



## **Update: Students take action against genocide denial**

Last week we remembered and commemorated the horrific Holodomor famine-genocide. Millions of men, women and children were senselessly murdered through starvation by the Soviet regime of Joseph Stalin. Today the Holodomor remains an incredibly important and relevant human rights story.

Unfortunately, immediately after the commemoration it came to our attention that a member of the University of Alberta staff—Dougal MacDonald an Assistant Lecturer in the Faculty of Education—had posted a denial of the genocide of our people. While the Ukrainian Canadian community is working to spread awareness and educate all Canadians about this horrible genocide, it is shocking that an educator at a prominent university is expressing such hateful views.

Although Dougal MacDonald made statements on his personal social media, Megan Brownlee, the President of the University of Alberta Ukrainian Students' Society (USS), said that she is concerned that his position in a classroom gives him a platform to share hateful propaganda. "It's the fact that he does have the ability to if he wants to," states Brownlee. "So we're just concerned for the students in his class."

The Ukrainian Canadian Students' Union (SUSK) calls upon the University of Alberta to immediately terminate and censure Assistant Lecturer Dougal MacDonald for anti-Ukrainian hate speech, Holodomor denial; as well as libel and defamation of a community and a former Chancellor. Anything less will tarnish the impeccable reputation of the University of Alberta. Allowing these statements to continue empowers xenophobia, discrimination, bigotry and genocide denial.

The demeaning statements towards victims and survivors of genocide do not contain a shred of logic or truth. Their only intent is to create an intimidating, hostile and offensive work or learning environment for people because of their ancestry and views.

SUSK calls upon the Ukrainian community and all allies that recognize the Holodomor as a genocide to express their concerns with the President of the University of Alberta.

***Suggested text for contacting the University of Alberta President:***

*On the 86th anniversary of Holodomor commemorated just a few short days ago, Canadians across the country remembered the millions condemned to death by starvation by the Soviet regime of Joseph Stalin in 1932-33.*

*Canada was the first nation to recognize Holodomor as Genocide in 2008, and it is one of the five genocides recognized by Canada along with the Holocaust, Armenian genocide, the Rwandan genocide and the Bosnian ethnic cleansing.*

*This week, University of Alberta students along with the Ukrainian Canadian Students' Union uncovered a series of public social media posts by Assistant Lecturer Dougal MacDonald that deny the Holodomor as a "pro-Nazi myth" and a "lie".*

*I call on the University of Alberta to immediately censure and terminate Mr. MacDonald for his denial of the Holodomor.*

*Name and contact information*

**How to contact the University of Alberta:**

University of Alberta President  
Dr. David H. Turpin, President and Vice-Chancellor  
2-24 South Academic Building (SAB)  
University of Alberta  
Edmonton, Alberta  
Canada T6G 2G7  
Telephone: [780-492-3212](tel:780-492-3212)  
[uofapres@ualberta.ca](mailto:uofapres@ualberta.ca)

**Thank you to the following individuals and organizations for their support:**

[Armenian National Committee - via Facebook](#)

[B'nai Brith Canada - via Facebook & Twitter](#)

[Canadian Polish Congress - via Twitter](#)

[Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs \(CIJA\) – via Facebook](#)

[Government of Alberta, Premier Jason Kenney – via Facebook, Instagram, & Twitter](#)

[Jewish Federation of Edmonton – via Facebook & Twitter](#)

[U of A Students Union - Statement on genocide denial by a University of Alberta lecturer](#)

[Heather McPherson, MP - via Twitter](#)

[Jackie Armstrong-Homeniuk, MLA - via statement in the Legislative Assembly of Alberta](#)

[James Bezan, MP - via Twitter](#)

[Marcus Kolga, CEE Council - via Twitter](#)

[Michael Levitt, MP - via Twitter](#)

[Perry Bellegarde - via Twitter](#)

[Yvan Baker, MP - via Twitter](#)

**Thank you to the following media outlets for the coverage:**

[National Post – Jason Kenney denounces 'useful idiots' amid uproar over university lecturer's Holodomor denial](#)

[CBC Edmonton - Calls for U of A lecturer to be fired for denying Holodomor.](#)

[CTV Edmonton - Calls grow to fire University of Alberta lecturer who deemed Ukrainian genocide a 'myth'](#)

[The Star Edmonton - A University of Alberta lecturer called the Holodomor a 'myth.' Ukrainian Canadian students want him fired](#)

[The Gateway - Offensive comments by U of A lecturer spur student backlash](#)

[Global News - Ukrainian students want U of A lecturer fired after calling Holodomor a 'lie' on Facebook](#)

[Global News Radio - Holodomor Denial by University of Alberta Lecturer](#)

[Globe and Mail - University of Alberta students call on school to fire assistant lecturer who denies the Holodomor](#)

[City News - Alberta university students want lecturer who denies Ukrainian famine fired](#)