



James Bezan

Member of Parliament
Selkirk-Interlake

December 15, 2010

Hon. Lawrence Cannon, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Foreign Affairs
418-N Centre Block
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Minister,

I wish to register concern about recent actions by the Government of Ukraine against the administration of the Kyiv-Mohyla Academy.

Ukraine's Minister of Education and Science, Dmytro Tabachnyk has proposed a number of questionable policies which impact the Kyiv-Mohyla Academy (NaUKMA). According to the President of NaUKMA, the government is planning to remove English as a second language at the school, take away significant powers over Human Resources from university administration, undermine principles of university autonomy at the school, and perhaps revoke its status as a "university".

Democratic societies are based on the freedom of speech and to conduct research and inquiry without the interference of the state. I am very disappointed that the Government of Ukraine would propose such measures, which will surely hamper the ability for the Kyiv-Mohyla Academy to operate under principles of academic freedom and free speech.

With this in mind, I urge you to register the concerns of myself and my colleagues in the Canadian Parliament over this situation with the Government of Ukraine. These actions threaten values which we share with the people of Ukraine and is of concern to democracies around the world.

I will also be writing to his Excellency Ihor Ostash, Ambassador of Ukraine to Canada, on this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James Bezan', written over a horizontal line.

James Bezan, M.P.

Selkirk-Interlake, Manitoba

Chair, Standing Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development
Chair, Manitoba Regional Conservative Caucus

Cc: Yurij Luhovy

Ottawa

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