



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:** Winter Fedyk

**Constituency:** Regina-Lewvan

**Political Party:** 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?

Yes, absolutely. I condemn Russia's continued violation of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

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?

Our government is already allowing Canadian companies to sell small arms to the Ukrainian government and military in a limited way. More defence and security cooperation will be possible following important structural reforms still being undertaken in Ukraine. We have extended Canada's military training mission, Operation UNIFIER. And we have made it clear that we are willing to impose more sanctions on Russian actors where such measures are appropriate. We have sanctioned an addition of 114 individuals and 15 entities this year in response to Russia's aggression.

## **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 have already provided about \$150 million over the past three years and are always willing to consider further funding. We have willingly engaged in various election observer missions and in efforts to improve the judicial, policing and correctional systems among other key reforms. Hosting the third annual Ukraine Reform Conference in Toronto is a testament to Canada's strong commitment to Ukraine and its efforts for a secure, sovereign and prosperous future. During the conference, the Liberal government announced over \$45 million in new support for Ukraine.

## **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. Our new national platform includes a series of measures aimed at better care and support for seniors, including a long over due increase in the OAS. We have previously provided new federal funding to provinces to support their work in relation to mental health, homecare, palliative care and seniors' housing. We are implementing a new national strategy on dementia. We are strengthening the law to fight elder abuse. In all these areas and more, our policy work is fortified by high levels of cooperation and consultation with ethno-cultural groups and others.

## **4. Welcoming Newcomers to Canada**

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

Having personal experience of working with a refugee family through the Open Doors Society, I believe strongly in effective programs to support newcomers. We need to ensure that new Canadians can integrate into their communities, and the ethno-cultural and community-based models provide a strong example. Federal financial support for the groups and organization that undertake this work has increased by about 30% under our government. And we will continue to look for the best new opportunities.

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

Discussions are underway about ways to enhance travel between Canada and Ukraine. In July, our government announced the Youth Mobility Agreement, where we added Ukraine to the International Experience Canada list for participation. Progress has been made, but more work remains to be done. I would like to see the process move more quickly.

## 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?

Yes. Our government has done so in the past and will again in future.

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

As a descendant of first wave immigrants who came from Ukraine, I understand that this tragic chapter in Canadian history needs to be properly acknowledged. We need to work closely with the Ukrainian Canadian community to find the best way to do so.

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

Yes, and our government has already begun to do so. For instance, the Community Support, Multiculturalism, and Anti-Racism Initiatives (CSMARI) Program announced new funding for multi and single-origin ethnic community projects and community capacity building.

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

While this type of funding is primarily within provincial jurisdiction, the Government of Canada has supportive programming and financial resources which may be of assistance.

## **6. Fighting Online Hate and Disinformation**

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

Yes. We are already moving in this direction - to demonstrate that there is no room for hate in Canada. Among many other steps, we have recently listed two right-wing violent extremist organizations under Canada's Criminal Code. We are also working with social media service providers to expedite the identification of hate-speech on their platforms and the best means to remove it promptly. We are prepared to regulate, as necessary.