

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau and Minister Miller

I am writing to you on behalf of the Climate Justice Committee (CJC) of Seniors for Climate Action Now ! (SCAN !). We are an Ontario-based Seniors' organization (with a membership across 12 Ontario communities) that has formed to address climate issues in our locales and across our world for ourselves and the generations to come. The CJC's mandate is to address the issues (among others) of climate migrants both from our north and across our planet.

In December 2021, you personally and your government made a commitment to create a regularization program for undocumented workers. Recently Minister Miller promised to bring this promise and action to Cabinet to implement. The current migrant worker program expires on June 17th and unless replaced, the status of thousands of migrants to Canada will become 'undocumented' and as a result will increase their vulnerability.

In recent times, many migrants and foreign-born students have been scapegoated to blame for the high cost of living crisis that negatively impacts many Canadians. This needs to stop.

While indigenous peoples have lived in our regions for over 12 thousand years, the rest of Canadians have historically or recently been immigrants and migrants. Our cities, rural communities, public infrastructure, health and social institutions was built by the efforts of indigenous peoples and the waves and waves of immigrants and migrants. Please stand up for the rights, entitlements and laws that it took generations to create for Canadian migrants and immigrants and their families. Many of our ancestors faced racism, nativism and discriminatory practises that thankfully and with insight and effort we have eradicated. Migrants deserve the same respect that we fought to build for all Canadians.

We support your government to:

- Create a comprehensive and inclusive regularization program that will allow all undocumented people to apply for permanent resident status immediately with;
- No caps
- No restrictions
- No two-step immigration process which only provides temporary work permits.
- No restrictive educational accreditation and language testing
- Ensuring that permanent resident status is granted for all those who enter Canada to work

Our statement to you is part of our honouring the Canadian tradition of welcoming those in need, those who come to study or work and those who come to escape war and increasingly those who come to escape climate degradation. And to provide to all who come to our shores healthcare and social supports as required.

We are part of the northern countries that have created economies that relied on green house gas (GHG) emissions that have caused and will cause climate catastrophes unless addressed. Many southern countries now experience record heat waves, droughts and shore line devastation that has caused many to seek solace, assistance and lives elsewhere. At the COP and other conferences, Canada has committed to provide financial assistance to the southern countries to address these issues and more but what is required by your government is to also ease the access to our country for climate migrants.

The numbers of climate migrants will only increase in the years ahead and a regularization program for all undocumented peoples is required to ease their access and address their needs as per the commitments of Canada and your government at international conferences to address the climate emergency.

Thank you for considering our request,

David Kidd  
Chair, Climate Justice Committee  
Seniors for Climate Action Now !