

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX UNITY MOVING FORWARD

OTTAWA – Peter Goldring, Member of Parliament for Edmonton East, is pleased to note that his many meetings with religious, political, and community leaders, including Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew himself, appears to be having a positive effect. Metropolitan Yurij, head of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada (UOCC), recently returned to Canada from a meeting with His All Holiness Bartholomew and reported that Constantinople is ready to assist in the establishing of a unified Orthodox church in Ukraine.

Mr. Goldring has had 80 meetings throughout Canada, the United States, Ukraine, and in Constantinople, advocating and lobbying various interests for unity of the Orthodox churches in Ukraine. When Mr. Goldring travelled to Constantinople this past January he received similar sentiments as Metropolitan Yurij. His All Holiness is prepared to discuss Orthodox unity in Ukraine.

“This is a timely and monumental opportunity, but the efforts moving forward must be thorough and achieve a great majority of support of the Orthodox community both in Ukraine and worldwide,” Mr. Goldring stated. “There is no margin of error, as this affects all Ukrainians at a time when their country is enduring a sustained and tragic crisis.”

Mr. Goldring is calling for the establishment of a non-governmental working team with alongside former Ukrainian Presidents Viktor Yushchenko and Leonid Kuchma, specialists from the country, and Orthodox leaders such as Patriarch Filaret, to establish a blueprint for achieving unity in Ukraine.

Mr. Goldring has actively promoted the benefit for Orthodox unity in Ukraine over the past several years, meeting with leaders from all aspects of society and pressing for dialogue and discussion as a means to move forward. “I am very pleased to hear that Metropolitan Yurij too agrees that we are moving towards accomplishing Ukrainian Orthodox unity.”

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