



Hamilton Community Legal Clinic
Clinique juridique communautaire de Hamilton

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September 22, 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

Cc: Migrant Rights Network - info@migrantrights.ca

RE: We support Permanent Residence for All

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau and Minister Fraser,

Hamilton Community Legal Clinic (HCLC) is a not-for-profit organization run by a volunteer board of directors and funded by Legal Aid Ontario. We serve low income residents from the City of Hamilton, including the Mountain, Stoney Creek, Dundas, Ancaster, Waterdown, Flamborough, Mount Hope, Glanbrook and Winona.

HCLC is an amalgamation of three independent community legal clinics that had been operating in Hamilton for over thirty years, Dundurn Community Legal Services, Hamilton Mountain Legal & Community Services and McQuesten Legal & Community Services. The clinics merged in 2010 so they could provide legal services to more low income Hamilton residents.

Our staff, composed of lawyers, paralegals and legal workers assist disadvantaged, vulnerable and low income individuals with their Immigration needs.

We recognize the crucial opportunity the Prime Minister presents with his mandate letter to Minister Fraser requesting to create a regularization program for undocumented migrants, and are strongly encouraged by the unanimous parliamentary motion which asks the Immigration Minister to create a plan to give permanent residency to workers. By exploring the path to regularization, the liberal government is taking steps in the right direction, and HCLC hopes to see a plan that is completely inclusive.

A rare opportunity is presented before you whereby a choice can be made to create a program that can provide equal rights for all by extending permanent residence to 1.7 million migrants, including 500,000 undocumented migrants, or developing a partial, small and exclusionary program that will only give rights to a few and deny them to most. Non-status people are part of our communities, they are our neighbors, friends, parents and co-workers, and they live under constant threat of deportation and detention, as well as have no limited access to education, basic healthcare and rights at work. Ensuring a fully inclusive regularization program will help hundreds of thousands of individuals avoid poverty, and strengthen our communities.

For these reasons we call for the regularization of all undocumented people without exception and permanent residence for all migrants, particularly those in low-waged jobs. Regularization of status is the most direct way of allowing non-status individuals to live dignified lives, and have security for their families. This is why migrants and over 483 organizations are calling for regularization and for full and permanent immigration status for all residents.

We urge you to adopt the principles proposed by the Migrant rights Network which are expressed in a set of proposals meant to guide the development of a regularization program. The relevant document titled “Migrant rights Network-policy Submission Brief” <https://migrantrights.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/MRN-Brief-Regularization-July-2022.pdf> provides details on the following overall principles:

- To develop a simple broad program
- Clear and simple application process
- No exclusions or inadmissibility
- No detention or deportations
- Comprehensive communications strategy

The Current government has constantly reiterated its commitment to liberal values, and ensuring that regularization is a broad and inclusive program strongly adheres to them. However, since 1960, Canada has adopted a number of regularization programs which all were proven to be small and exclusionary. Today’s liberal government is provided with an opportunity to correct historical injustices by adopting an inclusionary and comprehensive regularization program that symbolizes and reflects the true values of today’s government.

The HCLC is committed to helping vulnerable individuals with their legal needs to better facilitate their transition towards a fuller and safer life. We therefore urge you to seize this opportunity and ensure that a new regularization program is robust and inclusive so that there can be status for all.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Yours truly,



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(she/her/Elle/elle)
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