



Senator Denise Batters, Q.C.

# NEWS RELEASE

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## TRUDEAU GOVERNMENT NEEDS TO STAND UP FOR UKRAINE: SENATOR BATTERS

**Ottawa** - Senator Denise Batters today challenged Foreign Affairs Minister Stephane Dion to stand up for Ukraine in the face of Russian aggression.

During the Foreign Affairs Minister's appearance at Senate Question Period, Senator Batters demanded that Minister Dion clarify the Trudeau Government's murky position on Russia in the Ukraine:

Minister, the first thing Prime Minister Harper said to Vladimir Putin following Russia's invasion of Crimea was: "You need to get out of Ukraine." In stark contrast, Prime Minister Trudeau's first words to Putin were: "You might have noticed that we have changed, uh, Canada has changed its approach on a broad range of issues..."

The Trudeau Government's policy on Russia's illegal occupation of Ukraine is weak and incoherent.

Minister, I am one of 1.3 million Canadians of Ukrainian heritage who want our Canadian government to stand up for Ukraine. We were concerned and dismayed when you recently indicated your willingness to re-engage with Russia.

All Canadians want to know: what is the Trudeau government doing to ensure that Russia gets out of Ukraine now?

Senator Batters was shocked by Minister Dion's evasive answer, as he referred to the former Conservative Government's steadfast support of Ukraine as "irrational and ideological." She recalled how, in contrast, Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko effusively praised Canada's strong stance in his 2014 address to the Canadian Parliament: "No other leaders or nations, I mean no one...was so straightforward and earnest in sending a signal across the world to the Russians and the rest of the world that fighting a nation that is trying to chart its own path is just conceptually wrong..."

The audio link to Senator Batters' question can be found here: <http://1drv.ms/24cY7Be>

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