



WEATHERING INJUSTICE

How the Canadian federal and provincial governments of British Columbia, Ontario, Quebec and Nova Scotia are failing to protect those who are responsible for our food security: migrant farmworkers

Migrant farmworkers

contribute to the Canadian economy and help provide food security for those in Canada and around the world. Institutionally speaking, however, they are given very little support. While they come to Canada through federal programs, their health and employment standards are subject to provincial labour and health protection laws.



What are the federal regulations for migrant farmworkers in Canada?

The Seasonal Agricultural Workers Program (SAWP) brings in foreign nationals from Mexico and the Caribbean countries on a maximum contract duration of 8 months.

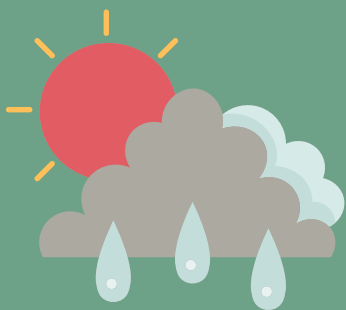
The Temporary Foreign Workers Program (TFWP) brings in foreign nationals from any country on a maximum contract duration of 24 months.





Climate justice advocates for a shift in the focus of climate change dialogue away from economic imperatives and technical solutions, to protecting the human rights of those most vulnerable to its effects, both globally and locally.

As climate impacts increase and extreme weather conditions become more frequent, migrant farmworkers are being left behind in the conversation regarding policy considerations affecting their health and safety.



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Because the current laws don't protect our health, safety, and working status, those of us who speak up are ignored and many others decide to stay silent in fear of deportation and losing their livelihood.

Robert, a Jamaican migrant greenhouse worker



Current provincial legal frameworks do not encourage migrant farmworkers to rest. This makes them more vulnerable to heat-related illnesses as temperatures increase.

- Across all provinces, workplace health & safety regulations do not mandate employers of migrant agricultural workers to provide prescribed rest time, nor do required maximum work limits exist.
- Migrant farmworkers undergo strenuous work and long days for their employers, and are unable to properly rest and cool down in the evenings due poor employer provided housing conditions.



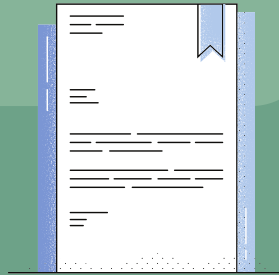
Migrant farmworkers face barriers to accessing healthcare and will likely not receive compensation for workplace injury.

- Despite employers across all provinces under federal rules needing to provide migrant farmworkers with healthcare, many avoid sharing their injuries with employers. This is because many fear the forced return to one's home country due to injury.
 - Migrant farmworkers are also often not informed or made aware of compensation for workplace injury by their employer.
 - Many migrant farmworkers fear the outcome of advocating for their own health. This leaves migrant farmworkers in a vulnerable position as they continue to suffer without receiving healthcare and services.
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Recommendations

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Permanent resident status & open work permits



2

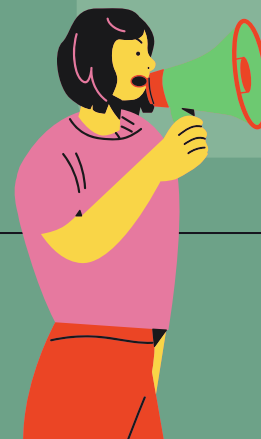
Policies & regulations that protect against extreme weather events

3

Increase the number of site inspections

4

Reduce barriers to unionize



Call For Action

To learn more about migrant farmworker rights and movements, below are some advocacy groups across Canada:

Canada-wide

<https://migrantrights.ca/>
<https://migrantworkersalliance.org/>

British Columbia

<https://www.ramaokanagan.org/>
<https://fuerzamigrante.ca/>

Ontario

<https://harvestingfreedom.org/>
<https://www.fcjrefugeecentre.org/our-programs/immigration-and-refugee-protection/>

Quebec

<https://iwc-cti.ca/>

Nova Scotia

<https://www.migrantjusticens.ca/>



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