


Jessica Lyons

to justin.trudeau, sean.fraser, info 

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August 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

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau and Minister Fraser,

We are a province-wide network of parents and families who have organized to resist and stop the Ford government's drastic cuts to public education funding.

Since 2019 we have been connecting to parents and families and working in solidarity with Education workers for fully funded equitable public schools where all children can thrive. Since the pandemic began we have also been advocating for adequate safety measures in schools to protect the health of children and workers. We've seen participation in our actions regularly in almost every single electoral riding in Ontario, thousands of petition signatures, and rallies for Public Education at over 800 schools.

We are writing to implore you to make the right choice now for inclusion and the best chance for so many families and children. We strongly support equal rights for all by extending permanent residence to 1.7 million migrants, including 500,000 undocumented migrants.

This needs to be undertaken through regularization of all undocumented people **without exception** and permanent residence for all migrants, particularly those in low-waged jobs. We endorse the proposals set out by the Migrant Rights Network has created, referenced [here](#) and below:

Develop a simple broad program

- The goal of the program must be regularization of all undocumented people residing in Canada. Undocumented should be defined as any person in Canada without a valid immigration permit.
- If residency in Canada is defined, it should as simple as possible and should include all periods in Canada, including prior to being undocumented, and should be as short as possible. A residency requirement should be no more than two years in Canada.
- Dependents, spouses, and de facto family members must be included and a wide range of documents must be allowed to prove family relations.
- There should be first-stage processing of work permits so that non-status residents can prepare to normalize their life as applicants await a final decision. Permits should be automatically renewed until the application is fully processed.
- Organizations of migrants and migrant rights organizations are crucial partners for successful implementation of the regularization program. A permanent coordinating table must be established with Migrant Rights Network so that undocumented people are involved from design to implementation to evaluation.
- The program should be permanent and available on an ongoing basis because the factors leading to people becoming undocumented will continue for the foreseeable future. Changes must also be made to immigration and refugee policy to ensure that all migrants including workers, refugees, international students and others are guaranteed permanent resident status so that they do not become undocumented.

Clear and simple application process

- Applications must be simple, such that undocumented people are able to apply themselves, online via mobile devices or on paper. There should be a large selection of acceptable documents for the purposes of establishing identity and residence in Canada, none should be mandatory.

- The application should not depend on anyone else (e.g., job letters or proof of work in occupations or spousal ties to Canadian citizens). This will reduce dependency on employers and risks of exploitative or violent relationships. The recent pilot programs required proof of previous employment in specific jobs which excluded many people.
- Third-party applications including from employers and support organizations should be allowed, but they should not be mandatory.
- If applications from third-party groups, lawyers or consultants are not successful, applicants must be given a second opportunity to update their application to mitigate inadequate representation by exploitative third-parties.
- Resources should be made available to legal clinics and community groups to support undocumented people in accessing the program.
- Decisions must be based on clear, objective criteria. Reasons for refusal should be documented and argued.

No Exclusions or Inadmissibility

- People should not be excluded based on past failures to comply with immigration law. Being undocumented creates the conditions for such non-compliance.
- Inadmissibility criteria must be suspended. If there are inadmissibility grounds, there must be a simple procedure for applicants to challenge their exclusion on these grounds.

No Detention or Deportations

- There must be a prohibition on detentions and deportations throughout the course of the regularization program; without this, the regularization program will fail as undocumented people will not apply.
 - No one should be deported if their application is rejected.
- Comprehensive Communications strategy
- The regularization program must be announced at least 6 months in advance to allow for dissemination of information to more isolated undocumented people. The full list of documents required and a sample application must be provided at this stage so that migrants are able to prepare.
 - Information must be provided in the top languages spoken by undocumented people.
 - Social media friendly content in a range of languages and mediums must be created to help communicate the program.
 - Clear and timely communication must be made to civil society organisations including the Migrant Rights Network that have strong links to undocumented people.

We want to see all people, families and children our communities supported to thrive and live to their full creative potential. We know this means full broad inclusion, support and equity in all facets of life and society. Welcoming schools, strong public institutions and supportive non-oppressive environments are key to realizing this goal. This is why we are supporting the demand for a full broad regularization program that includes everyone.

Yours sincerely,

Ontario Parent Action Network