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September 15, 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)

**RE: We support Permanent Residence for All**

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau and Minister Fraser,

The MFL Occupational Health Centre is a community health centre focused on workplace health and safety in Manitoba. We work with many newcomer and migrant workers and communities in the province to provide rights-based information and training that increase capacity around workers' health and safety. Yet migrants with precarious status are frequently unable to exercise the rights they do hold because they fear the loss of status that is dependent upon their employer.

Based on our experience working with migrant workers with precarious immigration status, we are fully supportive of the federal initiative to undertake a regularization program for undocumented migrants. During the pandemic, undocumented migrants were unable to access many of the supports available to other workers. This resulted in a human rights catastrophe for undocumented residents. We urge you to ensure that a regularization program is inclusive and comprehensive and leaves no workers behind, in particular low-waged workers in a wide variety of industries who have been the backbone of our society during the last two years. We support the call for permanent status for all migrants with precarious status to

eliminate the two-tier immigration system that affords rights and opportunities to some migrants and not others.

The Occupational Health Centre endorses the [principles and proposals](#) for a regularization program developed by organizations representing migrant workers through the Migrant Rights Network, and we encourage you to align your program with this approach.

Changes to the current immigration system are long overdue to address historic and systemic racism and other intersectional oppressions. We call on your government to put your commitments to anti-racism, feminist, and intersectional values into practice by making changes to the immigration system that will support the regularization of all undocumented migrants and permanent status for all migrants.

As a community health centre, the Occupational Health Centre understands that structural and systemic barriers are among the most important social determinants of health. Immigration status itself is a key social determinant of health. We see this on a regular basis in our work with migrant and undocumented workers who often see no recourse for dealing with unfair labour practices and health and safety violations in the workplace. Addressing the negative health consequences of precarious immigration status requires a bold, comprehensive, and inclusive response from the federal government. We hope to see this reflected in the new regularization program.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,



**Carly Nicholson**  
*Executive Director*  
Occupational Health Centre



**Kevin Rebeck**  
*Chairperson*  
OHC Board of Directors

Cc: Migrant Rights Network - [info@migrantrights.ca](mailto:info@migrantrights.ca)