

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

RE: Permanent Residence for All Migrants

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau and Minister Fraser,

The National Farmers Foundation is an independent, farmer-led organization that works to identify and mobilize resources to support and engage in research, education, and projects that advance the principles of food sovereignty, agroecology, and social, economic and environmental justice for food producers, workers, and rural communities in Canada. We work closely with the National Farmers Union, a national membership organization that brings together thousands of farmers and allies from across the country.

As an organization that supports the rights of farmers and workers who produce and process our food, we were heartened by some of the positive steps taken by this government to support residency for vulnerable workers in our food system, in particular agricultural workers. We support the parliamentary motion asking for a plan to give permanent residency to workers of all skill-levels. We look forward to reviewing the details of that forthcoming plan.

As you finalize those details, we urge you to consider this historic opportunity to better the lives and working conditions of so many. We believe that it is critically important to create a broad regularization program based on equal rights that will extend permanent residence to all migrants, particularly those in low-waged jobs, who contribute greatly to the health and wellbeing of our food systems and the care economy.

The National Farmers Foundation endorses the proposals developed by the Migrant Rights Network to guide the development of a regularization program (attached). The development of a program of this import should be guided by the knowledge and experiences of those most directly affected.

We know that this government has committed itself to supporting equality, fighting racism, and welcoming immigrants and refugees. We also know that the agricultural sector is facing labour shortage challenges and that some farm organizations are advocating for the expansion of Temporary Foreign Worker (TFW) programs to fill these gaps. We believe that there are many skilled international

agricultural workers who are contributing critical labour to help feed our communities, and that they and their families deserve to be afforded the same rights and opportunities as any other Canadian worker. The current TFW programs are inherently exclusionary and leave workers vulnerable to exploitation and harm. Providing all migrant agricultural workers with permanent resident status would be a first step toward building a more stable and sustainable agricultural labour force in Canada, and addressing the injustices inherent in exclusionary and restricted temporary foreign worker programs.

We look forward to hearing more about how the regularization program will be developed, and hope you will take into account these important perspectives.

Sincerely,

E. Myanne Sondler

Wyanne Sandler Coordinator, National Farmers Foundation