



WILDERNESS
COMMITTEE

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August 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

Cc: Migrant Rights Network - info@migrantrights.ca

RE: Climate Justice means Permanent Resident Status for All

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau and Minister Fraser,

I am the Climate Campaigner for the Wilderness Committee and I'm writing on behalf of our more than 60,000 supporters across Canada. We are an advocacy organization that regularly appears in traditional news media and reaches tens of thousands of people via our grassroots publications. For over 40 years, we've mobilized our members to protect wilderness, defend wildlife and fight climate change. As a group that supports a vision for climate justice, the rights of migrants and the readiness of Canada to welcome people from across the globe are of critical interest to us. Policies set now will only become more important as the world warms and more people require the safety and opportunity this country can offer.

Minister Sean Fraser's mandate letter directs him to create a "regularization program" for undocumented migrants. There was also a unanimous parliamentary

motion requesting the Immigration Minister to create a plan to give permanent residency to workers of all skill-levels. That so-called “low-skilled” workers are currently excluded is appalling when they are the ones who often kept food on our tables or took care of our loved ones during the pandemic.

Now is your chance to create a program that extends equal rights and permanent residence to all 1.7 million migrants living in Canada, including 500,000 undocumented people. Please do not leave anyone behind with a partial, limited or exclusionary program that maintains the broken system we have now. If you agree migrant workers and their families deserve the opportunity to become permanent residents of Canada, surely you must believe everyone who lives here does.

The Wilderness Committee supports our allies at the Migrant Rights Network and many other civil society organizations in calling for the regularization of all undocumented people without exception, and permanent resident status for all migrants, especially those working low-wage jobs. They have written an extensive proposal to guide the development of this regularization program (attached) and we are proud to support these recommendations.

Your government has committed to accepting immigrants and refugees, combating climate change and preserving multiculturalism. While far-right groups across the world seek to wall off borders and climate disasters batter nations who’ve done little to cause them, it is more important than ever for Canada to honour its image as a welcoming country and live up to those ideals. Please extend permanent residency status to all people living in Canada now.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter McCartney". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Peter McCartney

Climate Campaigner | Wilderness Committee