



RESPONSE TO PETITION

Prepare in English and French marking 'Original Text' or 'Translation'

PETITION No.: **421-01679**

BY: **MR. BEZAN (SELKIRK-INTERLAKE-EASTMAN)**

DATE: **SEPTEMBER 27, 2017**

PRINT NAME OF SIGNATORY: **JEAN RIOUX**

Response by the Minister of National Defence

SIGNATURE

Minister or Parliamentary Secretary

SUBJECT

UKRAINE

ORIGINAL TEXT

REPLY

As part of Canada's defence support to Ukraine, the Government of Canada extended Operation UNIFIER, the Canadian Armed Forces military training mission in Ukraine, until the end of March 2019. Operation UNIFIER assists the Government of Ukraine with military training to help improve and build their military capacity. Canada has also contributed over \$16 million in non-lethal military equipment to Ukraine's Armed Forces since 2014, which has included communications systems used for field operations, a mobile field hospital, explosive disposal equipment, medical kits used for military field operations, and night vision goggles. While Canada is not actively considering the provision of lethal assistance to Ukraine at this time, it remains fully committed to supporting Ukraine in its efforts to maintain sovereignty, security and stability.

Moving forward, Canada is looking to leverage its strong ties and existing cooperation with Ukraine to build a sustainable and mutually-beneficial partnership for the long-term. The Canada-Ukraine Defence Cooperation Arrangement (DCA) - signed by Minister of Defence and Ukrainian Defence Minister Stepan Poltorak on April 3, 2017 in Ottawa - exemplifies Canada's unwavering commitment to the growing Canada-Ukraine defence relationship. The DCA identifies and provides a framework for mutual cooperation in areas such as defence policy; defence research, development and production; and military education.