



NEIGHBOURHOOD LEGAL SERVICES

Community Legal Clinic | Serving the Community Since 1973 | Barristers & Solicitors

September 29th, 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,

Neighbourhood Legal Services is a Legal Aid Ontario-funded community legal clinic that provides free legal services to low income people in Toronto's Downtown East. Our catchment area largely matches the federal riding of Toronto Centre and includes parts of Spadina Fort York and and University Rosedale. We are active members of the St. James Town Services Providers Network and Regent Park Executive Directors' Network. We are also active in the Ontario-wide Interclinic Immigration Working Group.

Many of our clients are immigrants and without permanent immigration status. We see firsthand the effects that this has on their ability to access justice. We see clients without immigration status get abused by unscrupulous employers and landlords and struggle to access healthcare and income supports. They do not have the stability to build lives for themselves. [...]

We understand that the PM has given the Immigration Minister a mandate letter to create a regularization program for undocumented migrants and that there was a unanimous parliamentary motion asking the Immigration Minister to create a plan to give permanent residency to workers of all skill levels.

We urge you to take this opportunity to take a broad and inclusive approach and extend permanent residence to 1.7 million migrants, including 500,000 undocumented migrants as possible rather than taking a narrow, restrictive approach .

We endorse the set of policy proposals put forward by the Migrant Rights Network.¹

Our core work is to provide access to justice to the disenfranchised of our society. We understand that this is necessary to create a just and equitable Canada. This is your opportunity to extend justice to hundreds of thousands of the most exploited and marginalized members of our society. We urge you to take it.

Sincerely,

Neighbourhood Legal Services

Att: Migrant Rights Network Policy Brief

¹ “Regularization in Canada”, Policy Submission, July 2022, online at: < <https://migrantrights.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/MRN-Brief-Regularization-July-2022.pdf> >, accessed September 29, 2022.