



CCPA

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April 22, 2024

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

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

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau and Minister Miller,

I am writing to you on behalf of the BC Office of the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives. We are part of a national research institute with offices across Canada that has been investigating key challenges facing our country through independent research, analysis and expertise since 1980. CCPA proposes real, workable solutions, and shares our findings as widely as possible to advance social, economic and environmental justice – and to challenge the message that there is no alternative.

Along with major civil society, labour, and health organizations, we have long advocated for the need for a more inclusive and fair immigration program that ensures permanent resident status for all migrants in Canada.

CCPA's research, which includes three decades of collaboration with academic and community-based experts to develop recommendations for immigration policy reform in Canada through the Alternative Federal Budget, has shown that the lack of permanent status for migrant workers fosters precarity. This allows for exploitative labour practices, hinders workers' access to healthcare, undermines the important contributions migrants make to our society and economy, and entrenches racist socio-economic disparities.

In our latest [Alternative Federal Budget](#) we proposed the following:

The AFB will give permanent resident status for all migrant workers on arrival and introduce a comprehensive, inclusive and ongoing immigration status regularization program for all those without status in Canada. The program will be open and accessible, and will not deny immigration status on the basis of official language ability, income level, work or study experience in Canada and health status. The program will make all pilot programs permanent, including programs for domestic violence survivors, caregivers, vulnerable workers, and undeclared family members, while relaxing the rules for the agri-worker pilot program and expanding it to other workers and sectors.

These findings are confirmed by the BC Office's 2008 study of farmworkers and by our ongoing research on migrant care workers and undocumented construction workers conducted as part of the SSHRC-funded Understanding Precarity in BC Partnership, which we jointly lead with Simon Fraser University.

The impending expiration of the Home Child Care Provider Pilot and Home Support Worker Pilot on June 17, 2024, marks a pivotal point that could leave thousands of migrant workers, primarily women, without a path to permanency. This development is set against a backdrop of rising costs of living, where migrants are disproportionately affected and often scapegoated in broader societal discourses on housing and employment.

In this context, the urgent need for reform to Canada's immigration system to address systemic racism and support migrant communities cannot be overstated. The CCPA-BC strongly supports the Migrants Rights Network's proposal for an immediate implementation of a comprehensive and inclusive regularization program that removes the barriers of caps, industry-specific, and geographic restrictions. Such an initiative must:

- Ensure permanent resident status for all, including by facilitating an immediate pathway to permanent residency for all undocumented individuals, without the requirement of a two-step process that first issues temporary work permits.
- Create interim measures for migrant caregivers, allowing them to gain permanent resident status without burdensome educational and language test prerequisites.
- Abolish the tied work permit system that binds workers to one employer, which not only limits their employment options but also places them at a higher risk of exploitation and abuse.

Regularization is the only just policy option that addresses systemic racism. Canada's commitment to human rights, equity, and the fair treatment of all people residing within its borders demands equal status for all working people. These steps are not just necessary, they are imperative to building a resilient and inclusive society where every individual can thrive.

As such, we urge your government to act swiftly on these issues, reflecting the values that Canada espouses on the world stage. Let us align our policies with our principles of equality, justice, and respect for every person's dignity and rights.

Thank you for your attention and we look forward to your reply on how you are taking action on this important matter.

Sincerely,



Bill Kilgannon
Director, Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives - BC Office