT BY ANDRIJANA BESLIC, FIRST SECRETARY
UNDER ANY OTHER BUSINESS ITEM “ON THE 91st ANNIVERSARY OF THE
HOLODOMOR GENOCIDE OF 1932 AND 1933 IN UKRAINE COMMITTED BY THE
TOTALITARIAN STALIN’S REGIME”
1497th MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL
21 November 2024**

Madam Chair,

We join Ukrainians, Ukrainian Canadians and all Ukrainian communities around the world in remembering the millions of innocent victims who were killed or suffered during the Holodomor in 1932 and 1933.

The word *Holodomor*, or "death by hunger" in Ukrainian, captures the enormity of this atrocity. Anywhere between 3.5 to 10 million people were starved to death by deliberate policies and acts of the Soviet regime under Josef Stalin. The Soviet regime orchestrated a famine to impose total control over Ukraine, destroy the will of Ukrainians, and erase their identity.

Madam Chair,

Ninety-one years later, Ukraine’s independence is once again under threat, and Ukrainians are again suffering from policies and actions dictated by decision-makers in the Kremlin.

Russia's strategy in the ongoing war of aggression against Ukraine has tragic and frightening parallels with the policies and actions of the Holodomor.

Madam Chair,

The Government of Canada recognized the Holodomor in May 2008 with an Act declaring the famine as “an act of genocide” and establishing a national Ukrainian Holodomor Memorial Day.

Many survivors of the Holodomor settled in Canada. The world’s first monument to the victims of the Holodomor was erected in Edmonton, Canada, in 1983. Today, Canada is home to at least ten memorials across the country. Each memorial serves as a place of reflection and education, underscoring Canada's recognition and condemnation of the Holodomor.

Canada will continue to honour the memory of the victims who perished in the Holodomor, and the courage of their descendants, who carry the weight of intergenerational trauma.

It is our collective duty to listen to the stories of genocide survivors and their descendants to understand the devastating impact of these crimes on human history—and to ensure these atrocities are not repeated.

Thank you.