



HOUSE OF COMMONS
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May 28, 2008

Mr. John Campbell, Ward 2
Chair
Toronto District School Board
5050 Yonge Street
Toronto, Ontario
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Dear Mr. Campbell:

I am writing with respect to the decision by the Toronto District School Board to exclude from the curriculum of their grade eleven course on the history of genocide the Holdomor, or Ukrainian genocide of 1932-1933.

While I understand a final decision is yet to be made, it would appear that the Board has elected not to include the Holdomor as part of the teaching outline of this course. As you can imagine this is rightfully of considerable concern to members of the Ukrainian community here in Canada.

As you may know there is currently before Parliament a private member's bill to formally recognize here in Canada the 1932-33 actions of the former Soviet regime in Ukraine as an act of genocide. During the visit by the President of Ukraine, Viktor Yushchenko, to Ottawa it was clear that this bill has a high probability of passing successfully through Parliament.

In view of the realities of the Holdomor, the support for the private member's bill before Parliament and the justifiable concerns of the Ukrainian community here in Canada, I am writing to encourage the T.D.S.B. in the strongest possible terms to include in this proposed course curriculum the Ukrainian genocide.

I appreciate your attention to this matter and look forward to hearing from you in this regard.

Yours truly,

Mario Silva, MP
Davenport

cc: Paul Grod, President, Ukrainian Canadian Congress
Markian Shwec, President, Ukrainian Canadian Congress - Toronto
His Excellency Mr. Ihor Ostash, Ambassador of Ukraine in Canada

