



КОНГРЕС УКРАЇНЦІВ КАНАДИ

UKRAINIAN CANADIAN CONGRESS

CONGRÈS DES UKRAINIENS-CANADIENS

**UCC Briefing Note to the Honourable Michael Chong, PC, MP
Shadow Minister of Foreign Affairs**

UCC Policy Recommendations – Canada-Ukraine Relations

July 14, 2021

Policy Recommendations of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC) for Canada:

Defence and Security

1. Work with allies to accelerate a NATO Membership Action Plan for Ukraine, in keeping with NATO's Open Door Policy and Ukraine's strategic decision to become a member of the Alliance.
2. Expand Operation UNIFIER, Canada's military training mission in Ukraine, and increase the scope of the mission to accelerate full interoperability between Ukrainian and NATO Armed Forces.
3. Continue to work through NATO-Ukraine Trust Funds and the Defence Reform Advisory Board to support Ukraine's reform efforts in the defence and security sectors.
4. Work with allies to increase Ukraine's naval and air defence capacities in the Black Sea and Azov Sea and increase NATO air and naval presence in the region.
5. Increase the provision of real-time satellite imagery and intelligence to Ukraine or Russian military movements.

Stopping Nord Stream 2

6. Join American and European allies and explicitly voice Canada's opposition to the completion of the Nord Stream 2 pipeline.
7. Work with the United States, the Baltic States, Poland and like-minded countries to ensure that the Nord Stream 2 pipeline is never completed. Completion of Nord Stream 2 would significantly increase the risk of further Russian invasion of Ukraine's territory.

Sanctions Policy

8. Strengthen sectoral sanctions against Russia, including removal of Russia from the SWIFT International Payments System.
9. Designate the so-called Donetsk and Luhansk "Peoples' Republics" as terrorist organizations and list Russia as a state supporter of terrorism.
10. Use the Magnitsky Act to directly target human rights abusers by instituting travel bans and asset freezes against them in order to hold Russian officials to account for human rights abuses against Ukrainian prisoners being held illegally in Russia and occupied Crimea, Donetsk and Luhansk, and against Russian officials responsible for persecuting the Ukrainian national minority in Russia.

11. Assign officials from the Canadian embassy in Russia to attend, observe and report on court proceedings targeting Ukrainian political prisoners and activists of Ukrainian organizations in Russia as a sign of solidarity.

Defence and Security

Ukraine's strategic goal of NATO membership is enshrined in Ukraine's Constitution and in its National Security Strategy.

At the recent NATO Summit on June 14, the leaders of the Alliance stated, "We reiterate the decision made at the 2008 Bucharest Summit that Ukraine will become a member of the Alliance with the Membership Action Plan (MAP) as an integral part of the process [...] We stand firm in our support for Ukraine's right to decide its own future and foreign policy course free from outside interference."

The NATO Leaders also stressed the reforms that Ukraine must implement to reach the goal of NATO membership. These include: combating corruption; further reforms in the security sector; promoting the rule of law; promoting an inclusive political process; decentralisation reform.

Ukraine's membership in NATO would not only strengthen Ukraine's security; NATO membership for Ukraine would strengthen European security and would deter Russian aggression against EU states.

Canada, together with the US, UK, Baltic States and Poland have been strong advocates for Ukraine's increasing integration with NATO.

The UCC recommends that Canada:

1. *Work with allies to accelerate a NATO Membership Action Plan for Ukraine, in keeping with NATO's Open Door Policy and Ukraine's strategic decision to become a member of the Alliance.*
2. *Expand Operation UNIFIER, Canada's military training mission in Ukraine, and increase the scope of the mission to accelerate full interoperability between Ukrainian and NATO Armed Forces.*
3. *Continue to work through NATO-Ukraine Trust Funds and the Defence Reform Advisory Board to support Ukraine's reform efforts in the defence and security sectors.*
4. *Work with allies to increase Ukraine's naval and air defence capacities in the Black Sea and Azov Sea and increase NATO air and naval presence in the region.*

5. *Increase the provision of real-time satellite imagery and intelligence to Ukraine or Russian military movements.*

Stopping Nord Stream 2

If completed, the Nord Stream 2 pipeline would remove an important impediment to a further Russian invasion of Ukraine, as Russia currently relies on Ukrainian pipelines to transport gas to the EU. Nord Stream 2 would allow Russia to deliver gas directly to Germany, making Germany and the European Union significantly more reliant on Russian gas, increasing Russia's leverage over Europe and destabilizing European energy security.

Completion of the Nord Stream 2 pipeline is strongly opposed by many EU States, including Poland, Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia. The European Parliament also strongly opposes the completion of Nord Stream 2.

Through the Protecting European Energy Security Act and the Protecting European Energy Security Clarification Act, both adopted with overwhelming bipartisan support, the United States Congress has mandated that the US Government impose mandatory sanctions to halt the construction of the Nord Stream 2 pipeline. It is disappointing that the Biden Administration has thus far issued waivers on some of these mandatory sanctions. These waivers are set to be reviewed in the coming weeks.

Canada has a strategic national interest in ensuring that Europe is whole, free and at peace. European unity is a key pillar of Canada's national security.

The UCC recommends that Canada:

6. *Join American and European allies and explicitly voice Canada's opposition to the completion of the Nord Stream 2 pipeline.*
7. *Work with the United States, the Baltic States, Poland and like-minded countries to ensure that the Nord Stream 2 pipeline is never completed. Completion of Nord Stream 2 would significantly increase the risk of further Russian invasion of Ukraine's territory.*

Sanctions Policy

No significant Canadian sanctions against Russia have been implemented since March 2019, when 114 individuals and 15 entities were sanctioned for aggressive actions against Ukraine.

Two minor sanctions announcements followed in January 2020 and March 2021, wherein 6 individuals, and 2 individuals and 4 entities, respectively, were sanctioned.

In the intervening two years since March 2019, both the United States and the European Union have expanded sanctions against Russian officials and entities more broadly than has Canada.

Russia is illegally detaining over 100 political prisoners who are Ukrainian citizens, many from occupied Crimea. A similarly grave human rights situation exists in Russian-occupied parts of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts, where Ukrainian captives of Russian and proxy forces are targets of systemic human rights violations and torture.

While Canada has the authority to sanction the perpetrators of these human rights violations utilizing the Magnitsky Act, the Government of Canada has chosen thus far not to exercise this authority.

At the end of February 2021, the UCC provided the Government of Canada with a briefing note regarding three prominent cases of the abuse of internationally recognized human rights of Ukrainian citizens in Russian-occupied Crimea.¹ Working with Ukrainian partners, the UCC also provided the Government of Canada with names of Russian and occupation officials responsible for these abuses. The UCC has not received a response from the Government of Canada.

Coupled with its systemic and egregious violations of the human rights of Ukrainian citizens living under Russian occupation, the Russian government has carried out a campaign of intimidation and pressure against the Ukrainian national minority that lives in Russia. Ukrainian institutions have been closed or banned, Ukrainian activists who are citizens of Russia have been targeted with repression.

The Ukrainian World Congress (UWC) has been banned from operating on Russian territory as an “undesirable organization.” The UWC has attempted to seek redress before the Russian courts which has resulted in the persecution of the UWC’s nominal plaintiff by Russian authorities.

The UCC recommends that Canada:

8. *Strengthen sectoral sanctions against Russia, including removal of Russia from the SWIFT International Payments System.*
9. *Designate the so-called Donetsk and Luhansk “Peoples’ Republics” as terrorist organizations and list Russia as a state supporter of terrorism.*

¹ UCC Brief – Human Rights Violations in Russian-occupied Crimea and Canada’s sanctions policy <https://www.ucc.ca/2021/03/03/ucc-brief-human-rights-violations-in-russian-occupied-crimea-and-canadas-sanctions-policy/>

10. *Use the Magnitsky Act to directly target human rights abusers by instituting travel bans and asset freezes against them in order to hold Russian officials to account for human rights abuses against Ukrainian prisoners being held illegally in Russia and occupied Crimea, Donetsk and Luhansk, and against Russian officials responsible for persecuting the Ukrainian national minority in Russia.*
11. *Assign officials from the Canadian embassy in Russia to attend, observe and report on court proceedings targeting Ukrainian political prisoners and activists of Ukrainian organizations in Russia as a sign of solidarity.*