



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: Ted Opitz

Constituency: Etobicoke Centre

Political Party: Conservative 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?

I condemn the illegal occupation and invasion of Crimea and parts of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts in the strongest terms. As a Member of Parliament for Etobicoke Centre (2011-2015) I stood up multiple times in the House of Commons and condemned the illegal actions of Russia and Putin's military adventurism, for which I was placed on Vladimir Putin's blacklist alongside 12 other Canadians.

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?

I am in favor of providing Ukraine with lethal defensive weapons, as is the Conservative Party of Canada. For the last 4 years members of the Conservative caucus have been calling on the Liberal government to provide Ukraine with defensive weapons. The Trudeau Liberals failed to respond to this call. Andrew Scheer's Conservatives want the federal government to give Ukraine \$9.5 million worth of military equipment originally intended to help Kurdish forces in their fight against Islamic militants in Iraq. We are also committed to using the Magnitsky legislation to hold corrupt foreign officials accountable.

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?

Andrew Scheer has made it clear that Canada needs to help its allies, like Ukraine, more. We are committed to providing more humanitarian assistance to support Ukraine in strengthening the democratic institutions it is trying to build.

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 previous Conservative Government introduced the largest increase to the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) for low-income seniors in 25 years. Our seniors helped build our country – we owe them so much better. Andrew Scheer and the Conservatives have a plan to make life more affordable for our seniors. We will: scrap the carbon tax, take the GST off of home heating, provide a Universal Tax cut that also applies to pension income and leave more money in their pockets so they can more easily do things like visiting their grandkids or enjoying a trip away from home. A Conservative government will increase the Age Credit by \$1,000 per year, per senior. For a couple, it will be up to \$300 more in their pockets.

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

I support more assistance for settlement services for newcomers to help them faster adjust to their new life in Canada, as well as find a new job and start building their new life. A Conservative government will improve credential recognition and make it easier for new Canadians who have existing skills that meet our standards to work here. We all lose out when doctors and engineers are not able to practice their profession.

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

The visa-free travel regime between Ukraine and the EU proved to be a great success. More Ukrainians are now travelling and working in Europe building bridges and gaining invaluable work experience that would serve Ukraine's interests. Successive Canadian governments of different parties have consistently applied the same objective criteria in assessing whether to grant visa exemptions. This is to ensure that visa policy is based on Canada's national interest, and in accordance with the rule of law, rather than arbitrary political considerations. If elected, I will strongly advocate for a visa-free regime between Ukraine and Canada.

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 fully support the recognition of the Deportation of Crimean Tatars as an act of Genocide. It was a Conservative MP Kerry Diotte who introduced Bill C-306 in Canadian Parliament, entitled "An Act to establish a Crimean Tatar Deportation ("Sürgünlik") Memorial Day and to recognize the mass deportation of the Crimean Tatars in 1944 as an act of genocide". Sadly, the Bill was defeated by the Liberal caucus in second reading. All parties in Parliament voted in support of the Bill, excluding the governing Liberal party, which clearly demonstrates that the Trudeau Liberals can't be trusted when it comes to support for Ukraine and the Crimean Tatars.

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

I support this initiative.

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?

The threats of tomorrow are far more likely to come through our electronic devices than by land, sea, or air. Canada must be ready to counter these threats. Canada already has a world-class tech sector, especially when it comes to cyber security. We are witnessing election meddling and online disinformation campaigns sponsored by irresponsible players like Russia, China and Iran. We have to make sure that we are prepared to counter cyber threats by investing in our cyber security and protecting our democracy from foreign influence.