

Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau
Prime Minister of Canada
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Hon. Marc Miller
Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship
House of Commons, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A6
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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 Minister,

On behalf of the Sudbury Workers Education and Advocacy Centre, I am writing to urge you to act on the promise first made in December 2021 to provide a regularization program for undocumented workers.

The Sudbury Workers Education and Advocacy Centre is a small non-profit organization serving north eastern Ontario. We have 180 members in our organization and reach 1000+ people throughout our annual activities. Our members include many migrant workers, including undocumented workers.

Since December 2021, we have eagerly awaited the details of the promised regularization program. As recently as December of this year, Minister Miller affirmed this government's intention to present a program in the spring of this year. With the migrant care worker program scheduled to expire on June 17, the time to act is now. With the expiry of this program, thousands of migrant women will become undocumented. They are unlikely to achieve permanent residency before June 17th because the language testing and educational accreditation requirements are nearly impossible to achieve. Since these workers are currently living and working in Canada, and since the need for their work isn't going away, it is unthinkable to allow these women to become further marginalized.

Migrant workers are our friends, neighbours, co-workers. They pay taxes and contribute to society. They are often working in the lowest waged jobs, under precarious conditions. Greedy landlords are driving rent to unattainable heights, grocery monopolies are racking in billions of dollars while many struggle to put food on the table, and healthcare and education are being privatized at the expense of all. Who is being blamed for these harsh times? Immigrants. The ones who have had the least control over housing availability, rent, grocery prices. Racism is being used to divide and distract us from the real issues and from the real blame.

The federal government under you, Prime Minister Trudeau, swept to power in 2015 on a promise of making things better for all. You promised us equality, ensuring gender justice, an end to racism and the welcoming of immigrants and refugees to build a fair society with equal rights for all. This is the moment to choose. Will you embrace the Liberal values you were elected on, or will you give in to hate and fan the flames of anti-immigration xenophobia?

We urge you to ensure equal rights for all by:

- Immediately create a comprehensive and inclusive [regularization program](#) that allows all undocumented people to apply for permanent resident status immediately.
 - No caps
 - No restrictions by industry of work or geography
 - 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.

The Migrant Rights Network has created briefs on Regularization and on Migrant Care Workers. We endorse these principles and attach the briefs for your consideration.

Fairness, equality... these concepts can be abstract. We see every day the lived reality of migrant workers who are threatened with deportation to stop them from asserting their rights. We see them forced to stay with abusive employers because they fear what will happen, not just to them but to their colleagues, should they try to get an open work permit. This abuse results in overall worsening of working conditions in the labour market. While bad employers prosper, good employers who may be unable or unwilling to hire workers informally or for cash payments are disadvantaged.

Our current system is in desperate need of an overhaul to make it fair and just. Your government has promised to do so. The time is now. We hope that you will make positive changes in the lives of thousands of migrant workers.

Sincerely,

Scott Florence, Executive Director
Sudbury Workers Education & Advocacy Centre (SWEAC)
Centre d'éducation et d'appuis des travailleurs de Sudbury

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Pronouns: He/Him or They/Them

We acknowledge that our offices are located in the traditional territory of the Anishnaabeg peoples, specifically the shared territory of Atikameksheng and Wahnapiatae First Nations.