

## **NDP Response: Ukrainian Canadian Congress**

### **1. Strengthening Canada-Ukraine Security Relations**

a) If elected, will your government provide Ukraine with lethal defensive weapons?

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.

b) Does your party support the expansion and extension of Canada's military training mission in Ukraine, Operation UNIFIER?

Yes. We have called on the Liberal government to extend Operation UNIFIER, which has been instrumental in assisting Ukraine and sending a strong statement to Russia that we will not tolerate any actions against the territorial integrity of Ukraine.

c) Does your party support strengthening sanctions against the Russian Federation, including the removal of Russia from the SWIFT international payments system, and increased sanctions against Russia's financial, energy and military sectors?

We would be open to using stronger multilateral, targeted sanctions to address Russia's malign behaviour.

d) If elected, will your government oppose the construction of the Nord Stream II pipeline, including through the implementation of sanctions against companies involved in its construction?

In government, we will look at this issue and ensure we stand up against Russia's expansionist behaviour.

e) If elected, will your government implement Magnitsky Act sanctions against Russian officials responsible for the abuse of internationally recognized human rights of Ukrainian citizens?

Yes, Magnitsky Act sanctions should be used when appropriate.

f) If elected, will your government designate the Russian Federation a state supporter of terrorism and designate the so-called Luhansk and Donetsk “Peoples’ Republics” as terrorist organizations?

The list of terrorist entities is maintained by the Department of Public Safety, upon the advice of the Minister and based on criminal and other intelligence. We don’t want to interfere in this process.

## 2. Supporting Democratic and Economic Reform in Ukraine

a) If elected, will your government increase international assistance funding to Ukraine?

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 percent of our Gross National Income to international aid.

b) Does your party support increasing Canadian humanitarian assistance to all those who have suffered as a result of Russia’s war against Ukraine?

Canada should do as much as possible to meet the humanitarian needs of all Ukrainians who have borne the brunt of armed conflict. Canada should extend existing aid. This may well include increasing humanitarian assistance to Ukraine.

c) Does your party support a long-term Canadian commitment to strengthening Ukraine’s democratic institutions, supporting Ukraine’s European and NATO integration and continued reform efforts?

Yes. Ukraine is a friend of Canada’s and deserves our full-hearted support as it consolidates its democracy and rebuilds in the face of conflict. Canada is well-positioned to provide economic, political, and diplomatic support, by deepening people-to-people contacts and providing assistance to Ukraine’s institutions.

d) If elected, will your government work with Export Development Canada to promote increased trade and investment between Canada and Ukraine, including providing accessible loans and export insurance for Canadian companies investing in Ukraine?

Yes.

### 3. Ensuring Security and Dignity for Seniors

a) If elected, will your government establish a national program to support pharmacare for lower-income seniors?

Seniors deserve a retirement that's financially secure and dignified. We will lead a National Seniors Strategy that will work with the provinces, territories, and Indigenous governments to make seniors health care a priority, reduce isolation, and tackle seniors' poverty.

b) Does your party support improving access to safe and affordable care for seniors by increasing investments in programs, staffing and facilities?

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.

c) If elected, will your government commit to increased cooperation and consultation with ethno-cultural organizations and institutions who provide care to seniors?

Yes.

d) Seniors are amongst the most active volunteers in Canada. Does your party support formal recognition and assistance to older Canadians engaged in volunteer work?

Yes.

e) If elected, will your party provide a caregiver tax credit for family caregivers and expand the EI Compassionate Care Benefit?

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) Does your party commit to streamlining the process of Canadian professional accreditation for newcomers?

Yes. That's why a New Democrat government will make sure that our immigration policies and levels meet Canada's labour-force needs and recognize people's experiences, contributions, and ties to Canada. We will work with the provinces to address gaps in settlement services and improve foreign credentials recognition.

b) If elected, will your government increase support for 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.

c) Does your party support easing restrictions on paths to citizenship for international caregivers working in Canada?

Yes, and our record supports this. If someone is good enough to come and work here, then there should be a path for them to stay permanently.

d) If elected, will your government establish a roadmap to attain visa-free travel for Ukrainian citizens visiting Canada?

Yes, and we have called on the current government repeatedly to take this step.

#### 5. Helping our Culture Flourish

a) *Historical Recognitions* –

i) If elected, will your government adopt legislation establishing October 28 as the annual Day of Commemoration of Canada's First National Internment Operations (1914-1920)?

We support this idea.

ii) Does your party support the recognition of the Deportation of the Crimean Tatar People (Sürgünlik) by the Soviet regime in 1944 as an act of Genocide? If elected, will your government adopt legislation 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) If elected, will your government launch consultations to study ways in which ethno-cultural early learning can be supported?

Yes.

c) If elected, will your government renew the federal tax credit for community-based heritage programming?

Yes.

d) If elected, will your government ensure that the Canada Summer Jobs Program and the Youth Employment Strategy takes into account the needs of youth in ethno-cultural communities?

Yes.

e) If elected, will your government ensure that amateur artists are provided full access to a range of funding opportunities?

Yes. We think that artists should be able to earn a decent living from their art and that government has an important role to play in making sure that a diversity of Canadian voices tell our stories. Recognizing the special challenges faced by people who make a living in the arts and culture industry, we'll make life more affordable by putting in place income tax averaging for artists and cultural workers.

f) If elected, will your government adopt legislation designating September as Ukrainian Canadian Cultural Heritage Month?

Yes.

## 6. Fighting Online Hate and Disinformation

a) Does your party support the development of a national strategy to combat online hate and disinformation?

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.

b) Does your party support working with stakeholders to eliminate online hate from social media, including Russian disinformation campaigns that promulgate hatred against Ukraine and Ukrainians in Canada?

Anti-Semitism, anti-Black racism, Islamophobia, and other forms of hate are too often allowed to flourish on the internet. A New Democrat government will convene a national working group to counter online hate and protect public safety, and make sure that social media platforms are responsible for removing hateful and extremist content before it can do harm.

c) If elected, will your government adopt legislation that will require social media platforms to clearly identify automated social media accounts (bots)?

Yes, we are open to this idea.

d) If elected, will your government investigate Russian state propaganda networks broadcasting in Canada regarding their contravention of the Television Broadcasting Regulations?

Yes.