

**CANADA-UKRAINE  
PARLIAMENTARY PROGRAM**

*for university students*



**PROGRAMME PARLEMENTAIRE  
CANADA-UKRAINE**

*destiné aux étudiants*

To: President of Ukraine Yanukovych V. F.  
Head of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine Lytvyn V. M.  
Prime-Minister of Ukraine Azarov M. Y  
Minister of Education, Science, Youth and Sports Tabachnyk D. M.

From: Alumni of the Canada-Ukraine Parliamentary Program

Dear President, Speaker of Parliament, and Prime-Minister,

On behalf of the alumni of Canada-Ukraine Parliamentary Program, we would like to express our unconditional support for the open letter of Dr. Serhii Kvit, President of National University "Kyiv-Mohyla Academy," to the Ukrainian President, Speaker of Parliament, and Prime-Minister regarding the draft of the new law on higher education of Ukraine presented by Dmytro Tabachnyk, Minister of Education and Science.

In agreement with the stated position of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, we consider the draft of the new law on higher education an impediment toward the restructuring Ukrainian higher education according to European and international educational standards. We are concerned that this legislation, if adopted, contravenes European higher education standards. These standards strongly promote autonomy of institutions of higher education along with their fiscal independence, student mobility through participation in study abroad programs, recognition of foreign academic degrees and many other important aspects which are, unfortunately, outlawed in the draft legislation referred to above.

We strongly believe that Kyiv-Mohyla Academy has been following the stated standards in order to improve educational quality, and not to undermine state policies. Preparation of highly-qualified professionals, who will be able to meet and overcome the pressing challenges of the contemporary world, has been one of the Academy's major goals.

In fact, consideration and adaptation of Western higher education standards is favourable to the state body. This has already been the case for many post-Soviet countries for example in Russia, Georgia, and Armenia. By joining the Bologna process, Moscow State Lomonosov University adopted standards that not only upgraded its education and research standards with international norms but also increased its status in the international educational community. As a result, it has been listed in the two most prestigious educational quality ratings: Times Higher Education rating 2009 and Academic Rating of the Best World's Universities 2010. This is what Ukrainian institutions of higher education should strive for.

The Canada-Ukraine Parliamentary Program for university students is sponsored by the Chair of Ukrainian Studies Foundation  
Le Programme parlementaire Canada-Ukraine est financé par la Chaire de la Fondation d'études ukrainiennes

---

620 Spadina Avenue, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5S 2H4  
Telephone: 416-234-9111 ♦ Fax: 416-234-9114 ♦ [www.katedra.org](http://www.katedra.org)

**CANADA-UKRAINE  
PARLIAMENTARY PROGRAM**

*for university students*



**PROGRAMME PARLEMENTAIRE  
CANADA-UKRAINE**

*destiné aux étudiants*

We believe that a consideration of goals and their outcomes is one of the most important aspects in drafting any reform legislation. Such legislation should meet the needs and demands of the country as well as of the global market if Ukraine wants to increase its competitiveness and status. Unfortunately, changes proposed by Minister Tabachnyk to the law on higher education, will lead to the degradation of the Ukrainian educational system, rather than its improvement and therefore will weaken Ukraine's competitiveness in the global community

We appeal to you with the request to initiate a further public discussion of the proposed draft legislation and take into consideration the critique prepared by the Kyiv-Mohyla Academy administration. We urge you to involve in the discussion not only members of parliament but also university presidents, faculty members, students, representatives of non-governmental organizations and other interested parties. By this appeal, we also request the opportunity for the alumni of Canada-Ukraine Parliamentary Program as well as members of Ukrainian Diaspora to take part in this vital discourse.

Respectfully

Canada-Ukraine Parliamentary Program Alumni 1991-2010

The Canada-Ukraine Parliamentary Program for university students is sponsored by the Chair of Ukrainian Studies Foundation  
Le Programme parlementaire Canada-Ukraine est financé par la Chaire de la Fondation d'études ukrainiennes

---

620 Spadina Avenue, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5S 2H4  
Telephone: 416-234-9111 ♦ Fax: 416-234-9114 ♦ [www.katedra.org](http://www.katedra.org)