



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: MICHAEL LEVITT

Constituency: YORK CENTRE

Political Party: LIBERAL

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?**

I condemn Russia's illegal invasion and annexation in the strongest terms. I will always support the people of Ukraine, Ukraine's sovereignty, and its territorial integrity. The people of Ukraine can count on the continued and unwavering friendship and support of a Liberal Government.

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?

Yes, I support providing Ukraine with defensive weapons as well as increased security cooperation and sanctions. Canada has sanctioned over 300 individuals and entities since Russia's illegal annexation of Crimea and it was Liberals who chose to sanction Igor Sechin and Vladimir Yakunin, something the previous Conservative government chose not to do. The Liberal government also took the important step of allowing Canadian companies to begin selling small arms to the Ukrainian government and we strongly supported Operation UNIFIER, including extending the Operation to 2022

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 the continued provision of humanitarian assistance in Eastern Ukraine. Liberals have invested millions of dollars to support the countless Ukrainians who have suffered hardships due to Russian hostility. I will continue to support humanitarian efforts in the region, including supporting women, children and seniors, who have been among the hardest hit by Russian aggression. As an MP, I will also support efforts to strengthen Ukraine's democratic institutions.

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, I support making sure our health institutions are sufficiently funded to give our senior citizens the best support and care. Liberals have pledged \$11 billion over ten years to improve healthcare- and part of that money will go to new rehab systems for seniors in care and at home, new equipment for seniors centres and training for support staff. As an MP, I will always be open to working in partnership with ethno-cultural organizations and institutions to ensure that seniors get the best possible care.

4. Welcoming Newcomers to Canada

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

When newcomers succeed, all of Canada succeeds. The Liberal government has significantly expanded settlement and integration services across the country and increased funding to community settlement organizations by over 30%. As an MP, I would welcome the opportunity to build on this progress and work in partnership with ethno-cultural, community-based settlement services for newcomers.

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

I support working quickly to make travel from Ukraine to Canada as easy as possible- and I know that a visa-free entry has been part of that discussion. Great steps that have already been taken by the Liberal government are the CAN+ program, which expedites and streamlines visa processes for qualifying travellers, as well as our ongoing work on youth mobility- allowing young people to travel, study, and work in each country. As an MP, I would be actively involved in these discussions and continue work towards further progress.

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?

I personally, as well as the Liberal Party, support recognition of the Crimean Tatar Sürgünlik as genocide and to mark the Crimean Tatar Deportation Memorial Day on May 18th of every year. I recognize that this is a shameful chapter in Canadian history and I pledge to work with the Ukrainian-Canadian community to commemorate this dark period in our history.

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

If such a measure were proposed in Parliament and had the support of the Ukrainian-Canadian community in my riding, I would be proud to support the establishment of October 28th as the annual Day of Commemoration of Canada's First National Internment Operations.

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

Yes, I support increasing funding to multicultural programming in Canada. Programs that allow Canadians to learn, showcase, and celebrate their heritage are integral to the Canadian experience.

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

A person's connection to their language is at the core of their culture and identity. I will always advocate for the needs of the people in my community, including programming to support connections to their language and culture.

6. Fighting Online Hate and Disinformation

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

Like all candidates that have put their names forward in this election I have seen first hand how damaging online hate and disinformation can be. Members of minority communities have too often been the targets of discrimination and hatred. I unequivocally support increased measures to protect Canadians- both online and offline. The Liberal government introduced a digital charter, and we are committed to moving forward with regulations that require platforms to remove illegal content, including hate speech, radicalization, and incitement to violence within 24 hours or face financial penalties.