

Ottawa

Pièce 879, Édifice de la Confédération
Ottawa (Ontario) K1A 0A6
Tél. : 613-992-6779
Télééc. : 613-995-8461



CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
HOUSE OF COMMONS
CANADA

Ottawa

Room 879, Confederation Building
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6
Tel.: 613-992-6779
Fax: 613-995-8461

Circonscription

1001, boulevard Maisonneuve est, suite 507
Montréal (Québec) H2L 4P9
Tél. : 514-522-1339
Télééc. : 514-522-9899

Hélène Laverdière

Députée / Member of Parliament
Laurier—Sainte-Marie
helene.laverdiere@parl.gc.ca

Constituency

1001 Maisonneuve Blvd East, suite 507
Montréal, Quebec H2L 4P9
Tel.: 514-522-1339
Fax: 514-522-9899

Hon. Marie-Claude Bibeau
Minister of International Development
Global Affairs Canada

Hon. Chrystia Freeland
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Global Affairs Canada

January 22, 2018

Re: Canadian international development assistance to Ukraine

Dear Ministers Bibeau and Freeland,

We write to you today concerning Canada's international assistance in Ukraine.

New Democrats have long supported Canadian international development programming in Ukraine. Canadian support to Ukraine has gone a long way to supporting Ukraine's efforts to implement democratic, judicial, and economic reforms, and to build a strong, vibrant, and independent civil society.

Unfortunately, it has been brought to our attention that many development programs funded by the Government of Canada, including on technical assistance, economic reform, and democratic development, are ending this year and have not yet been renewed or reallocated at the same levels as previously committed. Of 26 existing program in the fields of rule of law, democracy, and economic growth, ten programs expire after 2017, and five more after 2018. It is our understanding that, if funding for programs ending in 2017 are not reallocated at the same levels, close to \$15 million per year in funding could be lost over the next three to four years. We suggest a temporary extension of existing programming, should that be necessary to ensure continued progress on the ground.

Given the many challenges in the region, and the importance Ukraine holds to many Canadians, we would ask that Canada renew its commitment to international development assistance programming in Ukraine and at least maintain the current level of funding.

We respectfully ask for an update on the status of Canadian international assistance to Ukraine.

We also take this opportunity to renew our request to the Government of Canada to increase Canada's Official Development Assistance budget. As you know, Canada's ODA now sits at an unacceptably low 0.26% of GNI, down by 4.4 per cent compared to the previous year. That is well below the average of Development Assistance Committee (DAC) countries and far from the 0.7% target adopted by the United Nations and proposed by the Pearson Commission in 1969. We hope that the next federal budget will see a significant increase in ODA funding. We believe Canada should pull its weight internationally, as many of our allies do, by increasing its international commitments.

Sincerely,



Hélène Laverdière, MP
NDP Critic for Foreign Affairs



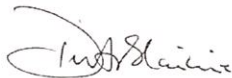
Linda Duncan, MP



Robert Aubin, MP
NDP Critic for International Development



Wayne Stetski, MP



Daniel Blaikie, MP



Sheri Benson, MP