

Monday, April 16, 2024

Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau  
Prime Minister of Canada  
80 Wellington Street  
Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A2  
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

Cc: Migrant Rights Network  
info@migrantrights.ca

RE: Regularize All Undocumented People and Ensure Permanent Resident Status for All Migrants

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau and Minister Miller,

The York South–Weston Tenant Union is a group of tenants and tenant associations in the riding of York South—Weston in Toronto, Ontario. We share information and resources about tenant rights to help reduce rent increases and get necessary repairs done. We also organize and advocate for the right to housing in our community and in Toronto. We are currently leading the largest rent strike in Toronto's history that has been covered extensively by the media, including Macleans.

We understand that a regularization program for undocumented migrants has been promised that a proposal be presented to Cabinet this spring. This is very timely considering that the migrant care worker program is expiring in June. Already, many of these migrants cannot apply for permanent residency because of impossible-to-achieve language testing and educational accreditation requirements.

This comes at a time when people across Canada — not just undocumented people and migrants — are struggling to pay rent and buy groceries.

Your government has a choice to make: will you allow and fan the flames of xenophobia in Canada, or propose a program that will work towards building an equal society that can only exist when everyone has the same immigration rights?

We are writing today to urge you to create a comprehensive and inclusive regularization program that allows all undocumented people to apply for permanent resident status immediately — a program with no caps, no restrictions by industry of work or geography, and no two-step immigration which only gives temporary work permits.

We also urge that you create an interim program for migrant caregivers in Canada to apply for permanent resident status without educational accreditation and language test score requirements, and that you 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.

York South—Weston has one of the lowest income rates in Canada, and is predominantly populated by people of colour and migrant workers. As we continue to fight for our right to housing, we join the Migrant Rights Network's call for a regularization program. There are many benefits of doing so, including playing a part in ending systemic racism and ensuring gender equality, ensuring improved labour conditions and public health, and growing the economy at greater rates than cost of processing or settlement services.

We hope to see you act on this matter and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

The York South—Weston Tenant Union



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York South-Weston Tenant Union  
2575 Eglinton Avenue West (near Keele)  
York, Ontario M6M 1T3  
[www.tenantunion.ca](http://www.tenantunion.ca)  
P: 647 4799796