

Greetings!

My answers to your questionnaire follow:

Ken Hardie
Liberal Candidate, Fleetwood - Port Kells

1. Yes, I condemn Russia's actions in Crimea and in the Ukraine.
2. I will support a decision by Canada to provide the Ukraine with defensive weapons if such action improves the prospects of peace and security in the region. Canada has already supported humanitarian assistance and measures to strengthen democracy in the Ukraine, and I would endorse additional measures should there be evidence they could be productive.
3. Yes, culturally-appropriate services to seniors improve their quality of life and health outcomes...I'm all for it!
4. Canada's private sponsorship program has been enormously successful in integrating newcomers into our communities. I would be interested in seeing what opportunities are being missed and how the federal government might help.
5. I can't answer the question on visa-free travel for Ukrainian citizens without knowing why visas are currently required.
6. With respect to the section on 'helping our culture flourish', I would need to know more about the events of 1944 and the rationale for a Day of Commemoration on October 28th. Both of these items could make an excellent Private Member's Bill or a motion in the House of Commons. With respect to additional funding for multicultural programming in Canada, I would need an idea of what we would want to consider, given that we are a very multi-cultural society and a desire to see equity in program funding, which already supports a broad range of festivals and other events across Canada.. Heritage language programming is currently focused on preserving our indigenous languages, and I would personally make that a priority.
7. Our government has invested in programs to address online hatred and disinformation. Our next step should be to examine the performance of those investments to determine adjustments to existing programs and opportunities to do more.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide some thoughts in response to your thoughtful questions.

Best regards!