



Durham Region Labour Council

April 02, 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

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 Miller,

The Durham Region Labour Council, representing 25 union locals comprised of approximately 55,000 unionized workers from across the Durham Region, is writing today to demand that the Liberal Government act, as you have indicated you would, to ensure regularization and permanent resident status for all undocumented and migrant workers. The Durham Region is one of strategic importance to your party, given the success the Liberals have had in Pickering, Ajax and Whitby.

We want to remind you, Prime Minister, that you made a [mandate letter](#) commitment asking the Immigration Minister to create a “regularization program” for undocumented migrants. You have repeated that promise many times, and most recently you promised to bring a proposal to Cabinet in the [Spring](#) of 2024. **This promise you’ve made matters to us, our members, and workers all across the Durham Region** and time is running out to fulfill these promises regarding regularization. The migrant care worker program is expiring on June 17, and unless it is replaced thousands of migrant women will become undocumented. Already, [many of them cannot apply for permanent residency because of impossible-to-achieve language testing and educational accreditation requirements](#).

We don’t need to remind you that there is currently an affordability crisis happening across the country as a result of landlords raising rents beyond reach, grocery monopolies making it harder to put food on our tables, and lobbyist driven provincial governments privatizing healthcare and education. This has resulted in migrants and immigrant workers being scapegoated for the affordability crisis as racism is used to divide and distract us. Your government has played into this dangerous rhetoric instead of implementing a comprehensive regularization strategy through harmful policies such as capped study permits, which mean students can’t be with their families and through permanent residency caps, which means more people than ever will remain on temporary and exploitative permits.

It is long overdue for your government to take responsibility for this situation through swift and decisive action to create and enact a fair regularization strategy that ensures permanent residency for migrants and undocumented workers. The Liberal Government must take action including the following:

- Immediately create a comprehensive, transparent, and equitable regularization program providing a pathway to permanent residence status for all people with precarious/undocumented immigration status in Canada, including migrant workers and failed claimants.
- Ensure no caps or restrictions by industry or geography, and no two-step immigration with temporary work permits.
- Implement a simple, cost-free application process, independent of immigration advisors or employers, with a moratorium on deportations and detentions during the regularization process.
- Create an [interim program for migrant caregivers](#) in Canada to apply for permanent resident status without educational accreditation and language test score requirements;
- End migrant exploitation by ending tied work permits and hours of work limits for international students; and ensure permanent resident status for all working-class people in Canada today.

The working conditions experienced by migrant and undocumented workers impact the working conditions of all Canadian workers and our members understand and care deeply about this connection. Employers of migrant workers, international students and undocumented workers threaten them with deportations to stop them from asserting their rights. This abuse results in overall worsening of working conditions in the labour market. The Migrant Rights Network has created [proposals on regularization](#) and for [migrant care workers](#). The Durham Region Labour Council strongly supports these proposals, and we believe that they will result in many improvements to Canadian society including improved working conditions for all. It is time to build a fair society with equal rights and permanent resident status for all and we look forward to seeing your proposal that addresses these issues to the benefit of all Canadian workers including our migrant and undocumented siblings.

Sincerely,

Mary Fowler

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Fowler". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mary" and the last name "Fowler" clearly legible.

President - Durham Region Labour Council