



March 16, 2022

Via email: [justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca](mailto:justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca); [Melanie.Joly@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Melanie.Joly@parl.gc.ca); [Minister@cic.gc.ca](mailto:Minister@cic.gc.ca);  
[chrystia.freeland@parl.gc.ca](mailto:chrystia.freeland@parl.gc.ca)

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P.  
Prime Minister of Canada  
80 Wellington Street  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

The Honourable Chrystia Freeland, P.C., M.P.  
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance  
80 Wellington Street  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

The Honourable Mélanie Joly, P.C., M.P.  
Minister of Foreign Affairs  
125 Sussex Drive  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0G2

The Honourable Sean Fraser, P.C., M.P.  
Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship  
365 Laurier Avenue West  
Ottawa, ON K1A 1L1

Dear Prime Minister and Ministers:

**Re: Call for Urgent Action on Crisis in Ukraine**

I am writing on behalf of the 36,000 members of the Canadian Bar Association (CBA) to add our voice to those around the world deeply troubled about Russia's invasion of Ukraine ordered by President Vladimir Putin.

Russia's attack on the territorial sovereignty of Ukraine is a serious breach of peremptory norms of international law and the laws of Ukraine. We condemn this act of aggression, and we call for respect of international humanitarian law.

We support the Canadian government response and actions to date relating to the hostilities in Ukraine, and we urge you to continue to pursue diplomatic solutions that further assist in the resolution of this conflict and accountability for any breaches of international law.

We also urge the Canadian government to take immediate action to help welcome vulnerable Ukrainians to Canada. While we welcome the government's intention to prioritize immigration applications for Ukrainians, swifter action is needed.

The CBA has led the Canadian legal community in responding to the crisis in Ukraine. Our support has included an initiative to facilitate [pro bono assistance](#) to Ukrainians seeking to come to Canada.

The CBA stands with our colleagues in Ukraine and with the entire Ukrainian-Canadian community. We reiterate the importance of the rule of law as the foundation that supports democracy, human rights and freedoms.

Sincerely,

*(original letter signed by Stephen Rotstein)*

Stephen Rotstein