



FAMILY SERVICE TORONTO

For People. For Change.



October 3, 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

RE: We Support Permanent Residence for All

Dear Right Honourable Prime Minister Trudeau and Honourable Minister Fraser,

Family Service Toronto (FST) is a large multi-service organization that provide services to individuals, families and communities destabilized by precarious mental health and/or socioeconomic circumstances to achieve greater resilience, stability, and equity. Our core service areas are for people with mental health needs, those who have experienced gender-based violence and adults and children labeled with developmental/intellectual disabilities. We work to influence public policy and share knowledge with the goal of strengthening communities.

Hosted by Family Service Toronto, *Campaign 2000: End Child and Family Poverty* (C2K) is a diverse, non-partisan pan-Canadian coalition of over 120 organizations who together represent every province and territory in this country. C2K came about in response to the unanimous federal resolution to end child poverty by the year 2000. For more than 30 years, C2K has been tracking government progress (or lack thereof) towards achieving that goal, while advancing evidence-based, community-driven, achievable policy solutions. C2K engages with parliamentarians, government officials, academics, and community organizations from coast to coast to coast to realize the goal to eradicate poverty in this country.

As a local organization and coalition, both with a mission to eradicate child and family poverty, we applaud Rte. Hon Trudeau's [mandate letter](#) asking Hon. Minister Fraser to create a "regularization program" for undocumented migrants and unanimous [parliamentary motion](#) asking the Immigration Minister to create a plan to give permanent residency to workers of all skill-levels (up to now, most low-waged so-called 'low-skilled' workers have been excluded). This is the most direct pathway for migrants to be able to access their rights, protections and to live in dignity.

As such, this program must grant equal rights for all by extending permanent residence to the 1.7 million migrants, including 500,000 undocumented migrants, in this country rather

355 Church Street, Toronto, M5B 1Z8 Tel: 416.595.9230 Fax: 416.595.0242 familyservicetoronto.org
Charitable Registration Number: 10737 6063 RR0001



than be a partial and exclusionary program that gives rights to a few while denying them to many.

Family Service Toronto and Campaign 2000: End Child and Family Poverty join the call of migrant workers and allies from across the country for the immediate implementation of a regularization programme granting permanent resident status to all undocumented people *without exception*; in addition to permanent residence for all migrants, particularly those in low-waged jobs.

FST and C2K fully endorse the [set of proposals to guide the development of a regularization program](#) that was developed by the national Migrant Rights Network through their membership and organizing. It is crucial that the concerns and solutions from migrants themselves are central in the development of a program to address their needs, and so we strongly encourage you to review and incorporate their proposals, and continue meaningfully engaging migrants in the development, implementation and evaluation of this program.

People without immigration status are important members of our community – they are neighbours, classmates, parents, spouses, children, coworkers and caretakers. Yet they experience rates of poverty higher than our national averages, live in substandard housing conditions, experience abuses at work, are separated from families back home and live with the fear of an uncertain future. During the pandemic, we witnessed migrant and undocumented workers risking their lives to continue working on the front lines, in factories, on farms, in warehouses, in our offices and homes as cleaners and caregivers while being denied access to labour protections, pandemic income benefits, health and social services.

This government has repeatedly committed to values of feminism, anti-racism, dignity, inclusion and opportunity for all. Implementing a broad, inclusive regularization program informed by migrants themselves will ensure these values will be upheld and realized in practice.

Please do not hesitate to contact us at chrisbr@familyservicetoronto.org or leilasa@familyservicetoronto.org if you require any further information.

We thank you for your immediate attention in this crucial matter.

Sincerely,



Chris Brillinger
Executive Director
Family Service Toronto



Leila Sarangi
National Director
Campaign 2000: End Child and Family
Poverty

Cc: Migrant Rights Network - info@migrantrights.ca