



CUPE 3902
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September 30th 2022

Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau
Prime Minister of Canada
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A2
justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca

Hon. Sean Fraser
Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship
Confederation Building, Suite 110
House of Commons, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A6
sean.fraser@parl.gc.ca, Minister@cic.gc.ca

Cc: Migrant Rights Network - info@migrantrights.ca

RE: We support Permanent Residence for All

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau and Minister Fraser,

We at CUPE 3902 are writing to you to express support for your recent actions toward regularizing undocumented workers who contribute to Canadian communities and the economy, and for expanding permanent residence opportunities for international and migrant workers, including migrant agricultural workers. We further want to encourage you to ensure the regularization without exception of all undocumented workers by granting permanent residence to all migrants, who are critical to our economy despite lacking equal rights and basic protections under the law.

CUPE 3902 represents ten thousand academic workers at the University of Toronto, including student-workers, lecturers, music professionals, and postdoctoral fellows. We are the largest and most diverse academic Local in the country in terms of the number and kinds of workers we represent. Many of our workers came to Canada as international students, and we also stand with them in as we support the Migrant Workers Network regularization campaign.

In this crucial moment, you and your government have the choice of developing either a partial, small and exclusionary program that will give rights to a few and deny them to most, or supporting equal rights for all by extending permanent residence to 1.7 million migrants, including 500,000 undocumented migrants. We strongly believe the only path



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forward is the implantation of a regularization programme granting permanent resident status to all undocumented people without exception; in addition, permanent residence for all migrants, particularly those in low-waged but essential jobs.

The pandemic made clear just how much of our economy is supported by migrant labour. Despite their essential nature, they work and live in deeply precarious and vulnerable situations. They cannot assert their rights in the workplace or even access basic healthcare. They have been exploited by their employers, and because of threats of deportation, are forced to stay silent about their exploitative and sometimes dangerous working conditions. By ensuring equal status for 1.7 million migrants, we would be removing a significant barrier to equality. Migrants, including refugees and undocumented migrants, have always worked here — raising our children, caring for our elders, and picking our food. They often work in some of the most insecure and exploitative jobs in Canada. But these are precisely the parts of our economy that we need to support and expand: nursing, child- and elder-care, farming, and domestic labour.

The Migrant Rights Network has created a [set of proposals to guide the development of a regularization program](#), which we wholeheartedly endorse. We ask that you recognize the importance of these proposal and the need to incorporate them into any program put forward by the government of Canada. Your government has repeatedly committed to liberal values such as upholding values of equality, fighting racism, and welcoming immigrants and refugees. Now, you have the opportunities to uphold your own commitments on equality and human rights through the establishment of an equitable and accessible regularization program.

Sincerely,

CUPE Local 3902