

**TRUTHS**

**&**

**LIES**

# ABOUT IMMIGRATION

We are all worried about the rising cost of living, our jobs, and our children's future. This federal election, politicians will try to distract us by saying that immigration is the problem. But migrants are not responsible for low wages and strained social services - these are caused by political and economic decisions made by the rich and their political representatives. The rich keep getting richer, and they are using racism to make us fight each other for scraps.

**Don't let them divide us. We must unite against racism to stop the rise of the right who will attack all our jobs and services.**

**Learn how to challenge myths about immigration.**

**Let's unite in our demands for a fair and just society for everyone.**

**LIE**

**Immigrants are stealing jobs, driving down wages, and burdening social services.**

**TRUTH**

**The rich are getting richer by exploiting workers and not paying their share.**

Over the past 40 years, ordinary people's wages have stagnated, but the super rich are making more money than ever before. With an average compensation of \$10.4 million, the richest CEOs now make about 200 times the average worker's salary. Canada's richest have stashed away over \$353 billion in off-shore tax havens - that is more than the combined budgets of every province and territory in the country for 2019. According to a recent Canada Revenue Agency analysis, corporations didn't pay up to 27% of their taxes.

When business interests get friendly politicians into office, they change the laws that protect us and shift the spending priorities of government. For example, one corporation has led the fight against minimum wage increases across Canada: Loblaws, which just last year admitted to artificially inflating the price of bread for 14 years and yet continues to receive government handouts.

Our jobs are precarious and our wages are low because of our bosses, not because of other workers. The public services on which we depend are under stress because of budget choices, not lack of resources. The problem is not a lack of wealth, but the distribution of it.

**Pledge to challenge anti-immigrant ideas whenever you hear them.  
Go to [www.MigrantRights.ca](http://www.MigrantRights.ca) and sign up!**

**We will send you tools to help you have conversations with your co-workers, family and friends.**

LIE

The problem isn't immigration, just illegal immigration.

TRUTH

Migrants aren't abusing the system, the system is abusing them.

There is no "queue" to jump in the Canadian refugee system. There are two legally recognized pathways for refugees to apply for asylum - overseas as UN refugees or once they enter Canada, including when they cross the border on foot. Only 20,000 people crossed the border on foot from the US to claim asylum in 2018. In comparison, over 24 million tourists entered Canada across that same border that year.

Meanwhile, over 70% of migrants coming to Canada each year do not have permanent resident status. This means that most are denied full access to basic services like healthcare or education, despite paying for them. Most migrants are denied the workplace protections other workers have, which allows bad employers to exploit and abuse them.

We must not fall into the trap of "good" versus "bad" immigrants - that is how those at the top try to make us fight each other for scraps.

LIE

Canada is welcoming and generous to refugees.

TRUTH

The Canadian immigration system exploits migrants and refugees.

There are an estimated 67 million refugees in the world today. Nearly half are hosted in just ten countries, and Canada is not one of them. The government planned to accept 28,300 refugees in 2019, most of them privately sponsored - this is less than 0.07% of Canada's population. Canada's permanent resident intake, when calculated as a percentage of the population, has been stable for the last decade.

Canada has a particular obligation to asylum seekers because of this country's complicity - through law, policy and profit - in the economic crises, wars, and climate collapse that are displacing people around the world. Canada is one of the world's top 15 arms exporting countries and profits from wars. The UN has told us that we have 11 years before we enter irreversible climate change, and the world's largest most polluting industrial project is the Alberta Oil Sands. Decisions being made in Canada affect people around the world, and we must hold Canadian corporations and the government to account.

Let's unite to win:

- **DECENT WORK:** \$15 minimum wage, full labour rights for all, and no employer specific or time limited work permits.
- **UNIVERSAL SERVICES:** Quality public services including healthcare, education, income security, childcare, settlement services, pensions, and pharmacare for all.
- **STATUS FOR ALL:** Permanent resident status for all migrants and refugees here, and landed status on arrival for those who come in the future. No detentions, no deportations!
- **JUSTICE FOR ALL:** Indigenous self-determination, gender justice, and an end to racism, particularly anti-Black racism and Islamophobia.
- **NO DISPLACEMENT:** An end to practices of displacement and persecution that force people to migrate including climate change, wars, corporate impunity, and economic exploitation.

#UniteAgainstRacism