



Canadian Union of Public Employees • Local 1281

25 Wood Street, Suite 102, Toronto, Ontario, M4Y 2P9
416.551.0057 F: 647.350.4049 admin@cupe1281.ca

www.1281.cupe.ca

April 22, 2024

BY: Email

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 - letters@migrantrights.ca

RE: Regularize All Undocumented People and Ensure Permanent Resident Status for All Migrants

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau and Minister of Immigration Miller,

CUPE 1281 represents support staff for social-justice oriented organizations across Ontario and Canada, including several CUPE Ontario Locals, the Canadian Media Guild, the Carleton and Toronto Metropolitan University's Student Unions, and Community Food Centers Canada. We are known for our active presence within CUPE Ontario and CUPE National, and for our long history of working in alignment with broader social justice movements. We stand together with those working to dismantle labour exploitation, ableism, racism, gender-based oppression, homophobia, and colonialism.

This is why we are writing today to express our solidarity with the Migrant Rights Network and their call to regularize all undocumented people in Canada and to ensure permanent resident status for all migrants.

We have noted with dismay that the narrative being forwarded by the Polliviere Conservatives has adopted the xenophobia and anti-multiculturalism that we've come to associate with MAGA politics in the United States. We note, similarly, that your Immigration Minister has not yet announced any substantive progress in the



Canadian Union of Public Employees • Local 1281

25 Wood Street, Suite 102, Toronto, Ontario, M4Y 2P9
416.551.0057 F: 647.350.4049 admin@cupe1281.ca

www.1281.cupe.ca

creation of a regularization program, despite this Government's mandate letter and the Minister's announcement to bring forward a proposal to cabinet this Spring.

Many of our members work as support staff for student unions, where panic is taking hold along with the sense that international students will continue to be scapegoated for the cost of living and housing crises that this government has not yet deployed effective policy to stem. We are well aware - as, by your statements, are you - that international students and migrant workers are not the cause of the financialization of housing or the untrammled greed of industrial food firms like Loblaws. And yet, we see with growing frustration that in the face of your Government's prolonged inaction that this narrative is taking ever-stronger hold.

It seems to us, and to many in the labour movement, that you are trying to have it both ways by making statements condemning anti-immigrant racism while doing nothing to ensure the continued dignity of migrant workers and international students who contribute so much to our communities and our country. We are not misled by this equivocation. It is time to either put what you've said about justice for migrants into action, or to be honest about the fact that you will not and then let us, as voters, make an informed choice in the 2025 election.

A just society means that everyone is valued equally. Therefore, we demand that the Minister immediately announce its progress towards creating a [regularization program](#) that allows all undocumented people to apply for permanent resident status immediately. This means a fair deal. This means no more temporary work permits that cause so many of our fellow workers to face extreme racism and exploitation, and it means establishing an [interim program for migrant caregivers](#) in Canada to apply for permanent resident status. You can find more information about Migrant Rights Network's proposals on these matters attached.

We will, with many other communities and organizations who believe in an equitable future, watch with interest to see what your Government does to address the concerns that we have, in concert with many others, expressed here.

Sincerely,

Eileen Wennekers, Vice President
for The Canadian Union of Public Employees Local 1281