

# 41st PARLIAMENT, 2nd SESSION

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## CONTENTS

Thursday, October 30, 2014

### Statements by Members

*[Statements by Members]*

#### **Elections in Ukraine**

**Mr. Ted Opitz (Etobicoke Centre, CPC):**

Mr. Speaker, today is Ukrainian day on the Hill. Canada and Ukraine have a rich history, one that has continued to grow since Canada became the first western nation to recognize Ukraine's independence in 1991.

Canada stands with the people of Ukraine, and last week assisted in election monitoring. With parliamentary colleagues from both sides of the House, we deployed across Ukraine. With the member for Selkirk—Interlake, I observed the election in Odessa. I am honoured to inform the House that Ukraine elected an overwhelmingly Eurocentric parliament.

This was a critical election with remarkable results in the face of continuing Russian aggression. Ukraine ran a democratic election in defiance of attempts to undermine Ukraine's independence and sovereignty. This is also the first time since the Bolshevik revolution, that Ukraine's parliament is absent of any communist representation.

I am proud of Ukraine's move toward reform and stronger and more resilient democracy. It was an honour to contribute to it. Therefore, in recognition of Ukraine and today's celebration of Ukrainian day on the Hill, I offer on behalf of us all: *Slava Ukraini*.