



КОНГРЕС УКРАЇНЦІВ КАНАДИ

UKRAINIAN CANADIAN CONGRESS

CONGRÈS DES UKRAINIENS-CANADIENS

## **Briefing Note for Canada's Members of Parliament**

### **UCC Priorities for Fall 2020 Session**

1. Covid-19 Response: Better outcomes for seniors' care and support to caregivers
2. Assistance for not-for profit organizations and community educational, cultural and arts programs
3. Support for Ukraine in the face of continuing Russian aggression

**September 21, 2020**

In the Fall 2020 Session of Canada's Parliament, the Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC) is asking Members of Parliament to support three policy priorities:

### **Covid-19 Response: Better outcomes for seniors' care and support to caregivers**

#### *Recommendation*

*The UCC calls Members of Parliament to support the establishment of appropriate national levels of safety and care standards for long-term care facilities, which would be implemented with the cooperation of provincial and territorial government that oversee these facilities.*

### **2. Assistance for not-for profit organizations and community educational, cultural and arts programs**

#### *Recommendation*

*The UCC calls on Members of Parliament to support the renewal of the formerly available federal tax credit for community-based heritage language instruction.*

#### *Recommendation*

*The UCC calls on Members of Parliament to support the investment in government funding opportunities for which non-professional and community-based arts, cultural, music and dance groups would be eligible.*

### **3. Support for Ukraine in the face of continuing Russian aggression**

#### *Recommendation*

*The UCC calls on Members of Parliament to support the continued strengthening of Canada's defence and security relationship with Ukraine; continued support for Ukraine's civil society sector through Canada's international development assistance program, and the strengthening and increase of sanctions against Russia for its continued war against Ukraine.*

### **Covid-19 Response: Better outcomes for seniors' care and support to caregivers**

The Covid-19 pandemic has seen particularly negative health effects for Canada's seniors and vulnerable members of our communities. The UCC has seen first-hand the critical role that community organizations, church groups, and culturally oriented long-term care homes have played for older adults in our community.

The forty Ukrainian long-term care homes across Canada have seen better health outcomes and higher rates of life satisfaction for seniors and their families than have comparable for-profit institutions. This is borne out by evidence-based policy studies of long-term care facilities.

Relatively low ratios of caregivers to clients and a lack of oversight have contributed to the crisis in long-term care homes in several provinces brought on by the Covid-19 pandemic. Investments must be made in infrastructure, skills training, and staffing to ensure that older adults have access to safe and affordable care.

*Recommendation*

*The UCC calls Members of Parliament to support the establishment of appropriate national levels of safety and care standards for long-term care facilities, which would be implemented with the cooperation of provincial and territorial government that oversee these facilities.*

**Assistance for not-for profit organizations and community educational, cultural and arts programs**

Since March 2020, faced with the growing challenges of uncertainty, insecurity and risks to public health brought on by the Covid-19 pandemic, the UCC's dedicated volunteers have been working hard to support our community.

The UCC's response to the covid-19 pandemic is based on a multi-pronged approach – supporting our community's educational institutions; supporting our seniors and vulnerable members of our community and staying connected and informed through regular webinars, workshops, newsletters and bulletins and resources. Part of the UCC's Covid-19 programming is supported by the Canadian Red Cross and Government of Canada through the Covid-19 Emergency Support for Community Organizations Granting Program for Nonprofits, for which the UCC is grateful.

The Covid-19 pandemic has had a negative impact on not-for profit organizations that provide educational, cultural and arts programming – organizations that enrich the lives of all Canadians.

Heritage language schools and community cultural organizations have been particularly hard-hit by the pandemic. Community cultural organizations such as dance, music, visual arts groups and others rely on events to raise revenue to fund their operations, which have had to be cancelled. Government support programs have in the vast majority of cases focused on support for the professional arts community, leaving community and amateur organizations ineligible for support.

*Recommendation*

*The UCC calls on Members of Parliament to support the renewal of the formerly available federal tax credit for community-based heritage language instruction.*

*Recommendation*

*The UCC calls on Members of Parliament to support the investment in government funding opportunities for which non-professional and community-based arts, cultural, music and dance groups will be eligible.*

## **Support for Ukraine in the face of continuing Russian aggression**

Since Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2014, the global geopolitical threat from Russia has continued to grow. Russia's recent malign activities in Belarus in support of dictator Alexander Lukashenko further destabilize the region. Canada should continue to strengthen our defence and security relationship with Ukraine through concrete measures to secure a lasting peace in Europe and end Russia's war against Ukraine.

A democratic and economically stable and strong Ukraine is key to restoring peace in Europe. Anti-corruption and capacity-building measures will be critical to Ukraine's long-term success. The continued strengthening of Ukraine's vibrant civil society and independent media institutions, which serve to preclude backsliding on necessary reform by the authorities – particularly in the fields of rule of law and judicial independence reforms, is especially important.

### *Recommendation*

*The UCC calls on Members of Parliament to support the continued strengthening of Canada's defence and security relationship with Ukraine; continued support for Ukraine's civil society sector through Canada's international development assistance program, and the strengthening and increase of sanctions against Russia for its continued war against Ukraine .*

## **Who We Are**

The Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC) is the voice of Canada's Ukrainian community. The Congress brings together under one umbrella all the national, provincial and local Ukrainian Canadian organizations. Together with its member organizations, the UCC has been leading, coordinating and representing the interests of one of Canada's largest ethnic communities (1.4 million) since 1940 and has been instrumental in shaping Canada's social, economic and political landscape.

## **What We Do**

The Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC) represents the Ukrainian Canadian community before the people and Government of Canada, promotes linkages with Ukraine and identifies and addresses the needs of the Ukrainian community in Canada to ensure its continued existence and development for the enhancement of Canada's socio-cultural fabric.

## **UCC National Policy Guide**

The UCC National Policy Guide outlines the priority issues of the Ukrainian Canadian community. The Policy Guide is the result of extensive consultation, research and community engagement. We have developed informed, front-line perspectives on public policy challenges that impact the Ukrainian Canadian community and the broader Canadian public.

The UCC National Policy Guide is available on the UCC website - <https://www.ucc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/National-Policy-Guide.pdf>