

22 February 2021

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P, Prime Minister of Canada
Premiers of Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Saskatchewan, Northwest Territories, Nunavut, and Yukon.

Cc: Federal and Provincial Ministers of Health; Federal, provincial and regional Medical Officers of Health, Federal and Provincial Opposition Leaders.

Re: Safe and dignified access without fear to COVID19 vaccines for migrant and undocumented residents

The Migrant Rights Network is Canada's largest cross-country coalition of migrant led organizations. We are writing to you today along with 269 health, labour, faith, climate and other civil society organizations to urge you to put in place effective measures to ensure safe and dignified access without fear to COVID19 vaccines for migrant and undocumented residents. The letter and signatory list is attached.

While federal authorities and some provincial decision makers have announced that vaccine access will be available regardless of immigration status, an effective implementation plan is urgently required.

There are at least 1.6 million people in Canada without permanent resident status. Over half a million are undocumented, without a healthcard. Many other migrants have not been able to renew their immigration permits or their health card due to COVID19 related delays in permit processing or inability to find full-time employment that is needed in some provinces to get health coverage.

These migrants require clear guarantees that accessing vaccines will be safe. Names, addresses, and other identifying information should not be required for the purpose of getting vaccinated, and must not be shared with immigration enforcement. This guarantee must be communicated over social media and in non-English or French media outlets to migrant and undocumented people.

Staff administering vaccines must be provided training so that they do not turn away migrants without identification or health coverage, or those that are hesitant to share ID. A number of undocumented residents in frontline work across the country have reported being denied the vaccine because they don't have a health card. There must be no police or immigration enforcement presence at facilities where vaccines are being provided. Already, many COVID19 testing sites have police on site which creates safety concerns for migrant and undocumented people.

Vaccines should not be used coercively. Already, some employers have started to threaten migrants with job loss and deportation if they aren't vaccinated. Employers want workers to be vaccinated not because they care about migrant well-being but because they don't want to lose profit if workers get sick. Removing barriers that exclude us is as important as having the freedom to choose what is best for ourselves. Specific anti-reprisal policies must be put in place provincially and federally, including guaranteeing immigration status to migrants

Migrant Rights Network

that face coercion. Clear guidelines must be issued to all employers of migrant and undocumented people that using vaccine access coercively is not allowed and will be punished.

Racialized and migrant communities have faced generations of exploitation and abuse at the hands of health systems and scientific research. Accessible information and outreach is necessary so that migrant and undocumented people can make informed decisions about our own health.

Specific measures must also be taken to ensure that vaccine provision is accessible. Farm workers in rural communities, those incarcerated or homeless, those that don't speak English or French and those without access to telephones and computers must have equitable access to vaccinations, and must be treated with dignity and respect.

Changing health policy in regards to vaccination is a first step. The primary concern for migrants is fear of detention and deportation while accessing health care. A moratorium on detentions and deportations would significantly alleviate these concerns and ensure effective immunization against COVID-19.

Canada is facing a significant short-fall of permanent residents due to COVID-19. The simplest way to address this crisis, and to ensure public health, is to grant full and permanent immigration status to all migrant and undocumented people in the country. We outlined this change in our previous letter to you in June 2020, available here: <https://migrantrights.ca/status-for-all/>. That letter was signed by over 400 organizations.

Migrant-led organizations are experts on our communities. Across Canada, Migrant Rights Network members have the clearest insight on the effective measures required in their local contexts to ensure safe and dignified access to vaccines. We urge you to get in touch with migrant groups to develop implementation plans. Please contact us at info@migrantrights.ca and we will put you in touch with groups in your region.

Migrant and undocumented people are at the forefront of the COVID-19 crisis. Many of us have been working in essential jobs that sustain communities. Some of the highest rates of COVID-19 infections are for migrants in congregate living and working conditions, like farms, factories, and warehouses, and those that are homeless or incarcerated. We are all essential and we all deserve safe, dignified access without fear to vaccines as well as universal healthcare.

Thank you for your urgent attention to this important matter. Please see the attached letter and signatories.

Syed Hussan
Migrant Rights Network Secretariat
Executive Director, Migrant Workers Alliance for Change

Open Letter: Vaccines for All

Migrant and undocumented people are at the forefront of the COVID-19 crisis. We are often working in essential jobs that sustain our communities but have been excluded from services and protections. Some of the highest rates of COVID-19 infections are for migrants in congregate living and working conditions, like farms, factories, and warehouses, and those who are homeless or incarcerated.

But at the same time, many migrants in Canada don't have a health card or coverage. Those who are undocumented are afraid of accessing healthcare in case their personal information is shared with federal immigration enforcement. In some cases, employers have already started to threaten migrants with job loss and deportation if they aren't vaccinated.

We call on federal and provincial governments to ensure full access to the COVID-19 vaccine to all migrants regardless of immigration status. Vaccine provision must:

- Be free of charge;
- Not require a health card or health card number;
- Be accessible;
- Not collect any ID or addresses, or information about immigration status, and develop alternative mechanisms for tracking vaccine doses. Health authorities must guarantee that any personal information that is collected will not be shared with immigration enforcement or police; and
- Not be coercive or mandatory.

A comprehensive multi-lingual public education and outreach strategy, as well as training for healthcare providers, should be created. Relevant authorities must coordinate with and take leadership from migrant-led organizations to ensure that migrants can receive the COVID vaccine and testing in a safe, accessible and dignified manner, no matter where they work or live, and without fear of punitive consequences.

All migrants must have access to universal healthcare immediately, regardless of immigration status. In order to guarantee safe and healthy communities, an end to detentions and deportations, and full and permanent immigration status for all, is essential.

269 organizational signatories in alphabetical order:

| Organization | Region |
|--|--|
| 350 Canada | National // Canada |
| 350Vancouver | British Columbia // Colombie-Britannique |
| ACORN Canada | National // Canada |
| Action Canada for Sexual Health and Rights | Ontario |
| African women Acting | Ontario |
| Afro-Canadian Positive Network of BC | British Columbia // Colombie-Britannique |

Migrant Rights Network

| | |
|---|---|
| AGIR | Quebec // Québec |
| AIDS ACTION NOW! | Ontario |
| AIDS Committee of Ottawa | Ontario |
| Alberta Caregivers Association | Alberta |
| Alberta Public Interest Research Group | Alberta |
| Alliance for Healthier Communities | Ontario |
| Alternatives | Quebec // Québec |
| Anakbayan Toronto | Ontario |
| Antler River Watershed Region Social and Ecological Justice Network | Ontario |
| Apatrides anonymes | Quebec // Québec |
| Asian Heritage society of NB | New Brunswick // Nouveau-Brunswick |
| Association for the Rights of Household and Farm Workers | Quebec // Québec |
| Association of Mexicans in Calgary (AMexCal) | Alberta |
| Atlantic Region Association of Immigrant Serving Agencies | Nova Scotia // Nouvelle-Écosse |
| Bathurst Street United Church | Ontario |
| BC Civil Liberties Association | British Columbia // Colombie-Britannique |
| BC Employment Standards Coalition | British Columbia // Colombie-Britannique |
| BC Federation of Labour | British Columbia // Colombie-Britannique |
| BCGEU | British Columbia // Colombie-Britannique |
| BIPOCUSHR | Prince Edward Island // Île du Prince Édouard |
| Butterfly (Asian and Migrant Sex Workers Support Network) | Ontario |
| Calgary Anti-Racist Action | Alberta |
| Calgary Catholic Immigration Society | Alberta |
| Canadian Alliance for Sex Work Law Reform | National // Canada |
| Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment | National // Canada |
| Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives | National // Canada |
| Canadian Centre For Victims of Torture | Ontario |
| Canadian Council for Refugees Conseil canadien pour les réfugiés | National // Canada |
| Canadian Doctors for Medicare | National // Canada |
| Canadian Federation of Nurses Unions | National // Canada |

Migrant Rights Network

| | |
|--|--|
| Canadian Federation of Students Ontario | Ontario |
| Canadian Health Association for Sustainability and Equity (CHASE) | Ontario |
| Canadian Health Coalition | National // Canada |
| Canadian Sanctuary Network | National // Canada |
| Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) | National // Canada |
| Canadian Women's Foundation / Fondation canadienne des femmes | National // Canada |
| Capilano Medical Centre | Alberta |
| Careworker Connections Education & Support Organization | Ontario |
| Caring for social justice-Soignons la justice sociale | Quebec // Québec |
| Carranza LLP | Ontario |
| Carrefour d'éducation populaire de Pointe-Saint-Charles | Quebec // Québec |
| CEDA | Quebec // Québec |
| Centre des travailleurs et travailleuses immigrant-e-s | Quebec // Québec |
| Centre for Gender and Sexual Health Equity | British Columbia // Colombie-Britannique |
| Centre for Gender and Sexual Health Equity (CGSHE) | British Columbia // Colombie-Britannique |
| Centre for Newcomers Society of Calgary | Alberta |
| Centre on Drug Policy Evaluation | Ontario |
| CERLAC: Centre for Research on Latin America and the Caribbean (York University) | Ontario |
| Changing Together - A Center for Immigrant Women | Alberta |
| Chinese & Southeast Asian Legal Clinic | Ontario |
| Chinese Canadian National Council Toronto Chapter | Ontario |
| Citizens for Public Justice | Ontario |
| Climate Justice Edmonton | Alberta |
| Climate Justice Montreal / Justice Climatique Montréal | Quebec // Québec |
| Climate Justice Ottawa | Ontario |
| Climate Justice Ottawa | Ontario |
| Climate Justice Saskatoon | Saskatchewan |
| Climate Justice Toronto | Ontario |
| Climate Justice Victoria | British Columbia // Colombie-Britannique |
| ClimateFast | Ontario |

Migrant Rights Network

| | |
|--|---|
| Clinique juridique communautaire de Niagara/ Niagara Community Legal Clinic | Ontario |
| Coalition Against Bigotry- Pacific | British Columbia // Colombie-Britannique |
| Coalition Against Bigotry- Pacific | British Columbia // Colombie-Britannique |
| Coalition Against Trans Antagonism | British Columbia // Colombie-Britannique |
| Collaborative Network to End Exploitation | Ontario |
| Collectif Ensemble avec les personnes migrantes contre le racisme | Quebec // Québec |
| Collective RedLEgal | British Columbia // Colombie-Britannique |
| Colour of Poverty - Colour of Change | Ontario |
| Comité pour les droits humains en Amérique latine CDHAL | Quebec // Québec |
| Communist Party of Canada (Marxist-Leninist) | National // Canada |
| Community Action Initiative | British Columbia // Colombie-Britannique |
| Community Legal Clinic - Brant, Haldimand, Norfolk | Ontario |
| Community Legal Services of Ottawa | Ontario |
| Cooper Institute | Prince Edward Island // Île du Prince Édouard |
| Council of Canadians PEI Chapter | Prince Edward Island // Île du Prince Édouard |
| Council of Canadians London Chapter | Ontario |
| Council of Canadians, Les Conseil Des Canadiens | National // Canada |
| Council of Canadians, Peterborough and Kawarthas chapter | Ontario |
| CPT- Ontario | Ontario |
| CUPE 1281 | Ontario |
| CUPE 2626 | Ontario |
| CUPE 3261 | Ontario |
| CUPE Local 1230 | Ontario |
| CUPE Local 3907 | Ontario |
| CUPE Local 4772 | Ontario |
| CUPE MB | Manitoba |
| CUPE Ontario | Ontario |
| CUPE, Local 3902 | Ontario |
| Davenport Mutual Aid Network | Ontario |
| Davenport Perth Neighbourhood and Community Health Centre | Ontario |

Migrant Rights Network

| | |
|--|--|
| Dignidad Migrante Society | British Columbia // Colombie-Britannique |
| Disability Justice Network of Ontario | Ontario |
| Durham Region Labour Council | Ontario |
| Edmonton Chamber of Voluntary Organizations | Alberta |
| End of the Rainbow Foundation | Alberta |
| Ernestine's Women's Shelter | Ontario |
| Exeko | Quebec // Québec |
| Faculty for Palestine | Ontario |
| FCJ REFUGEE CENTRE | Ontario |
| Fight for \$15 and Fairness | Ontario |
| Food Secure Canada | Quebec // Québec |
| GateWay Community Church | Ontario |
| Global Labour Research Centre (York University) | Ontario |
| Global Migration and Health Initiative | Ontario |
| Graduate Student Society | British Columbia // Colombie-Britannique |
| Greenpeace Canada | National // Canada |
| Guelph Community Acupuncture | Ontario |
| Halifax Refugee Clinic | Nova Scotia // Nouvelle-Écosse |
| Hamilton Community Legal Clinic | Ontario |
| Hamilton Community Legal Clinic/Clinique juridique communautaire de Hamilton | Ontario |
| Hamilton Social Medicine Response Team (HamSMaRT) | Ontario |
| HAMSMaRT (Hamilton Social Medicine Response Team) | Ontario |
| Health Network for Uninsured Clients | Ontario |
| Health Providers Against Poverty | Ontario |
| Healthcare For All MB | Manitoba |
| HIV & AIDS Legal Clinic Ontario | Ontario |
| HIV Legal Network/Réseau juridique VIH | National // Canada |
| HIV/AIDS Resources and Community Health | Ontario |
| Hospital Employees' Union | British Columbia // Colombie-Britannique |
| Human Rights Committee—Alberta Union of Provincial Employees (AUPE) | Alberta |
| immigrant and Refugee Support Center | New Brunswick // Nouveau-Brunswick |

Migrant Rights Network

| | |
|--|---|
| Indigenous Climate Action | National // Canada |
| Institut universitaire SHERPA | Quebec // Québec |
| Inter Pares | National // Canada |
| Interagency Coalition on AIDS and Development | National // Canada |
| International Association for Refugees Canada | Ontario |
| ISLAMIC SOCIAL SERVICES ASSCIATION | Manitoba |
| Kabisig Society of Fort Saskatchewan | Alberta |
| KAIROS: Canadian Ecumenicall Justice Initiatives | Ontario |
| Kingston Action Group for a Basic Income | Ontario |
| Latin American Mission Program (LAMP) | Prince Edward Island // Île du Prince Édouard |
| Le Mouvement contre le viol et l'inceste | Quebec // Québec |
| Leadnow | National // Canada |
| LINGAP-Canada | Alberta |
| Loretto Sisters IBVM Canada | Ontario |
| Loretto Sisters Canada | Ontario |
| MADE IN EXILE | Ontario |
| Maggie's Toronto Sex Workers Action Project | Ontario |
| Manitoba Association of Newcomer Serving Organizations | Manitoba |
| Manitoba Federation of Labour | Manitoba |
| Maritimes-Guatemala Breaking the Silence Network PEI Committee | Prince Edward Island // Île du Prince Édouard |
| Martha Justice Ministry, Sisters of St. Martha, Antigonish | Nova Scotia // Nouvelle-Écosse |
| MAX Ottawa | Ontario |
| Metropolitan Community Church of Toronto | Ontario |
| MFL Occupational Health Centre | Manitoba |
| Micah House Refugee Reception Services Inc. | Ontario |
| Midnight Kitchen Collective | Quebec // Québec |
| Migrant Worker Solidarity Network | Manitoba |
| Migrant Workers Alliance for Change | Ontario |
| Migrante Alberta | Alberta |
| Migrante BC | British Columbia // Colombie-Britannique |
| Migrante Canada | National // Canada |
| Migrante Ontario | Ontario |

Migrant Rights Network

| | |
|--|--|
| Migrante-Ottawa | Ontario |
| Migrants Resource Centre Canada | Ontario |
| Mining Injustice Solidarity Network (MISN) | Ontario |
| MiningWatch Canada | Ontario |
| Moonfruits | Ontario |
| Mouvement contre le viol et l'inceste | Quebec // Québec |
| Multicultural Family Resource Society | Alberta |
| Nadjla Banaei | Ontario |
| National Farmers Union | National // Canada |
| National Union of Public and General Employees (NUPGE) | National // Canada |
| Neighbourhood Legal Services | Ontario |
| Niagara Migrant Workers Interest Group | Ontario |
| Niagara Region Anti-Racism Association | Ontario |
| Niagara workers welcome | Ontario |
| No One Is Illegal - Fredericton | New Brunswick // Nouveau-Brunswick |
| No one is illegal - Halifax/Kjipuktuk | Nova Scotia // Nouvelle-Écosse |
| No One Is Illegal Toronto | Ontario |
| North Peel & Dufferin Community Legal Services | Ontario |
| Northumberland Community Legal Centre | Ontario |
| OCAD University Faculty Association | Ontario |
| OHIP for All | Ontario |
| Ontario Coalition Against Poverty | Ontario |
| Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association | Ontario |
| Ontario Federation of Labour | Ontario |
| Ontario Humanist Society | Ontario |
| Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation | Ontario |
| OPSEU Indigenous Circle | Ontario |
| Ottawa Coalition to End Violence Against Women (OCTEVAW) | Ontario |
| Our Time Vancouver | British Columbia // Colombie-Britannique |
| Oxfam Canada | Ontario |
| PACE Society | British Columbia // Colombie-Britannique |
| Pacific AIDS Network | British Columbia // Colombie-Britannique |

Migrant Rights Network

| | |
|--|--|
| Parkdale Community Legal Services | Ontario |
| Parkdale Queen West Community Health Centre | Ontario |
| Parksville Qualicum Kairos | British Columbia // Colombie-Britannique |
| PEI Action Team for Migrant Worker Rights | Prince Edward Island // Île du Prince Édouard |
| Philippine Arts Council | Alberta |
| PIaMP | Quebec // Québec |
| PINAY | Quebec // Québec |
| Planned Parenthood NL Sexual Health Centre | Newfoundland and Labrador // Terre-Neuve et Labrador |
| QPIRG Concordia | Quebec // Québec |
| Racial Advocacy for Inclusion Solidarity and Equity | Ontario |
| Radical Access Mapping Project | British Columbia // Colombie-Britannique |
| Radical Action with Migrants in Agriculture (RAMA) Red de Apoyo para Migrantes Agrícolas | British Columbia // Colombie-Britannique |
| RadLaw | Quebec // Québec |
| Rainbow Refugee | British Columbia // Colombie-Britannique |
| Ralph Thornton Community Centre | Ontario |
| Refugee Health Coalition | Alberta |
| Rencontre Interculturelle des Familles de l'Estrie | Quebec // Québec |
| Romero House | Ontario |
| S4 Collective | Ontario |
| SAEFTY Ottawa | Ontario |
| SAIMY'S Art | Ontario |
| SAISIA | Saskatchewan |
| Samidoun Palestinian Prisoner Solidarity Network | National // Canada |
| Sanctuary Health | British Columbia // Colombie-Britannique |
| SeedChange | Ontario |
| SEIU Local 2 | National // Canada |
| Showing up for Racial Justice - Toronto | Ontario |
| Sidetracks Screenprinting Collective | Quebec // Québec |
| Sierra Club BC | British Columbia // Colombie-Britannique |
| Single Mothers' Alliance BC | British Columbia // Colombie-Britannique |
| Sisters of St. Joseph of Toronto, Ministry for Social Justice, | Ontario |

Migrant Rights Network

| | |
|---|--|
| Peace, and Creation Care | |
| Social Justice & Advocacy Committee, Diocese of Toronto | Ontario |
| Socialist Action | National // Canada |
| Solidarity Kijipuktuk-Halifax | Nova Scotia // Nouvelle-Écosse |
| Somali Canadian Association of Etobicoke | Ontario |
| South Asian Legal Clinic of Ontario | Ontario |
| South Asian Network for Secularism and Democracy (SANSAD) | British Columbia // Colombie-Britannique |
| South Asian Women's Rights Organization | Ontario |
| South House Sexual and Gender Resource Centre | Nova Scotia // Nouvelle-Écosse |
| South Riverdale Community Health Center | Ontario |
| Southridge Community Church | Ontario |
| Spring Socialist Network | National // Canada |
| St Andrew's Presbyterian Church Humber Heights | Ontario |
| Stella, l'amie de Maimie | Quebec // Québec |
| Sudbury Community Legal Clinic | Ontario |
| Sudbury Palestinian Solidarity Working Group | Ontario |
| Sudbury Workers Education and Advocacy Centre | Ontario |
| SumOfUs | National // Canada |
| Table de concertation des organismes au service des personnes réfugiées et immigrantes (TCRI) | Quebec // Québec |
| The Leap | Ontario |
| The Obstetric Justice Project | Ontario |
| The Socialist Project | Ontario |
| The United Church of Canada | Ontario |
| TNO | Ontario |
| Toronto & York Region Labour Council | Ontario |
| Toronto Local, C.U.P.W | Ontario |
| Toronto Prisoners' Rights Project | Ontario |
| Trade Justice Network | National // Canada |
| UFCW Local 832 | Manitoba |
| Unifor | National // Canada |
| United Jewish People's Order - Canada | Ontario |

Migrant Rights Network

| | |
|--|---|
| University of the Philippines Alumni Association Edmonton | Alberta |
| University of Toronto Environmental Action | Ontario |
| Vancouver Committee for Domestic Workers and Caregivers Rights | British Columbia // Colombie-Britannique |
| Vancouver Island Counselling Centre for Immigrants and Refugees (VICCIR) | British Columbia // Colombie-Britannique |
| Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's Shelter | British Columbia // Colombie-Britannique |
| Vivimos Juntxs, Comemos Juntxs | Ontario |
| Warehouse Workers Centre | Ontario |
| West Coast Environmental Law Association | British Columbia // Colombie-Britannique |
| West Coast LEAF | British Columbia // Colombie-Britannique |
| Wilderness Committee | British Columbia // Colombie-Britannique |
| Women Educating in Self Defense Training | British Columbia // Colombie-Britannique |
| Women's Health Interest Group | Nova Scotia // Nouvelle-Écosse |
| Women's Network PEI | Prince Edward Island // Île du Prince Édouard |
| Workers' Action Centre | Ontario |
| Working Women Community Centre | Ontario |
| Yukon Federation of Labour | Yukon |
| YWCA Canada | Ontario |