



ASSOCIATION POUR LES DROITS DES TRAVAILLEUSES.ERS DE MAISON ET DE FERME
ASSOCIATION FOR THE RIGHTS OF HOUSEHOLD AND FARM WORKERS

Montreal, March 14, 2024

To: Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau
Prime Minister of Canada
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A2
justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca

Hon. Marc Miller
Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship
House of Commons, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A6
Marc.Miller@parl.gc.ca, Minister@cic.gc.ca

CC: Migrant Rights Network
info@migrantrights.ca

Re: DTMF-RHFV supports the call for Comprehensive and Humane Immigration Policy Reform

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau and Minister Miller:

I am writing on behalf of the *Association for the Rights of Household and Farm Workers (DTMF-RHFV)* regarding pressing issues in Canadian immigration policy. Particularly the need for comprehensive regularization and fair treatment of newcomers, people in precarious status, asylum seekers, and temporary foreign workers.

For decades now, RHFV has been dedicated to advancing the fundamental rights of workers employed in private households and on farms, many of whom have precarious immigration status. As an organization deeply involved in these issues, we cannot emphasize enough the urgent need for the current government to take action and demonstrate its commitment to equality, combatting racism, ensuring gender justice, and welcoming immigrants and refugees.

At this critical political moment, both in Canada and around the world, it is crucial to fulfill the commitments made in December 2021 when Prime Minister Trudeau mandated the Immigration Minister to create a "regularization program" for undocumented migrants. This promise has been reiterated on numerous occasions, with the latest commitment being to present a proposal to the Cabinet in the spring of 2024.

Amidst rising living costs, monopolized grocery markets, and escalating rents, immigrants are being unfairly scapegoated for economic hardships, perpetuating xenophobia and divisiveness. We urge the government to refrain from adopting policies that fuel these narratives and instead ask the

Trudeau government to honour its commitment to Liberal values of equality, fighting racism, ensuring gender justice and welcoming immigrants and refugees.

This involves implementing the following:

- Immediate creation of a comprehensive regularization program granting all undocumented individuals the opportunity to apply for permanent resident status without caps or industry/geographical restrictions.
- Granting open work permits to all individuals willing to work in Canada (IMP, TFWP, SWAP, etc.) while establishing a realistic and humane path to permanent resident status for the worker and their family.
- Establishment of an interim program enabling migrant caregivers in Canada, most of them women providing essential care to children, individuals with disabilities, and the elderly under the HCCP & HSWP programs that are expiring on June 17, 2024, to apply for permanent resident status without the burdensome educational and language proficiency requirements.
- Eliminate restrictions on hours of work for international students.
- Abolish indirect unfree labour measures, such as sponsorship privilege/hiring permits (LMIAs for the TFWP and job offer genuineness assessments for the IMP). Allowing immigration officials to determine whether an employer may hire a foreign worker perpetuates conditions of unfree labour.
- Eliminate Canada's indirect worker debt bonding measures. Program requirements that provide specific employers or groups of employers with the obligation/privilege of covering the cost of international transportation, social integration, and/or living accommodation lead to worker indebtedness towards their employer and have fostered misconceptions among employers that they have proprietary claims over workers. All migration costs should be covered directly or indirectly (through micro-loan programs) by the country of destination's government (and possibly also by the government of the country of origin).

These *reforms* hold profound significance for the **Association for the Rights of Household and Farm Workers (DTMF-RHFW)**, as it aligns with our mission to defend the fundamental rights of household and farm workers in Quebec and Canada, particularly those employed under precarious immigration legal status. By granting equal rights and opportunities to all workers, we lay the groundwork for a more inclusive, fair, and prosperous society.

We are proud to stand united with nearly 500 organizations across Canada in advocating for independent and non-conditional access upon arrival to full and permanent immigration status for all migrants.

Prime Minister Trudeau and Minister Miller, it is time for Canada's immigration system to embody the principles that define our nation. The decisions made in the coming months will profoundly impact countless individuals' lives and shape our nation's future. We urge you to seize this opportunity to enact meaningful change, rooted in compassion, equity, and justice.

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Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter. We eagerly await your response and remain committed to working collaboratively toward a fair and inclusive immigration policy.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. Depatie-Pelletier', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Eugénie Depatie-Pelletier, M.Sc., Ph.D. Droit/Law (LL.D.)
Directrice générale/Executive director
Association Droits Travailleuses-rs de Maison et de Ferme
Association for the Rights of Household and Farm Workers