

April 19, 2024

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau  
Prime Minister of Canada  
By email: [justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca](mailto:justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca)

The Honourable Marc Miller  
Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship  
By email: [minister@cic.gc.ca](mailto:minister@cic.gc.ca)

Subject: Regularize all undocumented people and ensure permanent resident status for all migrants.

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau and Minister Miller,

I am writing on behalf of the 11,000 Elementary Teachers of Toronto who work in over 470 schools and worksites across the Toronto District School Board.

Your government must make an important decision – to immediately create a comprehensive and inclusive regularization program that supports all undocumented people to apply for permanent resident status now, as your government has promised to do.

Our members work with students and their families in elementary schools across Toronto who face significant barriers and hurdles owing to their undocumented status. Children who grow up experiencing their parents' vulnerability to employment abuse, poverty, racism, lack of access to health care, social services, and educational opportunities cannot help but be impacted by this living situation. Children of undocumented parents deal with higher rates of health issues because of their parents' legitimate concerns about utilizing health care systems. Peer interactions for undocumented children can become fraught with anxiety for fear of their status/the status of their family becoming known and the very real possibility of deportation. Greater experiences of isolation and loneliness occur when a child feels they must be in hiding about essential aspects of who they are. These lived realities have an immediate impact on a child's ability to learn and to thrive. No child should grow up with these fears and barriers.

Your Government can be the difference now in the lives of undocumented children and their families.

Migrant Rights Network has created proposals on regularization and for migrant careworkers.

The Elementary Teachers of Toronto endorses these proposals.

We call on you to 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.

This is a situation where doing the right thing should be easy.

I trust that your Government will prioritize these proposals and move forward now.

I look forward to hearing back.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H. Victoros', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Helen Victoros  
President  
Elementary Teachers of Toronto

Cc: Migrant Rights Network