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Hon. Marc Miller

Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship
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Cc: Migrant Rights Network - info@migrantrights.ca

Dear PM Trudeau and Minister Miller,

We are a grassroots climate action organization committed to a green future in which there are equal rights for all.

The December 2021 [mandate letter](#) committed the Immigration Minister to create a “regularization program” for undocumented migrants. That promise has been repeated many times. Most recently Minister Miller promised to bring a proposal to Cabinet in the [Spring](#) of 2024.

As a grassroots climate action group, we believe a green economy that serves the climate, workers and community must be founded on the equality of all residents. By ensuring equal status for all migrants, we would remove a significant barrier to equality.

Migrants, including refugees and non-status people, have always worked here — raising our kids, caring for our parents, and picking our food. These are some of the most insecure and exploitative jobs in Canada. But they’re precisely the parts of our economy that we need to support and expand: nursing, child- and elder-care, farming, and domestic labor. They are low-carbon, too. We all need to pull together to change our economy and society to avert climate disaster and that requires bringing in those who are currently excluded by immigration laws.

We also strongly believe that Canada must take responsibility for climate migrants:

Climate change has caused a [25 per cent](#) increase in economic inequality between the richest countries and the poorest. Canada is one of the world’s largest [greenhouse gas emitters by population](#). In 2015, it was estimated that Canada’s debt to poorer countries for its role in causing climate change was [at roughly \\$400 billion](#). This enormous share of responsibility in causing the climate crisis constitutes a moral obligation to welcome

migrants with open arms, and implement climate solutions that get at the root of the crisis and leave no one behind.

This obligation is further reinforced by Canada's position as a leader in mining devastation - [75% of the planet's mining exploration and exploitation companies had their headquarters in Canada in 2012](#). The mass degradation of natural resources, ecology, and species extinction connected to development projects led by Canadian companies has led to destruction of land-based ways of life, and mass impoverishment of people in the Global South, shrinking economic opportunities for everyone and creating the conditions for migration to Canada. Many migrants, on work, tourist or study permits, refugees and undocumented people, are here because of climate displacement, not just those from mass weather events. Giving equal rights to migrants is part of paying off Canada's climate debt.

For these climate-related reasons and for many other reasons such as ending systemic racism; ensuring safe conditions of work and providing access to health care, we call on you to do as you promised.

The Migrant Rights Network has created proposals on [regularization](#) and proposals for [migrant careworkers](#). We endorse these and expect the government to ensure equal rights for all by following through on **regularizing all undocumented people and ensuring permanent resident status for all migrants** without further delay.

Thank you,

Lyn Adamson

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