

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau and Minister Miller,

I am writing to you on behalf of The Refugee Centre, a non-profit organization dedicated to serving refugees and asylum seekers in Montreal, Canada. We believe that community organizations such as ours hold valuable insights into socio-political matters that should be taken into consideration by the federal government in relation to immigration. At this critical political moment, we are compelled to bring to your attention urgent matters concerning immigration policy in Canada.

We commend the commitment made by Prime Minister Trudeau in December 2021, as outlined in the mandate letter, to initiate a "regularization program" for undocumented migrants. This promise has been reiterated on numerous occasions, with the most recent assurance from the Immigration Minister to present a proposal to Cabinet in the Spring of 2024.

Currently, we face a pressing issue with the imminent expiration of the migrant care worker program on June 17. Thousands of migrant women are at risk of becoming undocumented if this program is not replaced. Moreover, many of them are unable to apply for permanent residency due to insurmountable language testing and educational accreditation requirements.

It is evident that immigrants and refugees are being unfairly scapegoated for the affordability crisis in Canada, while systemic issues such as rising rents, monopolies in the grocery sector, and privatization of essential services continue. We urge the federal government to address these challenges and prioritize the rights and well-being of all individuals, regardless of immigration status for the betterment of our nation.

The political choice before the Trudeau government is clear. Acknowledge the growing anti-immigrant sentiment in Canada by addressing the root cause of the cycle of poverty newcomers have been and continue to be forced into.

To achieve these goals, we present the following key demands:

1. The immediate creation of a comprehensive and inclusive regularization program allowing all undocumented individuals to apply for permanent resident status.
2. **Implement no caps or restrictions by industry of work or geography.**
3. Establish an interim program for migrant caregivers to apply for permanent resident status without educational accreditation and language test score requirements.
4. End migrant exploitation by eliminating tied work permits and hours of work limits for international students, ensuring permanent resident status for all working-class individuals in Canada.

We also urge the federal government to endorse the proposals on regularization and migrant care workers developed by the Migrant Rights Network and attach the provided briefs for your review.

<https://migrantrights.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/MRN-Brief-Regularization-July-2022.pdf>

<https://migrantrights.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/MRN-HCCP-HSWP-Submissions-.pdf>

This issue is of utmost importance to our organization as we see firsthand how these bureaucratic policies prevent Canada from achieving and enjoying a healthy economy and labour force without commodifying the labour of migrants with no pathway to permanent residency. Additionally, it is crucial for economic growth, labour mobility, and Canada's international reputation as a leader in humanitarian efforts.

We note with appreciation the growing support from civil society, labour, health, environmental organizations, and Canadians across the country for full and permanent immigration status for all individuals. It is imperative that the federal government listens to these voices and takes decisive action to address the pressing issues outlined above.

In conclusion, we urge the Trudeau government to prioritize the creation of a fair society with equal rights and permanent resident status for all individuals. Failure to act decisively on these matters would not only perpetuate injustice but also hinder Canada's ability to address pressing social, economic, and environmental challenges.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,
The Refugee Centre