



League of Ukrainian Canadian Women
National Executive

Ліга Українок Канади - Крайова Управа

AUGUST 7, 2014

**REMARKS Delivered by LISA SHYMKO
National President, League of Ukrainian Canadian Women (LUCW)
At Canadian Forces Base TRENTON
As Canada Airlifts Military Aid to Ukraine**

Defence Minister Nicholson, Metropolitan Kalischuk, Bishop Chmilar, Members of Parliament James Bezan and Ted Oritz, representatives of the Canadian Armed Forces, ladies and gentlemen, it is an honour to be at CFB Trenton to participate in today's announcement and ceremony.



Not since World War II, has Europe faced a greater threat to peace and stability, than that posed by Russia's current military aggression against Ukraine. The fight currently being waged by the Ukrainian people and their defence forces against Russian state-sponsored terrorists, is nothing less than a fight to protect our global security and geopolitical stability. It is a fight in defense of the very principles that we Canadians cherish so dearly: human rights, democracy, peace, security, and the right of every nation to protect its independence and territorial integrity.

The Government of Canada has stood shoulder to shoulder with the Ukrainian people, as they aspire to rid themselves of authoritarianism, strengthen their democracy, and find their rightful place in the European family of nations. Together with my Canadian colleagues, I was privileged to join Prime Minister Harper on two historic visits to Ukraine, most recently, this past March,

after the EuroMaidan protests. Canada has demonstrated unwavering leadership on the world stage, by rallying its G-7 and international partners to take decisive and punitive measures against Russia. Further pre-emptive steps must continue to be taken by Canada and its allies to stop the escalation of Russian military aggression.

We have embraced Canada's efforts to improve the business-enabling environment in Ukraine, through the recent trade development mission undertaken by Minister Ed Fast. And just recently, we welcomed intensified levels of sanctions imposed by Canada against Russia in the banking and defence sectors.

With over 1,400 people killed and 4,000 injured, the Ukrainian people have paid too high a price for their freedom, to see the world simply stand by and hope for the best. Our joint efforts here today are a testament to the fact that we Canadians believe that there is no moral equivalence between terrorists and peace-makers, between aggressors and defenders, between those who invade and those who protect.

And so, in addition to the principled actions taken by our Canadian government, in my capacity as Chair of the Canada-Ukraine Parliamentary Centre and as the newly-elected President of the League of Ukrainian Canadian Women, I also wish to acknowledge the outstanding efforts of several Canadian institutions and NGO's represented here today, namely, Buduchnist Credit Union, BCU Foundation, the League of Ukrainian Canadians, and the International Council in Support of Ukraine, all of whom have been at the forefront of providing humanitarian assistance, medical aid, counseling, and social service support to the families of the fallen heroes of Ukraine's EuroMaidan and now, the Ukrainian civilians and young military personnel injured by Russian-backed terrorist attacks.

As Prime Minister Harper recently stated, Canada has an historic track-record of standing up to systems of oppression, be it Nazism, Communism, or present-day state-sponsored terrorism. Our presence here today is a testament to the fact that, so long as we remain vigilant and stand together with our partners in defence of the values that unite us, the promise of freedom, democracy, and security for Ukraine, and every other peace-loving nation, shall never die.

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