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Delegation of Canada

**STATEMENT BY
THE HONORABLE MR. ROB OLIPHANT, PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO
THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF CANADA,
AT THE 1554th (REINFORCED) MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

24 February 2026

Distinguished guests, honourable colleagues and friends

This is a moment of significance for all of us, and I am very pleased to address you as we mark four years since Russia launched its illegal, unjustifiable, and unprovoked full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

The Ukrainians have courageously defended their country's territorial integrity and sovereignty, as well as their fundamental right to choose their own future.

Canadians stand in solidarity with all those who have lost their lives, the families that have been separated, those who are missing, the millions who have been displaced and the communities that have been destroyed.

In the face of the immense challenges and suffering, the Ukrainian people have endured and continue to endure. They deserve our respect and our encouragement every day.

Canada has been by Ukraine's side since its independence in 1991.

We strengthened our support after Russia's illegal actions in 2014 and again following the escalation of hostilities four years ago.

In the years since, Canada has committed over \$23.5 billion in financial, military, humanitarian, immigration, recovery, reconstruction, and security and stabilization assistance.

This includes more than \$12 billion in financial support, \$6.5 billion in military aid, and training over 47,000 Ukrainian security forces through Operation UNIFIER.

Ukrainians seeking refuge from the war have found temporary safe haven, shelter, a home in Canada, and are making important contributions to communities across the country.

Canada is co-chairing critical initiatives to return prisoners of war, unlawfully detained civilians, and forcibly transferred and deported Ukrainian children, and we support accountability for Russia's war crimes through international legal actions.

Since 2014, we have sanctioned over 3300 individuals and entities, as well as 400 Russian shadow fleet vessels, applying pressure on those enabling Russia's aggression and cutting off Russia's revenue sources that fuel this war.

And Canada is supporting sectors that are vital to Ukraine and Ukrainians like energy, humanitarian assistance and psychosocial support.

At the heart of Canada's support lies our commitment to Ukraine, to the Ukrainian people, to our partner, our shared commitment to the principles of international law, respect for national sovereignty, and the belief that borders must never be changed through violence or force.

We know that these are also key principles for the OSCE.

We reject the notion that power overrides justice.

Russia must cease its illegal aggression and be held accountable for its actions. This is of vital importance, not only for Ukraine, but for all of us, for the entire OSCE region and community.

Canada stands shoulder-to-shoulder with Ukraine because Ukraine's freedom, Ukraine's cause – freedom, democracy, sovereignty – is our cause.

Our financial support. Our political support. Our military support. And our humanitarian assistance will continue until Ukraine enjoys lasting peace and security.

Thank you. Merci. Duzhe dyakuyu.

Glory to Ukraine! Slava Ukraini!