



КОНГРЕС УКРАЇНЦІВ КАНАДИ

UKRAINIAN CANADIAN CONGRESS

CONGRÈS DES UKRAINIENS-CANADIENS

## 2019 Federal Election

### Ukrainian Canadian Congress Questionnaire for Candidates for Member of Parliament

Dear Candidate:

The Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC) is surveying all candidates in the 2019 Federal Election regarding the following issues of importance to the Ukrainian Canadian community.

Thank you for helping us to inform Canadians about your position on the issues which are very important to the Ukrainian Canadian community. Attached to this survey please find the UCC National 2019 Policy Guide.

We will be publishing the results of this questionnaire in the media and on the UCC website. **We kindly request that you respond to the following questions by October 4, 2019 via email to [2019election@ucc.ca](mailto:2019election@ucc.ca)**

Should you elect not to respond, we will record this as an expression of "No Interest."

Thank you for your time and consideration.

#### Candidate Information:

**Name of Candidate:** Hedy Fry

**Constituency:** Vancouver Centre

**Political Party:** The Liberal Party of Canada

#### 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?

In the wake of Russian aggression and attempts to undermine Ukraine's sovereignty, including the illegal annexation of Crimea, it's extremely important for countries like Canada to stand alongside its partner. Russia's actions are not only a threat to Ukraine but to international law. I condemn Russian aggression towards Ukraine to the fullest extent.

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?

In March, our Government renewed its mission of about 200 Canadian troops deployed to Ukraine until the end of March 2022. Since 2015, Canada has trained nearly 11,000 Ukrainian soldiers and we will continue to support Ukraine in its security measures. We support sanctions. We are doing this as a member of NATO.

## **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?

Yes, I support increased assistance from the international community towards Ukraine including humanitarian aid to citizens. I was asked to come to the primary and final elections in Ukraine as Canada's delegate with other parties because we believe it's important to help Ukraine to move into democracy. We were very pleased with how those elections were conducted. We will continue to support fair and free democratic institutions in Ukraine as part of our international mandate. We will continue to move forward with a principled approach that puts democracy, human rights, international law, and environmental protection at the heart of foreign policy, this includes establishing the Canadian Centre for Peace, Order, and Good Government, which will lend expertise and help to people seeking to build peace, advance justice, promote human rights and democracy, and deliver good governance and building on the Magnitsky sanctions regime we have put in place, by developing a framework to transfer seized assets from those who commit grave human rights abuses to their victims, with appropriate judicial oversight.

## **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?

After a lifetime of hard work, Canada's seniors have earned a secure and dignified retirement. They deserve a retirement free of financial worries. We increased the Guaranteed Income Supplement to help low-income seniors make ends meet and lowered the eligibility age for Old Age Security from 67 to 65. To make life more affordable for people as they age, we will move forward with increasing the Old Age Security benefit by 10 per cent for seniors when they turn 75, and will continue to raise it along with inflation. This will help to lift more than 20,000 seniors out of poverty.

#### 4. Welcoming Newcomers to Canada

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

Yes, supporting newcomers is essential to strengthening our communities and growing our job markets. Canada was built in great part by immigrants through the labour force and their entrepreneurship. We have a need for labour force as Canada ages, and we will soon have a problem in regard to this. Getting skilled workers and their families in helps fill jobs and strengthen their commitment to Canada. For example, to help more visible minority newcomer women find and keep a good job, we will build on the research, support and employment projects announced earlier this year, and move forward with an additional \$9 million investment over three years. To make sure that communities of all sizes are better able to attract and support new Canadians, we will move forward with a Municipal Nominee Program. This program will allow local communities, chambers of commerce, and local labour councils to directly sponsor permanent immigrants. To continue to support greater immigration and economic growth across Atlantic Canada, we will move forward with making the Atlantic Immigration Pilot permanent. A minimum of 5,000 of the new spaces will be dedicated to each of the Municipal Nominee Program and the Atlantic immigration stream.

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

Ukraine and Canada are planning to sign a youth exchange agreement in the coming months, set to allow a simplified procedure for mutual trips for study and employment for up to 12 months. Our Government is also proposing to include Ukraine in the Trusted Travelers program, which provides for a simplified procedure for the arrival of Ukrainians in Canada. We always aim for greater economic cooperation and social cooperation between our two countries.

#### 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?

On June 13<sup>th</sup> of this year, a motion authored by Liberal MP Borys Wrzesnewskyj to recognize the 1944 deportation of Crimean Tatars by Stalin as a genocide was passed unanimously in the House of Commons Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Development Foreign Affairs Committee. Our Government is expected to approve this recognition.

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

Yes

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

In the last four years, we've made significant reinvestments in our cultural and creative industries in Canada's history – investments that have helped stabilize CBC/ Radio-Canada, given more direct support to artists, and created more good jobs for the talented people who tell our stories. As Minister for Multiculturalism, I support the full integration and encouraging groups within Canada to speak their language, enhance their culture so that we can welcome and integrate them into our society. To ensure that more people have access to Canadian culture here and around the world, and to ensure that Canadian artists can continue to tell our stories, we will introduce the Culture Pass, a \$200 credit that every Canadian child will receive when they turn 12, to be used to access theatres, museums, galleries, workshops, and other cultural venues and local Canadian content and introduce a new Cultural Diplomacy strategy, with at least one international mission each year to promote Canadian culture and creators around the world. This along with our continued push for diversity, anti-racism and multiculturalism initiatives.

## 6. Fighting Online Hate and Disinformation

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

I had brought a private member's bill (10 years ago), it was a pity that the bill didn't pass as the Conservatives and NDP both opposed the bill. The Bill would have social media and computer information comply with the same standards in the Criminal Code with regard to other forms of communication (telephone, TV, radio, newspapers). Conservatives didn't support, but would have passed if the NDP had not opposed it at the last minute.

Our Liberal Government believes that when social media platforms are used to spread harmful views, the platforms themselves must also be held accountable. To help stop the proliferation of violent extremism online, we will move forward with new regulations for social media platforms, starting with a requirement that all platforms remove illegal content, including hate speech, within 24 hours or face significant financial penalties. This will also include other online harms, such as radicalization, incitement to violence, exploitation of children, or creation or distribution of terrorist propaganda. Because hate speech continues to harm people offline as well, we will also look at options for civil remedies for victims of hate speech.