



A proud  
member of the



Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau  
Prime Minister of Canada  
80 Wellington Street  
Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A2  
[justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca](mailto: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](mailto:Marc.Miller@parl.gc.ca), [Minister@cic.gc.ca](mailto:Minister@cic.gc.ca)

Cc: Migrant Rights Network - [letters@migrantrights.ca](mailto: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 Vancouver Neighbourhood Food Networks, we are writing to express our deep concern regarding the negative treatment of migrant workers in our country as well as our commitment and desire to see these workers treated with respect and dignity and with full rights as any Canadian worker.

VNFNs are 15 community-based organizations that promote food security and justice in neighbourhoods across Vancouver. We are committed to food equity and access, education, skill building, and advocacy, particularly for community members who are struggling economically. This work is based on the principle that all members of society have the right to quality food. VNFNs provide a space to collaborate, share best practices and advocate for food equity & justice, ecologically and sustainable food systems, and community food resilience with a unified voice.

We acknowledge that the food sector of which we are a part, is dominated by low wage and oppressive working conditions for many migrant workers, including refugees, non-status people, and international students who work in the food and agricultural industry. It is shocking to us that these essential workers are treated as second class citizens in a country such as ours that professes a commitment to human rights. Many migrant and refugees depend on our food programs to access food and we have heard frequently how dire their food insecurity is for their personal and household well-being. We have heard from international students working in the low wage fast-food sector who can barely afford food and who often are forced to skip meals.

In December 2021 PM Trudeau made a [mandate letter](#) commitment asking the Immigration Minister to create a “regularization program” for undocumented migrants. That promise has been repeated many times, and most recently the Minister promised to bring a proposal to Cabinet in the [Spring](#) of 2024. We urge your government to fulfill this promise.

Especially at a time when growing anti-immigrant xenophobia is spreading across Canada and the world, now is the time to fight this growing racism, ensuring gender justice and welcoming all immigrants and refugees into our society with equal rights and permanent resident status.

The Vancouver Neighbourhood Food Networks are therefore calling on the Canadian Government 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.

Further to this, we endorse the Migrant Rights Network proposals on [regularization](#) and for [migrant careworkers](#).

These issues are of utmost concern to us in our interest to ending systemic racism and ensuring gender equality, ensuring improved labour conditions for all, and ensuring public health and the elimination of food insecurity for all.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent issue and on behalf of;

Collingwood Renfrew Food Justice  
Gordon Neighbourhood House Food Network  
Grandview Woodland Food Connection  
Downtown Eastside Right to Food / DTES Neighbourhood House  
Hastings Sunrise Community Food Network  
Village Vancouver  
Westside Food Collaborative  
Westside Food Network  
Strathcona Community Centre Food Program  
South Vancouver Neighbourhood House Food Network

Little Mountain Riley Park Neighbourhood Food Network  
Westend Neighbourhood Food Network  
Marpole-Oakridge Neighbourhood Food Network  
Cedar Cottage Food Network  
Mount Pleasant Food Network

--

**Ian Marcuse** (he/him/his)

**Coordinator | [Vancouver Neighbourhood Food Networks](http://vancouverfoodnetworks.com)**

**Community Food Organizer | [Vancouver Food Justice Coalition](http://vancouverfoodjusticecoalition.com)**

[ourplacefoodstrategy@gmail.com](mailto:ourplacefoodstrategy@gmail.com) | <http://vancouverfoodnetworks.com>

604.253-6281

Unceded Sḵw̓x̓ wú7mesh (Squamish), səl'ilwətał (Tsleil-Waututh), and xʷməθkʷəyəm (Musqueam) lands and is now home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit, and Metis people.