

Please read this web-page first

If you have a good working relationship with one of these Ministers, please get in touch - info@migrantrights.ca

Feel free to write to the entire Cabinet Committee or just one of the MPs that your organization or group has a relationship with

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

Cabinet Committee on Economy, Inclusion and Climate “B”

The Hon. François-Philippe Champagne

The Hon. Ahmed D. Hussen

The Hon. Carolyn Bennett

The Hon. Randy Boissonnault

The Hon. Sean Fraser

The Hon. Steven Guilbeault

The Hon. Mark Holland

The Hon. Gudie Hutchings

The Hon. Dominic LeBlanc

The Hon. Diane Lebouthillier

The Hon. Marc Miller

The Hon. Joyce Murray

The Hon. Mary F.Y. Ng

The Hon. Pascale St-Onge

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Cc: Migrant Rights Network, info@migrantrights.ca

Dear Prime Minister and Members of Cabinet Committee on Economy, Inclusion and Climate “B”,

- **Introduce your organization:** stress membership, media reach & anything else indicating that you can and will influence government decision-makers, media opinion and voters.
- **Why this matters to you:** Highlight why regularization and permanent resident status for all is important to your organization.

Rarely does an opportunity present itself that will both be historic, and pragmatic. You have that opportunity right now. In the weeks to come, the Cabinet Committee on Economy, Inclusion and Climate “B” will receive a proposal to make life-altering public policy for over half a million people who have no other possibility of getting access to universal rights.

You will be asked to weigh in on regularization for undocumented people, and we urge you put all your support behind a program that is uncapped; includes all undocumented people and their families; and is a one-step program where all undocumented people apply for permanent residency.

- **If you are writing to just one Minister:** Highlight why regularization and permanent resident status for all is important for their constituency, and/or their specific mandate as a Minister.

We are writing to you today to support a comprehensive and inclusive regularization program which ensures:

- All 500,000 undocumented people in Canada and their families (without exclusions of any kind) are given permanent residency;
- All undocumented people must be able to apply for permanent residency, and be issued work and study authorizations as they await processing of their permanent residency applications;
- An immediate stop to detentions and deportations so that migrants are not deported before they can apply; and free and accessible applications; and
- Ongoing regularization so that those that become undocumented in the future can get permanent resident status. The entire immigration system must be transformed to ensure permanent resident status for all migrants so that no one becomes undocumented in the future.

We support the proposal developed by Migrant Rights Network:

www.migrantrights.ca/resources/regularization-in-canada.

There is unanimous support for this approach to regularization. Almost every major civil society, labour, health and environmental organization has joined our call for full and permanent immigration status for all - nearly 500 organizations. [Major organizations from across Canada have also written letters](#) to PM Trudeau supporting this regularization proposal.

Permanent resident status is the mechanism through which all other rights are accessed. By supporting a comprehensive regularization program, you would:

- **Address a historic wrong:** A comprehensive program would ensure that you are remembered for supporting life-altering public policy, which corrects an historic wrong. A fair society with equal rights is only possible if everyone has the same immigration status.
- **Be part of ending systemic racism and ensuring gender equality:** Undocumented people are mostly racialized, low-waged people, often women. Ensuring rights and access for them is part of implementing anti-racist policy and gender equality.
- **Ensure improved labour conditions:** Employers of undocumented workers threaten them with deportations to stop them from asserting their rights. 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 excluded.
- **Ensure public health:** Undocumented migrants often do not access healthcare until it is absolutely necessary due to the cost. By the time they do, their health conditions are much more complicated, and the burden on the healthcare system is much higher.
- **Create more effective social policy:** Currently, there are no reliable statistics on undocumented people in Canada. An inclusive regularization program will ensure that non-status people enter into everyday life, allowing for more informed and effective social policy to be created.
- **Grow the economy at greater rates than cost of processing or settlement services:** Most non-status people pay taxes but their employers, many of whom are very profitable businesses, do not pay statutory remittances. Regularizing 500,000 undocumented people will increase employer CPP and EI contributions by at least \$1.1 billion, just in the first year. As undocumented people achieve stability through permanent residence, they will lay down roots, purchase assets of greater value, and spend more on Main Street.
- **Create labour mobility to address shortages where they exist:** Undocumented people live and work here. Many are in cash-based jobs, or are under or

unemployed. Regularizing all undocumented migrants will increase their labour mobility, unlocking their skills and experience enabling them to move and take on whichever jobs have openings.

- **Build on best practices around the world:** Between 1996 and 2008, 24 of the 27 EU Member States implemented regularization programs, and some several times. An estimated 5.5 to 6 million people were regularized in that time. The largest programs were the Italian 2002 program that regularized 634,000 people and the Spanish 2005 program that regularized 578,375 people. Ireland regularized almost all undocumented people in the country this year who met a basic residency requirement.

Thank you in advance for your support and consideration.