

## Canada's Defence Policy Review Public Consultation 2016

Position Paper Submitted by the Ukrainian Canadian Congress

### INTRODUCTION

The current global security situation provides both serious challenges and important opportunities to protecting Canada's security and promoting peace and stability abroad. Since the last Defence Policy Review in the 1990s, two key challenges to Canadian and global security have emerged: the threat of global terrorism and an aggressive and belligerent Russia. Both of these threats need to be addressed in comprehensive policy, defence investment and action.

With its invasion of Ukraine and illegal annexation of Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula, Russia has broken guarantees to respect Ukraine's territorial integrity under the Budapest Memorandum. In exchange for security guarantees from the United States, United Kingdom and Russia, Ukraine voluntarily surrendered its nuclear arsenal (the world's third largest). Russia's actions and the inadequate response from the United States and the UK in support of Ukraine's territorial integrity has placed in severe doubt the efficacy and ultimately the value of nuclear non-proliferation, removing essential incentives to halt nuclear programs or reduce nuclear arsenals.

Canada's Defence Policy must take into account not only military, but also political, diplomatic and economic tools in order to protect Canada's sovereignty and promote and contribute to global peace and security.

### THE SECURITY ENVIRONMENT

***Consultation QUESTION: Are there any threats to Canada's security that are not being addressed adequately?***

The largest threat to Canada's security, one which is not being addressed adequately, is a resurgent and belligerent Russian Federation. In 2014, Russia's invasion and occupation of Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula changed the security calculus for Canada and NATO allies. Russia's aggression in Crimea and Eastern Ukraine are a challenge not only to Ukraine's sovereignty, but to the rules-based international order. The peace and stability of the European continent is under direct threat from Russia.

Russian actions in the Arctic present a challenge to Canada's sovereignty in the northern regions. Canada must consider ways in which NORAD needs to evolve and modernize to remain relevant into the future, and what arrangements or investments may be required to make this happen.

**Canada's Defence Policy must take into account the existential threat presented to Canada and allied states of a resurgent and belligerent Russian Federation. Canada's Defence Policy must view Russia not as a partner but as an adversary.**

### CONTRIBUTING TO GLOBAL PEACE AND SECURITY

***Consultation QUESTION - How should Canada contribute to NATO and its evolving role in global security in the years ahead?***

The cornerstone of North American and European security is and must remain the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). Canada must continue to play a key role in NATO, and continue to participate in NATO's multifaceted operations and activities. Canada must increase its commitment to training, capacity-building and closer integration and cooperation with states such as Ukraine that seek cooperation and integration into the NATO security framework.

The best way to ensure peace and security in Europe and for Canada's NATO allies is to ensure the success of Ukraine, and to assist the Government and people of Ukraine in building a country which is democratic, able to defend itself against external aggression, and able to protect its territorial integrity and citizens.

Canada has and must continue to play an important role in capacity-building for Ukraine's Armed Forces. The number of CAF personnel participating in Operation UNIFIER must be increased substantially and Operation UNIFIER should be extended until at least 2020. Canada must take a leadership role in NATO-supported efforts to assist Ukraine, particularly in the continuing reform of Ukraine's Armed Forces.

Canada must conclude negotiations on the Canada Ukraine Defence Cooperation Agreement, which would include a Permanent Joint Board on Defence and a Military Cooperation Committee, and would improve interoperability and deepen cooperation and investment between Canada's and Ukraine's military. Ukraine must be added to the Automatic Firearms Country Control List, to allow the export of certain defensive equipment to Ukraine. To strengthen Ukraine's ability to defend itself against Russia's ongoing aggression, and to significantly raise the cost on Russia of any further attempts at incursion and occupation of into Ukraine's and neighbouring territory, Canada and NATO allies must provide Ukraine with defensive weapons – most importantly, anti-tank, anti-artillery systems and surveillance systems.

The Government of Ukraine has made NATO membership for Ukraine a strategic priority. In addition to supporting the reform and professionalization of Ukraine's military, Canada must be a leader in advocating for Ukraine's NATO membership, once pre-conditions and standards are met by Ukraine.

**Russia's invasion of Ukraine has threatened not only Ukraine, but a Europe whole, free and at peace. It is in Canada's national security interest that Europe remain secure. The best way to ensure the return of peace to Europe is to ensure the success of a democratic, prosperous and strong Ukraine, whose territorial integrity and sovereignty are respected. Therefore an area of priority for the Canada Defence Policy must be to do everything possible to ensure the return of peace to Ukraine and to strengthen the ability Ukraine's security forces to maintain that peace against foreign aggression.**

## **A RENEWED COMMITMENT TO PEACE OPERATIONS**

***Consultation Question: How should the CAF help increase Canada's contribution to peace operations? What role, if any, can the CAF play in conflict prevention, mediation, and/or post-conflict reconstruction in support of wider Government of Canada efforts?***

At such time when Russia finally begins to implement its commitments under the Minsk Agreements, a large and robust international peacekeeping mission will be necessary in order to ensure effective monitoring of the comprehensive withdrawal of Russian troops, weapons and materiel from the eastern Ukrainian oblasts of Donetsk and Luhansk. Canada must play a leading role in ensuring that international monitoring of the Ukraine-Russia border is effective – either through a Mission under the auspices of the United Nations or the OSCE.

Canada must work with Ukraine and international partners to strengthen Ukraine's capacity to monitor and defend its borders. Canada must support reforms and offer training for Ukraine's border patrol and customs agencies. Canadian intelligence capabilities must be leveraged to support Ukraine's ability to reform its intelligence-gathering service and to improve intelligence-sharing between NATO states and Ukraine. Canadian intelligence capabilities and best practices in air and naval reconnaissance must be leveraged to improve coordination and integration between Ukraine and Canada and NATO states.

**Canada's Defence Policy must take into account past Canadian experience and successes and renew and reenergize Canada's commitments to peace operations around the world. Canada's intelligence capabilities must be leveraged to create further integration and increased cooperation with friendly states such as Ukraine.**