

May 7, 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

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau and Minister Miller,

RE: Supporting a comprehensive federal regularisation program and permanent residency status for migrants in Canada

On behalf of the undersigned provincial and territorial labour federations and as labour leaders across the country, we would like to voice our collective support for an open and accessible federal regularisation program to ensure all migrants in Canada have access to permanent residency status in Canada. This would ensure equal rights and protections for the estimated 1.7 million temporary migrants and 500,000 undocumented migrants and families across the country.

As provincial and territorial federations of labour, we fully support and endorse calls by our allies in the migrant justice movement, and the [recommendations put forth](#) by the Migrant Rights Network, who have been long advocating for a comprehensive, accessible and inclusive federal regularisation program – without caps, restrictions based on geography or industry of work, or stop gap measures, such as the provision of temporary work permits.

Two additional policies we are supporting are calls for the federal government to expedite the introduction of an [interim program for migrant caregivers](#) to be able to apply for Canadian permanent resident status – without rigid educational accreditation and language test score requirements – as well as ending the problematic system of tied work permits for agricultural and low-waged migrant workers and hours of work limits for international students.

As labour advocates, we recognize the numerous positive contributions migrants make, not only to our communities, but our workplaces and the economy as well. Canada's reliance on migrant labour in sectors from construction, agriculture, food processing, retail, hospitality, transportation and many more, has been a boon to our economy. Yet in return, migrant labour has been subject to exploitation by many employers, including employment agencies and recruiters. Migrant workers – particularly those without immigration status – remain fearful speaking out against mistreatment by employers and when faced with workplace violations, which ultimately poses a risk for all workers in terms of poor working conditions, low wages and threats to health and safety.

We are increasingly seeing migrant workers amongst our union membership and as part of our movement for fairness and justice in the workplace, and we are proud to represent them.

While we can negotiate improvements around wages, benefits and working conditions at the bargaining table, we are unable to provide them with the legal rights and protections which permanent residency status affords, and that migrant workers requires in order to build a more secure life for themselves and their families in Canada.

Ensuring greater stability for migrant workers is an investment in Canada's labour force and economic future. We cannot advance if significant portions of our labour force continue to be left behind.

All our federations and union affiliates urge you to demonstrate political leadership and commitment to human rights by fulfilling the promise that has been made to migrant communities by the Prime Minister over three years ago. This would be a significant, and historic step forward, signalling to migrant workers in Canada that they are valued and that equal rights are something that every worker in Canada deserves. We thank you for your time and consideration on this critical matter.

Sincerely,




Daniel Legere
President,
New Brunswick Federation of Labour



Jessica McCormick
President,
Newfoundland & Labrador Federation of Labour



Laura Walton
President,
Ontario Federation of Labour



Carl Pursey
President,
Prince Edward Island Federation of Labour