



**MADHU VERMA  
MIGRANT JUSTICE CENTRE**

Madhu Verma Migrant Justice Centre  
180 St. John Street, Fredericton, NB  
E3B 4A9  
[info@madhucentre.ca](mailto:info@madhucentre.ca)

October 1, 2022

**Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau**

Prime Minister of Canada  
80 Wellington Street  
Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A2  
[justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca](mailto: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](mailto:sean.fraser@parl.gc.ca), [Minister@cic.gc.ca](mailto:Minister@cic.gc.ca)

**Cc: Jenica Atwin, MP Fredericton; Migrant Rights Network - [info@migrantrights.ca](mailto:info@migrantrights.ca)**

**RE: We support permanent residence for all**

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau and Minister Fraser,

I am writing on behalf of the Madhu Verma Migrant Justice Centre in New Brunswick. Our centre was founded in 2022 to support migrant workers in the province after we became aware of a growing number of migrant workers facing dire situations, including labour trafficking, involving wage theft and coercion, in our province.

We are writing to encourage your government to immediately create a robust plan to grant permanent residency to everyone without status, including workers of all skill-levels. Up until now, most low-waged (so-called low-skilled) workers have been excluded from a direct pathway to permanent residency.

Almost daily, we meet migrant workers in New Brunswick who are processing our seafood, growing our food and taking care of our loved ones and they are struggling due to not having permanent residence status. The workers we meet are putting up with workplace abuse and unsafe work and housing conditions, not getting the health care they need, and are in distress – all due to their precarious status. The workers who come to us when their rights have been violated live in fear. Many of them are afraid to speak up when their rights are violated because they know they will face retaliation from their employers, reprisals and possible deportation. This is not acceptable.

More than 500,000 people are living in Canada without any valid immigration permits and this number grows every day. Another 1.2 million people are on work, study or refugee claimant permits, most of whom are shut out of any opportunity to remain permanently in Canada. We know that permanent resident status is the mechanism through which all other rights are accessed.

Decades have passed since Canada has made any progress on an inclusive regularization program for undocumented people. Moreover, migrants on work and study permits in low-waged industries, like care workers, farmworkers and gig-workers, must navigate limited and difficult-to-access immigration programs to get permanent residency. The vast majority of undocumented and temporary status migrants living and working in the country are excluded from permanent residence.

We are hopeful that your government will create a regularization program for all those without status so that everyone in Canada can live a life with dignity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tracy Glynn', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Tracy Glynn

Member of the Board of Directors, Madhu Verma Migrant Justice Centre