



Front d'action populaire en réaménagement urbain

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Montreal, February 28th, 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 - info@migrantrights.ca

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

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau and Minister Miller,

Front d'action populaire en réaménagement urbain (FRAPRU) is a group of 141 community organizations active in different regions of Quebec, 30 of which are at core of its decisions and interventions. For the past 45 years, FRAPRU has focused on issues relating to the right to housing and the promotion of social housing. It is the voice of under-housed tenant households and social housing applicants. Our organization is concerned by the plight of non-status people in Canada, many of whom currently find themselves in situations where their rights are being violated, including their right to decent housing. In precarious situations and living in fear, they are all too often at the mercy of landlords who take advantage of their insecurity.

In December 2021, PM Trudeau made a [mandate letter](#) commitment 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 2024](#). The migrant care worker program is expiring on June 17 2024, and unless it is replaced thousands of migrant women will become undocumented. Already, [many of them cannot apply for permanent residency due to the impossibility to achieve language and educational accreditation requirements](#).

Landlords are raising rents beyond reach, grocery monopolies are making it harder to put food on our tables, lobbyist driven governments are privatizing healthcare and education. But it's immigrants that are being scapegoated for the affordability crisis instead of the lack of actions taken by governments in the past years including funding social housing. The federal government has capped study permits, students can't be with their families and permanent residency has been capped which means more people than ever will remain on temporary status. Those temporary permits lead to often to exploitative situations.

We hereby add our voice to those calling for ensuring equal rights for all by create a comprehensive and inclusive [regularization program](#) that allows all undocumented people to apply for permanent resident status immediately. We also add our voice to these asking federal government to 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.

Migrant Rights Network has created proposals on [regularization](#) and for [migrant careworkers](#). We endorse these.

FRAPRU is convinced that all rights are interrelated. For us, this regularization program is a question of fundamental human rights.


- Undocumented people and migrants are mostly racialized, low-waged people, often women. Ensuring rights and access for them is part of implementing anti-racist policy and gender equality.
- Currently, there are no reliable statistics on undocumented people in Canada. An inclusive regularization program will ensure that non-status people enter into everyday life, allowing for more informed and effective social policies to be created.
- Undocumented people already **live here** and work here. Many are in cash-based jobs, or are under or unemployed. Migrant workers are on employer-tied permits or need to stay in jobs to get permanent resident status. Ending tied permits, removing hours of work restrictions, regularization undocumented people and ensuring permanent resident status for all will increase migrant labour mobility, unlocking their skills and experience enabling them to fill the skills gap and labour market shortage.
- Between 1996 and 2008, 24 of the 27 EU Member States implemented regularization programs, and some several times. An estimated 5.5 to 6 million people were regularized in that time. The largest programs were the Italian 2002 program that regularized 634,000 people and the Spanish 2005 program that regularized 578,375 people. Last year, Ireland regularized most undocumented people in the country who met a basic residency requirement.
- 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 all these reasons, we ask you, Mr Prime Minister and Mr Minister, to proceed without delay.

Best Regards,



Véronique Laflamme, responsable des dossiers politiques et porte-parole

Catherine  Lussier, ~~coordonnatrice~~