

Oct, 16/2022

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, Minister@cic.gc.ca

Cc: info@migrantrights.ca**RE: We support Permanent Residence for All**

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau and Minister Fraser,

The Sudbury Workers Education and Advocacy Centre unanimously and completely supports the implementation by the federal government of a new “regularization program” for undocumented migrant workers. This must be inclusive for all undocumented people without exception, guaranteeing everyone a fair and equal opportunity to live free of fear of deportation, discrimination, and exploitation. Permanent residency must be granted to all migrants, particularly those working in low-wage jobs.

The Sudbury Workers Education and Advocacy Centre is a committed non-profit made up of workers, students and community volunteers dedicated to improving the lives and working conditions of workers, especially those in low-wage and precarious employment. We teach people about their rights at work, bring workers together to learn and share, and support clients one on one to achieve justice. We help alleviate poverty through a rights-based, educational and community-building approach. We empower workers to stand up and advocate for themselves and others and improve their socio-economic position.

We were encouraged by the mandate from Trudeau given to the Minister of Immigration to “explore ways of regularizing status for undocumented workers”

and we watched as the motion was passed unanimously in May when parliamentary called for a plan to allow workers of all skill levels to access permanent residency. More recently, the temporary lift on the 20-hour work cap for International Students with work permits are all a great step forward. However, it is important to note that these partial changes do not create clear solutions for all migrant people.

Canadian immigration policy has failed workers. Many migrants come to Canada as migrant workers tied to an employer which increases vulnerability and limits their ability to speak out about bad work conditions. Most of them are denied the right to a Union. We watched as the federal government left Migrant workers vulnerable during the pandemic and COVID-19, hundreds to thousands of migrant people were left to be exploited, without access to basic public services and had little to no access to financial support. These tragedies cannot continue, we have fought alongside hundreds of workers across the Greater Sudbury Region in violations from employers, and on too many occasions- we have watched migrant workers become traumatized by the fear of reprisal, and deportation, we fear for our neighbours, families and friends here in Sudbury and will not turn a blind eye.

We welcome and place our full support behind the Migrant Rights Network whom has created a [set of proposals to guide the development of a regularization program](#) that has been attached for review. We urge you to introduce a program that is comprehensive of the recommendations within. One that will extend permanent residency to 1.7 million migrants, including 500,000 undocumented migrants and those in low-wage employment. One that protects migrant people from detentions, deportations, and exclusions now and in the future.

This program has the opportunity to allow Canada to step in the right direction by reconciling with many dark histories and working to correct injustices that are still occurring on stolen land. We cannot pretend we do not see the suffering of our land at the hands of systemic racism, inequality, and neglect from our government. Liberals can make historical history and stand alongside migrant peoples becoming true change-makers, and leaders - it is time for a government that puts action behind their promises.

Recently we gathered as a community in solidarity with Migrant people across the Northern Region. We had the opportunity to listen to Migrant people share the realities they face and their hopes for true equality and freedom. Workers shared stories of poverty, abuse, and how they have been denied human rights and opportunities in Canada and in Sudbury.

We hope we can place our trust in a government that fully supports human rights and implement a full comprehensive regularization plan.

Sincerely,
The Sudbury Workers Education And Advocacy Centre



Scott Florence,
Executive Director