



April 11, 2024

The Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau, PC, MP, Prime Minister of Canada
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A2

The Hon. Marc Miller, PC, MP
Minister of Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

Dear Prime Minister and Minister:

Subject: Support Regularization and Status for All

I am writing to you on behalf of the National Union of Public and General Employees (NUPGE), and our more than 425,000 members across the country, about the awaited regularization program for people without status in Canada.

As I [wrote](#) to the Prime Minister and to Minister Miller's predecessor, Minister Fraser, in August 2022, NUPGE has welcomed the government's commitment to introduce a regularization program to extend permanent residency to people without status. I am writing to you again to urge you to deliver on this commitment and to ensure that the regularization program is inclusive and comprehensive.

Migrants and people without status are our neighbours and co-workers. The COVID-19 pandemic, in particular, highlighted the valuable contributions that migrant and undocumented people make to our communities and to our economy. They are among those working in critically important jobs, from food production to caring for vulnerable people.



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And yet, they do not enjoy the same rights and protections as others. They often face unsafe working and living conditions, precarious employment, and barriers to accessing public and social services, all in addition to discrimination and racism. They have disproportionately been affected by COVID-19 and the related economic impacts. What's worse, people with precarious status or no status may be afraid to speak out about injustices, such as unsafe working conditions, for fear of reprisal, termination, or even deportation.

Migrant and undocumented people deserve the same rights, employment standards, and access to services as Canadians. NUPGE has previously called on the federal government [for full, permanent immigration status for all, without exclusions](#).

It is important that your government has taken the first steps towards a regularization program. I urge you to see it through in a meaningful way and in response to the needs of migrants and undocumented people themselves.

NUPGE supports the call from [Migrant Rights Network](#) to regularize all non-status people and to implement a regularization program that is clear, comprehensive, without caps or exclusions, and without detention and deportation. It is important that low-wage migrant workers in Canada, often delivering critical goods and services to us all, have immediate access to permanent residency.

I am also concerned that the Home Child Care Provider Pilot and Home Support Worker Pilot are set to expire in June. These care workers—the majority of them are women—are doing vitally important work but will be left without a pathway to permanent residency. This is at a time when our care systems are under-resourced. I point you to [Migrant Rights Network's recommendations](#) for continuing and improving these pilot projects. These workers deserve equal access to rights and protections.

Your government has stated its commitments to human rights, equality, and fairness. This is a crucial opportunity to demonstrate a meaningful commitment to these values.

Many people in Canada are stretched to the brink with the high cost of living and because public services like health care are in crisis. As I wrote to your government regarding the cap on international students, it is important that federal and provincial/territorial governments take steps to address the root causes of systemic issues—whether in post-secondary education, housing, or health care. Addressing root causes must replace scapegoating immigrants, migrants, and refugees, who are struggling with the same challenges, often with fewer protections or supports.

We must combat racism and xenophobia and treat migrants and undocumented people with the compassion, fairness, and equality they deserve.

I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bert Blundon". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bert Blundon
President

cc: Migrant Rights Network
Jason MacLean, NUPGE Secretary-Treasurer
National Executive Board