



September 14, 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

RE: We support Permanent Residence for All

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau and Minister Fraser,

On behalf of SEIU Local 2 and our 18,000 members across Canada, I am writing to voice our collective support for the creation of a regularization program for all undocumented people and permanent residence for all migrants, particularly those in low-wage jobs.

SEIU Local 2 members work in essential services and low-wage jobs across Canada and know the additional struggles faced by those with precarious immigration statuses. Up to now, Canadian immigration policy has failed workers across Canada. Most migrants to Canada arrive here under temporary permits and are denied basic rights and benefits like job protections, healthcare, and education. Most migrant workers are tied to a single employer, leaving them vulnerable to exploitation, overwork without pay, health and safety violations; their ability to speak out about bad working conditions, illegal activity, or other exploitative employer behavior is severely limited. Most migrant workers are even denied the right to a union – a basic right for all Canadians.

For migrant workers, speaking up against injustice and exploitation leaves them open to the threat, and real possibility, of deportation to countries where they experience violence, harassment, and the threat of

303 Waverley Street
Ottawa, ON K2P 0V9
P 613-567-3528
F 613-567-0924

572 Arthur St. W., POB 32001
Thunder Bay, ON P7E 0A1
Toll 1-888-887-5343
P 807-473-9651
F 807-473-3632

SEIU 2 - Head Office
2600 Skymark Ave, 2-200
Mississauga, ON L4W 5B2
Toll 1-800-663-6841
P 905-602-7477
F 905-602-7476
seiulocal2.ca

163 Wyse Road
Lower Level
Dartmouth, NS B3A 1M5
P 902-455-1095
F 902-455-1855

7128 Gilley Avenue
Burnaby, BC V5J 4X2
P 604-540-7774
F 604-540-7779



death. Most migrant workers, particularly those in low-wage jobs, have no real path to permanent residency. Even those who might speak up and who's employers are found to be non-compliant still have no protections. As a result, many are forced to make the difficult and dangerous decision to stay in Canada undocumented.

Today, your government is in a unique political moment to commit watershed immigration policy to the Liberal legacy and Canadian history. You can choose to uphold values of equality, anti-racism, and welcoming immigrants and refugees or further the marginalization of those already the most precarious in our society. This policy must reject a small, exclusionary program offering rights only to a few and instead implement equal rights for all; implement regularization for all, extending permanent residency to 1.7 million migrants, including 500,000 undocumented migrants.

Many members of SEIU Local 2 have experienced the struggles of migrant workers, and we ask that you prioritize the dignity of all people in Canada, including those undocumented. We trust you will further equality in our country, offering support to those who care for our kids and parents, those who pick our food, and those who serve us in all jobs across the country.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'David Bridger'.

David Bridger
President, SEIU Local 2

Cc: Migrant Rights Network - info@migrantrights.ca

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