

Statement on situation in Ukraine and Crimea

Wednesday, March 5, 2014 2:16 PM

Madame Speaker, this situation gripping Ukraine and the Crimea has seized the world's attention - including here in British Columbia.

What started off as protests against the Ukrainian presidency led to a dramatic shakeup of the country's political landscape.

I know I speak for all members of the house when I say we have been watching with great concern.

all seen the images and heard the accounts of what is happening.

Lives have been lost and more violence has been threatened.

This is a serious crisis that threatens to plunge that part of the world into chaos.

And if history is any guide, chaos spreads.

In British Columbia and Canada we pride ourselves in welcoming all people regardless of race, ethnicity, or culture.

For decades, Canada and British Columbia has been a home for immigrants and their descendants from both Russia and Ukraine.

We're strengthened by their contributions they have made to our society, to our economy, and to our communities.

We sometimes take for granted the stability and prosperity we enjoy here in B.C.

While the world watches, waits, and prays, Canadians are united that in the hope that a peaceful and lasting resolution is quickly found.

It is important for all of us to send a strong and united message that the people of Ukraine must be free.

Free from threat, intimidation, and violence in determining their own future.

This is no longer a simple diplomatic dispute between neighbours - one country's territory has been breached, a direct violation of international law.

Like all Canadians, British Columbians are unwavering in our collective voice: the sovereignty of Ukraine - and all of its regions - must be respected.

I invite all members to join me in solidarity with the brave people of Ukraine...

...and to stand behind the Prime Minister's strong support of Ukrainian sovereignty and international law.

Thank you.