Dear Anna Gainey,

I am writing to express my deep concern about Prime Minister Carney's recent announcement of a strategic partnership and three-year action plan with Türkiye.

I have supported the Liberal Party both financially and at the ballot box for many years. For that reason, it is especially painful to see Canada deepen its ties with a government whose record raises serious questions about democracy, human rights, and respect for international law. Canada has long presented itself as a principled country. I find it difficult to reconcile that reputation with the decision to expand defense, trade, and energy cooperation without clear, meaningful conditions.

Türkiye's treatment of political opponents, journalists, and civil society is deeply troubling. I am also concerned by its longstanding ties to political movements associated with the Muslim Brotherhood. These concerns deserve more than a brief mention in a diplomatic meeting; they should be addressed through concrete and verifiable commitments.

There are also serious issues affecting Greece and Cyprus. Türkiye's *casus belli* threat concerning a possible Greek extension of territorial waters remains in force, while disputes over maritime claims and airspace continue. Türkiye's occupation of part of Cyprus and its rejection of the UN-endorsed framework for a settlement cannot be ignored as Canada builds a strategic relationship with Ankara.

I understand that Canada must engage with other countries and seek new economic partnerships. But a strategic partnership, free-trade negotiations, a minister-led trade mission, and expanded defense-industry cooperation go beyond routine diplomacy. They bring material benefits and legitimacy. Canada should use its leverage to seek progress on human rights and international law before deepening these ties.

I urge you to raise these concerns with the Prime Minister and the responsible ministers, and to press the government to:

- Make expanded defense cooperation and any technology transfers subject to strict, transparent end-use controls and public reporting to Parliament.
- Condition progress on free-trade negotiations and the planned 2027 trade mission on verifiable improvements in human rights and meaningful steps regarding the *casus belli* and Cyprus.

- Reaffirm Canada’s support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Greece and Cyprus, the UN framework for a Cyprus settlement, and the principles of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea.
- Meet with representatives of the Greek Canadian community before making further commitments.

I am expressing these views personally, and not on behalf of any organization. As a Canadian and a longtime Liberal supporter, I hope Canada will pursue international partnerships in a way that reflects the democratic values and respect for international law that we expect of ourselves.

I would appreciate hearing your views and learning what steps you will take to raise these concerns.

Sincerely,

Dr. George Tsoukas, MD, FRCPC
Associate Professor of Medicine, McGill University
Former President, Hellenic Community of Greater Montreal