



PO Box 2091, Stn Terminal
Vancouver BC V6B 3T2

May 6, 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 of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Marc Miller,

We are writing to you on behalf of the Leadnow community regarding the regularization of undocumented people and Permanent Resident status for all migrants.

Leadnow organizes people across Canada on campaigns to build a more just, equitable, and sustainable Canada. We help people take action by providing non-partisan opportunities for impact, both online and in their local communities. Our 600,000-strong community of supporters regularly takes action on campaigns for climate action, strong public services, social justice, and a decent life for all. Our supporters also engage with consultation processes, meet regularly with different levels of government, and organize en-masse during key elections.

We are writing today because right now, you have a key opportunity to make Canada a more just and equitable place — not just for Canadian citizens, but for all.

In December 2021, Prime Minister Trudeau made a commitment in his [mandate letter](#) to the Minister for Immigration to create a “regularization program” for undocumented migrants. That promise has been repeated several times, and most recently the Minister promised to bring a proposal to Cabinet in the [Spring](#) of 2024.

The migrant care worker program is expiring on June 17, and unless it is replaced, thousands of women will become undocumented. Already, [many migrant women cannot apply for permanent residency because of impossible-to-meet language testing and educational accreditation requirements](#).

Landlords are raising rents beyond reach, grocery monopolies are making it harder to put food on our tables, and lobbyist-driven provincial governments are privatizing healthcare and education. But migrants are the ones being scapegoated for the affordability crisis, as racism is used to divide and distract us. This government was elected on a commitment to pursue justice for all. However, instead of realizing that commitment, you have imposed strict caps on study permits and permanent residency, meaning more people than ever will remain separated from their families — or else be forced to remain on temporary and exploitative permits.

The federal government now has a choice to make: to fan the flames of anti-immigrant xenophobia or to live up to the Liberals’ values of equality, multiculturalism, and gender justice by regularizing undocumented migrants and extending permanent resident status to all.

Our allies with the Migrant Rights Network (MRN) have created briefs on how the Federal Government must approach regularization and rights for migrant workers. We firmly endorse their demands to ensure equal rights for all:

- Immediately create a comprehensive and inclusive [regularization program](#) that allows all undocumented people to apply for permanent resident status immediately. This means no caps, no restrictions by industry of work or geography, and no two-step immigration which only gives temporary work permits;
- 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.

A cross-section of major civil society, labour, health and environmental organizations have joined the MRN’s call for full and permanent immigration status for all — totalling nearly 500 organizations. Major organizations from across Canada have also written letters to PM Trudeau

supporting this regularization proposal. On September 17, 2023, MRN organized demonstrations in 15 cities in Canada, which were endorsed by over 200 organizations.

Leadnow joins these efforts because we understand that the issue of status is intimately tied to everything we stand for. Without status, people cannot access healthcare, work safely, or build a life. Every single person in Canada deserves to have these rights, yet this is not the reality now. Furthermore, in creating just regularization and permanent residency pathways, this government can strengthen the economy, address work shortages, invest in the low-carbon care work we desperately need, and build on best practices for labour rights internationally.

There is every reason to extend status to all — and no reason, except those crafted in bad faith by your political opponents, to deny it. We're looking to you to have the courage of your convictions by regularizing all undocumented people and ensuring permanent resident status for all migrants in Canada.

Sincerely,

Maggie Chao
Campaigns Director, Leadnow