



**ONTARIO  
FEDERATION OF  
LABOUR**

PATTY COATES, President

AHMAD GAIED, Secretary-Treasurer

JANICE FOLK-DAWSON, Executive Vice-President

June 9, 2023

**Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau**  
Prime Minister of Canada  
80 Wellington Street  
Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A2  
[justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca](mailto:justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca)

**Hon. Sean Fraser**  
Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship  
Confederation Building, Suite 110  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A6  
[sean.fraser@parl.gc.ca](mailto:sean.fraser@parl.gc.ca)

**Hon. Marco Mendicino**  
Minister of Public Safety  
269 Laurier Avenue West  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0P8  
[marco.mendicino@parl.gc.ca](mailto:marco.mendicino@parl.gc.ca)

**RE: Ontario labour supports international students, demands Status for All.**

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau, Minister Fraser, and Minister Mendicino:

On behalf of the Ontario Federation of Labour (OFL), I am writing to express our support for the former international students from India who are now facing deportation, as a result of an exploitative education recruitment scheme, and to echo the demands of the impacted students, along with the [Migrant Workers Alliance for Change](#).

In my capacity as OFL President, I am urging you to take the following steps:

- End the deportations of the students affected and revoke their deportation orders;
- Stop any further revocation of work or study permits; and
- Ensure Permanent Resident status for all those impacted, either by approving humanitarian and compassionate applications, or by including these students in the promised regularization program by waiving inadmissibilities, based on misrepresentation.

These are reasonable and practical demands, and they are all within your power to enact immediately. They are also consistent with public commitments your government has made on the issue of Status for All, which are widely supported by the labour

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15 Gervais Drive, Suite 202, Toronto, Ontario M3C 1Y8 T: 416-441-2731 | F: 416-441-1893 | OFL.CA



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movement in Ontario and across Canada. These students, through no fault of their own, have been targeted by unregulated recruiters who prey on young people with aspirations for a better life and educational opportunities in Canada. They have already paid tens of thousands of dollars to study here and many work in essential frontline jobs that serve all our communities and the economy.

Their families, their homes, and their lives are here now, where they have worked hard to establish themselves and become part of our communities.

In response to these demands, the Standing Committee on Citizenship and Immigration passed a motion on Wednesday, June 7, moved by Committee member Jenny Kwan (Vancouver East), to support the students and to begin an investigation into how this situation emerged in the first place. This motion is a step in the right direction, and I encourage you to follow suit and resolve this matter as quickly as possible.

Likewise, I welcome the intervention of Ontario's Leader of the Official Opposition Marit Stiles, who recently visited the student-led protest and pledged her support for their demands.

As the largest labour federation in Canada, the OFL is committed to achieving justice for migrant workers and migrant students, among the most exploited and most vulnerable members of our workforce and our communities.

Everyone deserves fairness, dignity, and equal rights, and that will only be possible if everyone has Permanent Resident status.

Thank you for your urgent attention to this matter. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "P. Coates". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter of the first name being a large, prominent capital 'P'.

Patty Coates  
President,  
Ontario Federation of Labour

CC: Bea Bruske, President, Canadian Labour Congress: [president-office@clcctc.ca](mailto:president-office@clcctc.ca)  
Migrant Workers Alliance for Change: [info@migrantworkersalliance.org](mailto:info@migrantworkersalliance.org)  
Rob Halpin, OFL Executive Director: [rhalpin@ofl.ca](mailto:rhalpin@ofl.ca)

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