

MIGRANT WORKERS

INNER CITY VOTES

2021 FEDERAL ELECTION



What's Happening?

Good enough to work but not good enough to stay. That is how the federal government's Temporary Foreign Worker Program (TFWP) is currently working. The TFWP lets Canadian employers hire people, called migrant workers, from other countries temporarily. The number of temporary work permits issued each year has gone up more than 600% between 2000 and 2018.

Why is This Happening?

Migrant workers do many different jobs. They work on farms, in offices, restaurants, and hotels, they care for the elderly, and children. But temporary workers do not have the same rights as Canadian workers:

- Migrant workers are mostly workers of color from low-income families, work in "low-skilled" jobs, and can be taken advantage of.
- When they apply for the TFWP they have to pay large sums of money to private recruiters.
- Once in Canada permits only allow them to work for one employer. Migrant workers are afraid to speak out against abuse and unsafe workplaces because they fear they might be fired and deported.
- Many of these workers cannot get permanent residence in Canada which means that they do not have the same rights, benefits, and protections that come with being a Canadian. A [report](#) by Migrant Right Network 45.4% of migrant workers across Canada were excluded from the new immigration pathway introduced in April 2021 because of financial inability and high English test requirements.
- Even though migrant workers add much to our economy and pay all of the same taxes as Canadians, they cannot get employment insurance, pensions, good housing, and other basic benefits.

Questions to Ask

- Does your party support giving immigrant status and permanent residency to all migrant workers? If so, how will your party do this?
- How will your party make sure migrant workers will be protected against employer abuse?

Not Sure Who to Vote For Overall? Why not check out [CBC's Vote Compass](#) to take a quick survey to help figure out which party best represents your priorities?