

August 26, 2022

The Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau, PC, MP
Prime Minister of Canada
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A2



Via Email

The Hon. Sean Fraser, PC, MP
Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

Dear Prime Minister and Minister:

On behalf of the 400,000 members of the National Union of Public and General Employees (NUPGE), I am writing to you about the proposed regularization program for people without status in Canada.

We were glad to see the regularization program included in the mandate letter for the Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, followed by the unanimous support in the House of Commons for a plan to give permanent residency to low-waged migrant workers with temporary or insecure status.

This is welcome and historic news, and the result of hard-fought advocacy by migrant-led groups.

As you know, the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the valuable contributions that migrant and undocumented people make to our communities and to our economy as a whole. They are among those working in critical jobs, in everything from food production to caring for our most vulnerable.

And yet, they don't have access to the same rights and protections as others. They too often face unsafe working and living conditions, precarious employment, and barriers to accessing public and social services, all in addition to discrimination and racism. They have disproportionately been affected by both COVID-19 and the economic impacts.

What's worse, people with precarious status, or no status, may be afraid to speak out about injustices, such as unsafe working conditions, for fear of reprisal, termination, or even deportation. Although these issues received more attention during the pandemic, they are not new. And, without intervention, they will persist after the pandemic has passed.

NUPGE believes that migrant and undocumented people deserve the same rights, employment standards, and access to services as Canadians. NUPGE has previously called on the Canadian government [for full, permanent immigration status for all, without exclusions](#).

We commend you for taking the first steps towards a regularization program, and we urge you to see it through in a meaningful way.

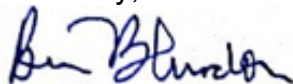
Today, on behalf of NUPGE, I am calling on your government to resist pressures to adopt a narrow approach in this program such as offering status to workers in only certain sectors. Instead, I urge you to develop a regularization program for all undocumented people. This is a historic opportunity to extend permanent residence to an estimated 1.7 million migrants—our neighbours, co-workers, and community members.

We support the call from [Migrant Rights Network](#) to regularize all non-status people and to implement a regularization program that is comprehensive, clear, without exclusion, and without detention and deportation. It is important that low-wage migrant workers in Canada, often providing critical goods and services to us all, have immediate access to permanent residency. A broad and inclusive regularization program, along with addressing the systemic issues in Canada's immigration and refugee system, [will be crucial](#).

Your government has prided itself on being committed to human rights, equality, and fairness. This is an opportunity to demonstrate that commitment.

I look forward to your response on this matter.

Sincerely,



Bert Blundon
President

cc: Jason MacLean, NUPGE Secretary-Treasurer
National Executive Board
Migrant Rights Network