



КОНГРЕС УКРАЇНЦІВ КАНАДИ

UKRAINIAN CANADIAN CONGRESS

CONGRÈS DES UKRAINIENS-CANADIENS

January 25, 2022

Mr. Jagmeet Singh, MP, Leader  
New Democratic Party of Canada  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

Dear Mr. Singh:

**Re: Comments by Leah Gazan, MP, Winnipeg Centre**

The Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC), which represents the interests of the 1.4-million strong Ukrainian community in Canada, is appalled by comments made by NDP Member of Parliament Leah Gazan, MP, Winnipeg Centre.

In response to Canada providing a loan of \$120 million to Ukraine, on January 23, Ms. Gazan stated, “As a descendent of a holocaust survivor, the Canadian government’s 120 million dollars of funding for an anti-Semitic, neo-nazi & fascist militia is horrifying. The rise of white supremacy and fascism is real. Time to stop the cowboy politics!”

Ukraine is not governed by an “anti-Semitic, neo-nazi and fascist militia.” The President and Parliament of Ukraine are democratically elected. Such unfounded and ignorant accusations against Ukraine and its government are well-known and tired Russian propaganda tropes that the Russian regime and its fellow travellers use in an attempt to delegitimize the Ukrainian peoples’ right to independence and justify the war of aggression that Russia has been waging against Ukraine since 2014. These false Russian claims have been repudiated numerous times, including by organizations and leaders of Ukraine’s Jewish community.

Today Ukraine’s independence is under serious threat from a renewed Russian military offensive. Canada and our government are to be commended for supporting Ukraine’s democratic choice and Ukraine’s right to independence. It is incomprehensible to our community that a Member of the New Democratic Party of Canada would oppose this support. Ms. Gazan’s destructive rhetoric, particularly from a Member of Parliament, is also dangerous and could provoke attacks against our community.

The UCC calls on you, as leader of the NDP, to condemn these hateful and inaccurate remarks from your party’s Member of Parliament and dissociate the NDP from them. The UCC would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss the NDP’s policy positions regarding Canada-Ukraine relations, at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely,

**UKRAINIAN CANADIAN CONGRESS**

Ihor Michalchyshyn, CEO

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