

Name of Candidate: _____ Kristine Lynn Bowman _____

Constituency: _____ Yellowhead _____

Political Party: ____ New Democratic Party of Canada _____

1. Strengthening Canada-Ukraine Security Relations

a) Do you condemn Russia's invasion of Ukraine and illegal occupation of Crimea and parts of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts?

Yes I do, Russia has been inappropriately tiptoeing a very fine line between full invasion/occupancy/war (which would trigger participation from Canada and the US).

b) Do you support Canada providing Ukraine with defensive weapons, increased security cooperation between Canada and Ukraine, and increased Canadian sanctions on Russia in response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine?

Yes I do. While I do believe war should be avoided at all costs, Canada is known to be a peacekeeping country - and in regards to this situation, I don't feel we've maintaining our mandate.

2. Supporting Democratic and Economic Reform in Ukraine

a) Do you support increased Canadian international assistance for Ukraine, including increased humanitarian assistance and increased support for consolidating Ukraine's democratic institutions?

Yes and no. While increasing assistance would be beneficial in the short term, it is far more important for Ukraine to be developing it's infrastructure, education programs, and public services to support it's peoples. If assistance is needed to get these projects going - absolutely. In the long run, Ukraine needs to be working on it's democracy and establishing leadership that operates for the people.

3. Ensuring Security and Dignity for Seniors

a) Do you support increased investment to ensure affordable care for seniors and increased cooperation with ethno-cultural organizations and institutions who provide care to seniors?

Absolutely, our country would not be what it is without those who have come before us. Our country was built on the backs of immigrants - primarily Chinese and Ukrainians, for our founding industries. The way immigrants were treated was horrendous, and I believe it's not just the Indigenous Canada needs to make amends to.

Care needs to be available in culturally appropriate manners, with customs and languages native to it's residents.

4. Welcoming Newcomers to Canada

a) Do you support increasing assistance and cooperation with ethno-cultural, community-based settlement services for newcomers?

Yes, I do. Immigration has, and will always be a pillar of Canada. It's how we've ended up with as culturally rich a country as we are. Immigrants need to have every opportunity with equal access to success as those born in Canada.

b) Do you support visa-free travel to Ukrainian citizens visiting Canada?

Yes and no.

Ideally, no one should require anything but photo ID to travel to any other country. Land borders are invisible boundaries that I personally don't understand.

However, visa's are needed, because if we made exceptions for one, everyone would expect the same.

I would like to see the whole system change, however I doubt that will be accomplished in my lifetime.

5. Helping our Culture Flourish

Historical recognition –

a) Do you support the recognition of the Deportation of the Crimean Tatar People (Sürgünlik) by the Soviet regime in 1944 as an act of Genocide? Do you support establishing May 18 as the annual Day of Remembrance of the Genocide of the Crimean Tatar People?

The deportation in 1944, and the resulting deaths of men, women, and children, is without question an act of genocide. While Beria (on behalf of Stalin) didn't murder people by his own hand, he directly created such unlivable conditions, that many people perished.

World history is not recognized nearly enough outside of Anglo chosen events. Over the past half-year I have been learning a lot (especially about the treatment of Indigenous, through my union involvement), and the lack of education disappoints me. Not only should May 18th be marked (internationally, in my opinion), but our schools need a rewrite as to how we teach Canadian (and world) history.

b) Do you support the establishment of October 28 as the annual Day of Commemoration of Canada's First National Internment Operations?

Again, I do. As mentioned previously, I've been doing a lot of learning regarding Canadian history, who built our country, how they got here, how they were treated, etc. Canada is not the country I grew up believing it was, we (Anglo) need to do a lot to recognize, and better educate our future generations as to the true nature of our history, and the extreme damage it has caused to so many people.

"Holidays" have lost their meaning and significance. It used to be about educating, sharing information, and affecting change. Now they're commercialized reasons for people to spend money (most of them don't even really have).

Our future is dependent on a widespread understanding of how dark Canada's history is. I believe that's a big part of why we have so much classism and racism still prevalent. Our history, and it's lessons, are not being adequately taught.

c) Do you support increasing funding to multicultural programming in Canada?

Without hesitation. In arts, culture, language, the way we teach history, even the way we plan our cities/living spaces/green spaces. I want a Canada that lives by the vast people that make our population. More community programming and spaces need to be created and funded to celebrate the unique cultural contributions of all peoples.

d) Do you support increasing government assistance to heritage language programming in Canada?

Absolutely. Most of my learning recently has been in Indigenous history - and it breaks my heart there are languages that are (or are nearly) lost due to the treatment of Anglo-whites toward the Indigenous (and other fellow Canadians). While it's important to have a common language - people should have access to spaces and services in their native language (if they wish).

6. Fighting Online Hate and Disinformation

a) Do you support increased measures to eliminate online hate and disinformation campaigns from social media?

That's actually a massive source of anger for myself - is how social media platforms get so twisted, disseminating messages of hate and fear. Those that own these giants need to have stricter guidelines of acceptability when it comes to posting/sharing (especially with so many having proclivities to believe everything they read). Conversely, these corporate giants also need to create easier pathways for those spreading messages of understanding, tolerance, and celebration. The algorithms they've developed seem to work backwards, making it easier to spread hate - and they need to be held responsible - and accountable - to correct this.