

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau and Minister Marc Miller,

My name is Lisa Baird and I run Guelph Community Acupuncture, offering affordable group acupuncture treatments in downtown Guelph since 2013. GCA is a low-cost, high volume practice. We treat thousands of people each year.

In December 2021, PM Trudeau made a mandate letter commitment asking the Immigration Minister to create a “regularisation program” for undocumented migrants. The Minister has promised to bring a proposal to Cabinet in Spring 2024. **But the migrant care worker program will expire on June 17.** If it is not replaced, thousands of migrant women will become undocumented. This is in the context of ever-rising rents, groceries becoming drastically more expensive, and moves to privatise healthcare and education—all while im/migrants are subject to racist scapegoating for the affordability crisis. You have the opportunity to meaningfully address all of this.

**Equal rights for all will only be possible when everyone has the same immigration rights.**

You must immediately create a comprehensive regularisation program that allows all undocumented people to apply for and receive permanent residence status now. This means no caps, no two-step immigration with temporary work permits, and no restrictions by industry of work or geography. You must also create an interim program for migrant caregivers to apply for permanent resident status without educational accreditation and language test score requirements. And you must end migrant exploitation by ending tied work permits and hours of work limits for international students.

**Migrant Rights Network has done an enormous amount of work to create proposals on regularisation and for migrant careworkers. My organisation endorses these principles; you can read the briefs [here](#) and [here](#).**

As a health care provider who works with a wide range of demographics, including working class and poor people, I see first hand how precarious work and exploitative labour conditions affect people’s health. **You have the opportunity to drastically and rapidly improve millions of people’s health.**

I am also deeply invested in preserving our public health institutions. Migrants often cannot afford to access healthcare until the situation is dire, due to the costs. It is shameful that people in Canada are unable to access necessary healthcare! It also often means that by the time they do access healthcare their conditions are much more complicated, resulting in extra burdens on

an already-overburdened healthcare system. **This directly impacts everyone living in Canada.**

Speaking of injustices that impact everyone in Canada: I am also aware that most undocumented people pay taxes while their (often wealthy) employers don't pay statutory remittances. **Regularizing 500,000 undocumented people will increase employer CPP and EI contributions by at least \$1.1 billion, just in the first year.** As undocumented people become permanent residents, they will be more financially stable and will spend more money at businesses like mine.

Stop excluding people with unjust immigration laws. You have all the information you need. You have the support of the majority of Canadians (nearly every major civil society, labour, health and environmental organisation has joined the call for full and permanent immigration status for all—nearly 500 organisations).

It's time to act.

Sincerely,

Lisa Baird RAc.

Owner & Operator of Guelph Community Acupuncture