

Dear Ukrainian Canadian Congress,

Thank you very much for reaching out to my campaign.

Russia's continuing occupation and invasion of Ukrainian territory is something I condemn in the harshest terms. I believe unequivocally in peaceful cooperation between nations and the right to self-determination – not annexation by force.

Below are the answers to your questionnaire:

1. Strengthening Canada-Ukraine Security Relations

a) Do you condemn Russia's invasion of Ukraine and illegal occupation of Crimea and parts of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts?

Yes, we unequivocally condemn Russia's annexation of Crimea and other malign behaviour in Ukraine.

b) Do you support Canada providing Ukraine with defensive weapons, increased security cooperation between Canada and Ukraine, and increased Canadian sanctions on Russia in response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine?

Canada should demonstrate its support for Ukraine and for reform and anti-corruption efforts in Ukraine by renewing and expanding its assistance programs and establishing visa-free entrance to Canada for Ukrainians. Sending lethal weapons risks escalation of the conflict and would do nothing to alter the strategic balance in the region.

2. Supporting Democratic and Economic Reform in Ukraine

a) Do you support increased Canadian international assistance for Ukraine, including increased humanitarian assistance and increased support for consolidating Ukraine's democratic institutions?

Canada should continue to support Ukraine and the Ukrainian people with economic, diplomatic, and political support as it consolidates its democracy. Canada should, at the very least, extend existing international assistance funding. A New Democrat government is committed to boosting Canada's international development assistance, with the goal of contributing 0.7 per cent of our Gross National

Income to international aid.

3. Ensuring Security and Dignity for Seniors

- a) Do you support increased investment to ensure affordable care for seniors and increased cooperation with ethno-cultural organizations and institutions who provide care to seniors?

Yes. Many seniors are themselves caregivers to a loved one or rely on the caregiving of family members. In order to help make life a little more affordable for caregivers, who are overwhelmingly women, we'll make the Canada Caregiver Tax Credit refundable. This will provide thousands of dollars to the most low-income caregivers, many of whom have given up work completely to care for a loved one.

4. Welcoming Newcomers to Canada

- a) Do you support increasing assistance and cooperation with ethno-cultural, community-based settlement services for newcomers?

Yes. People are struggling to get work in their field of expertise, causing stress for their families as they struggle to make ends meet and to fulfill their potential. We will expand access to services, especially language training (LINC), and expand youth programs and mentorship opportunities for settlement and services.

- b) Do you support visa-free travel to Ukrainian citizens visiting Canada?

Yes.

5. Helping our Culture Flourish

Historical recognition –

- a) Do you support the recognition of the Deportation of the Crimean Tatar People (Sürgünlik) by the Soviet regime in 1944 as an act of Genocide? Do you support establishing May 18 as the annual Day of Remembrance of the Genocide of the Crimean Tatar People?

We should always condemn mass-atrocity crimes, and remember the victims of these horrific crimes, and these include genocide, ethnic cleansing, war crimes, and crimes against humanity.

b) Do you support the establishment of October 28 as the annual Day of Commemoration of Canada's First National Internment Operations?

We support this idea.

c) Do you support increasing funding to multicultural programming in Canada?

Yes.

d) Do you support increasing government assistance to heritage language programming in Canada?

Yes.

6. Fighting Online Hate and Disinformation

a) Do you support increased measures to eliminate online hate and disinformation campaigns from social media?

We will begin work immediately to ensure that all major cities have dedicated hate-crime units within local police forces and to convene a national working group to counter online hate. New Democrats will always stand up against all forms of hate, racism, including anti-Black racism, anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, gender-based violence, homophobia, and transphobia.

Again, thank you for your thoughtful, timely questions.

If elected, I will represent my constituents' interests in Ottawa, including those of the very large population of Ukrainian Canadians living here in Etobicoke Centre.

Kind Regards,

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