Kildonan-St. Paul MP Joy Smith joins Premier Greg Selinger and the President of the Ukrainian World Congress, Mr. Eugene Czolij at the unveiling of the “Bitter Memories of Childhood” monument.

Our city fights for human rights

Joy Smith
KILDONAN – ST. PAUL MP
CONSTITUENCY REPORT

Ukrainians suffered unspeakable torture during the Holodomor. Millions of men, women and children died as Stalin orchestrated a man-made famine.

Winnipeggers remembered these victims during the unveiling of the “Bitter Memories of Childhood” monument at the Manitoba legislature on Sept. 20. The monument pays tribute to a starving peasant girl, who is sobbing as she collects five meagre stalks of wheat.

Together, we honoured those who survived the Holodomor and those who are no longer with us. I am proud Canada was the first country in the world to recognize this deliberate famine as an act of genocide against the Ukrainian people.

By remembering the tragedy of the Holodomor, we can ensure human suffering on such a scale never occurs again. I am proud to be a Winnipegger and Manitoban joining the growing number of voices speaking out for human dignity, freedom and democracy.

When I hear young women being sold into slavery and the human rights abuses committed by ISIL and Boko Haram, I am reminded of the “Bitter Memories of Childhood” monument, the new Canadian Museum for Human Rights, and the actions our city has taken to fight human rights abuses.

Our community, city, and country, provide inspiration in my ongoing fight for human dignity and freedom.