



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: Yvan Baker

Constituency: Etobicoke Centre

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?

I condemn Russia's invasion of Ukraine in the strongest terms possible. I condemn Russia's continuing war in, and its occupation of parts of, Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts. More than 13,000 people have died because of Russia's aggression and more than 1.5 million people have been displaced. I further condemn Russia's illegal annexation and occupation of Crimea where gross violations of human rights, such as political repression and the expelling of the indigenous Crimean Tatars, continue against the local population. Both our Liberal Government and I stand shoulder to shoulder with Ukraine and we are unwavering in our support for Ukraine's territorial integrity and sovereignty.

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, to all three questions. I support our Liberal government's 2017 decision to add Ukraine to the Automatic Firearms Country Control List which allows for the export of Canadian-made lethal defensive weapons to Ukraine.

If elected, I would work to build upon the important security initiatives through which our Liberal government has supported, and continues to support, Ukraine, such as:

- extending and expanding Operation UNIFIER;
- signing the Canada-Ukraine Defence Cooperation Arrangement;
- co-founding the Ukrainian Defence Reform Advisory Board to prepare Ukraine for future NATO membership.

Following Russia's aggressive military actions in the Black Sea and the Kerch Strait, our government sanctioned 114 individuals and 15 entities, under the Special Economic Measures Act.

Our government has, thus far, sanctioned 30 Russian individuals under Canada's Magnitsky legislation for gross human rights violations. And it was the Liberals who chose to sanction Igor Sechin and Valdimir Yakunin, something the previous Conservative government chose not to do.

Russian military aggression in Ukrainian territorial waters and the Black Sea and other naval actions have created a de facto economic embargo of the Ukrainian seaports of Mariupol and Berdyansk. I would work as MP to call for targeted sanctions against the corporate entities, holding companies and oligarchs which own and operate the Russian seaports of Rostov-on-Don and Novorossiysk and call for further expansion of Magnitsky sanctions.

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 would support building on and increasing the significant assistance our Liberal government has provided to Ukraine. Among other significant investments, these include:

A re-elected Liberal government will always be there to support the people of Ukraine, Ukraine's sovereignty, and its territorial integrity. As part of this support, we have provided over \$130 million in assistance to Ukraine since 2016, support which will continue as long as it is necessary. The people of Ukraine can count on the continued and unwavering friendship and support of Canada. We also ensured funding for observation missions to Ukraine for this year's presidential and parliamentary elections, with more than \$24 million in total support, which included sending over 200 Canadian election observers for each of the two rounds of the Ukrainian presidential election and over 300 observers for the parliamentary election.

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. That is why the Liberal Party of Canada is going to build on our historic investment in health care with an additional \$6 billion to further strengthen our health care system. We will launch a National Pharmacare strategy to help seniors and families deal with the high cost of prescription drugs. We are investing to improve access to home care and palliative care. When I served as the MPP for Etobicoke Centre, I built a strong track record of working with ethnocultural organizations and institutions who provide care to seniors. If elected MP, I will look forward to building upon that record and increasing cooperation.

4. Welcoming Newcomers to Canada

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

Yes. 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 ethnocultural, community-based settlement services for newcomers.

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

Yes. And in fact, this is one of the issues I am advocating for in my own campaign and would continue this advocacy as MP.

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 and yes.

It was unfortunate that, earlier this year, the Conservatives voted down Borys Wrzesnewskyj's motion, which required unanimous consent, that would have resulted in Parliament recognizing the Sürgünlik as genocide and establishing May 18th as an official memorial day. Mr. Wrzesnewskyj's motion was later passed unanimously in the Foreign Affairs committee. As MP, I will advocate for this important initiative.

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

Yes.

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

Yes. Multicultural programs 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 in this election, I have seen firsthand 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. Our 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.