

92 England Circle,
Charlottetown, PE C1E 1W8
March 8, 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 a member of the Prince Edward Island Chapter of the Council of Canadians, and also a member of the PEI Action Team for Migrant Workers' Rights at Cooper Institute. Both of these organizations strongly support regularizing all undocumented people and giving permanent resident status to all migrants. The Action Team for Migrant Workers' Rights is holding an event on March 16 where Charlottetown community members will drop in to express their support for regularization for all undocumented people and permanent resident status for all migrants.

I am aware that PM Trudeau made a [mandate letter](#) commitment in December, 2021, asking the Immigration Minister to create a "regularization program" for undocumented migrants. That promise has been repeated many times, and most recently the Minister promised to bring a proposal to Cabinet in the [Spring](#) of 2024. I am eagerly looking forward to hearing that proposal, and sincerely hope that it will recommend regularizing all undocumented people and giving permanent resident status to all.

I am especially concerned about migrant care workers whose right to stay in Canada will end on June 17. I urge you to give them all permanent resident status before that date. Your government has made it impossible for them to apply for PR due to the extremely difficult requirements regarding language testing and education. Care workers are crucial to allow family members of those who require care, to earn a living.

As we all know, the cost of living in Canada has risen astronomically in the past few years. Immigrants and migrants feel this challenge more than most. Their salaries are frequently very low, and the government has capped study permits and permanent residency.

I urge you to act immediately to give everyone the same immigration rights. For many years, people have voted for Liberal governments because we believe that you value equality and fairness. We believe that you are anti-racist and value gender justice, and that, when you are in power, the door is open to immigrants and refugees. If all people do not have the same immigration rights, we do not have a fair

and just society.

I strongly urge you to immediately create a comprehensive and inclusive regularization program to allow all undocumented people to apply for PR status now.

I also ask that you create an interim program for migrant caregivers in Canada to apply for PR without educational or language test score requirements.

I urge you to end tied work permits and hours of work limits for international students.

And I urge you to ensure permanent resident status for all working class people in Canada today.

The Migrant Rights Network has created proposals on [regularization](#) and for [migrant careworkers](#). I strongly support these proposals which will result in many improvements to Canadian society including improved working conditions for all. At present, migrant workers and other undocumented workers are reluctant to assert their rights because they may be immediately sent home. Consequently, their working conditions are often far from a reasonable standard. They are also reluctant to seek healthcare because they cannot afford it. Ultimately, this costs Canadian taxpayers who may have to cover a much larger medical expense if the undocumented worker's condition has worsened.

I am attaching the Migrant Rights Network proposals to my letter.

Ensuring regularization for all is the right and fair thing to do. Canada depends on the work of undocumented people, many of whom are racialized, low-waged and women. It is wrong to take advantage of their vulnerability. We pride ourselves on being anti-racist, and on supporting gender equality. We need to be sure that our actions are as loud as our words. I urge you to make permanent resident status available to all undocumented people. Canada will benefit financially from their statutory remittances and from the ability of migrant workers to fill skill and labour gaps and it will allow us to expand nursing, child- and elder-care, farming, and domestic labor, which we badly need to do. In 2015, it was estimated that Canada's debt to poorer countries for its role in causing climate change was [at roughly \\$400 billion](#). Creating a program that ensures regularization for all is an excellent way to begin to repay that debt.

I look forward to hearing that Canada has established a regularization program for all undocumented workers and that we have granted permanent resident status to all migrants.

Yours sincerely,

Mary Cowper-Smith

- Migrant Rights Network 's proposals on [regularization](#) and for [migrant careworkers](#).

Cc: Migrant Rights Network - info@migrantrights.ca