



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

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: Justine Bell

Constituency: North Vancouver

Political Party: NDP

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 at the NDP condemn all forms of international aggression like Russia's occupation of Ukrainian sovereign territory.

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?

The NDP want to make sure all Canadian made weapons sold internationally are used for defensive purposes and peacekeeping only. We will not sell to countries with human rights abuses. By my understanding this means yes the NDP would be open to supplying Ukraine with the means to defend itself against aggression. We also are committed to reaffirming Canada's position as peacekeepers and defending our allies. We would hope to be part of a multinational unit sent to help defend Ukraine

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. We need to uphold and assist the democratic institutions of our allies.

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?

The NDP believe everyone has a right to age with dignity. We have a national pharmacare and visioncare strategy to assist with that. Our caretaker tax break and Senior GLI assistance is all part of our National Seniors Strategy. We are also committed to investing in organizations that assist seniors and reduce senior isolation.

4. Welcoming Newcomers to Canada

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

Yes. The NDP hope to direct the national immigration strategy to have more of a focus on making sure families are united and can immigrants can be connected to communities

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

We do not currently have a policy in this regards, but I would be open to exploring this idea if it is important to many people within the Ukrainian community.

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?

This is something I personally support, but the NDP have not made any public comments on this regard. I would be open to presenting to caucus if elected.

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

This is definitely a part of Canadian history that is disappointing and needs to be recognized greater so we can acknowledge our past. I would support this.

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

Yes. Canada is a multicultural country that relies on these programs and services to maintain national pride, unity and identity. We will provide secure and stable funding.

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

Yes, the NDP are committed to more support for language groups and training.

6. Fighting Online Hate and Disinformation

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

If elected, the NDP will establish a National Working Group tasked with developing strategies to combat online hate speech. We will not tolerate hate speech in any regard.