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PC.DEL/1268/25  
21 November 2025

ENGLISH  
Original: as delivered

Delegation of Canada

**STATEMENT BY  
AMBASSADOR VÉRONIQUE PEPIN-HALLÉ, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE  
OF CANADA TO THE OSCE, AT THE 1543rd MEETING OF THE  
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

20 November 2025

**The ninety-second anniversary of the Holodomor genocide committed in Ukraine in  
1932–1933 by the totalitarian Stalinist regime**

Mister 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. Most historians estimate that 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 national identity. Contemporary attempts by Russia to distort history cannot change these facts.

Mister Chair,

Ninety-two 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 its ongoing war of aggression against Ukraine has tragic and frightening parallels with the policies and actions of the Holodomor.

Mr. Chairperson,

The Government of Canada recognized the Holodomor in May 2008 through legislation recognizing the Ukrainian famine of 1932–1933 as genocide and establishing a day of remembrance for the Ukrainian Holodomor. Many survivors of the Holodomor settled in Canada. The world's first monument dedicated to the victims of the Holodomor was erected in Edmonton, Canada, in 1983. Today, Canada has a dozen memorials across the country.

Each monument serves as a place of reflection and education, highlighting Canada's recognition and condemnation of the Holodomor. Canada will continue to honour the memory of the victims who perished or suffered in the Holodomor and the courage of their descendants, who bear the burden of intergenerational trauma.

It is our collective duty to listen to the stories of the survivors of genocide and their descendants in order to understand the devastating impact of these crimes on the history of humanity, and to stand in solidarity with Ukraine to ensure that such atrocities never happen again.

Thank you.