



**Mennonite New Life Centre of Toronto**  
**1774 Queen St East**  
**Toronto, ON**  
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November 13, 2009

The Honourable Jason Kenney, P.C., M.P.  
Citizenship and Immigration Canada  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 1L1

Dear Mr. Kenney

The Mennonite New Life Centre is deeply concerned about the rapid expansion of the Temporary Foreign Worker Program. Based on our 26 years of service to immigrants and refugees, the Mennonite New Life Centre believes that permanent status and effective settlement services are critical to ensure full and equitable participation of newcomers in shaping the future of our country. Such participation is the cornerstone of our commitment to multiculturalism.

The Auditor General's report notes that lack of federal government oversight of the Temporary Foreign Workers Program leaves workers open to abuse and exploitation. Far from achieving full and equitable participation, temporary workers often put up with mistreatment for fear of being sent home as the result of a complaint. We are creating a two tiered immigration system, with temporary workers forming a disadvantaged second class.

As the Auditor General also notes, recent immigration policy changes have been implemented without sufficient analysis of their long term consequences. Star reporter Sandro Contento notes that the rapid influx of temporary foreign workers is likely to put added pressure on the refugee system and result in a growing population of non-status individuals as migrant workers try to stay beyond the terms of their temporary work permit. This undermines your own efforts to achieve fast and fair processing of refugee claimants, along with a reduction in the number of claimants remaining in the country without status.

Our primary concern is that a growing proportion of the newcomers welcomed to Canada each year does not have access to permanent status and the associated rights, or to federally funded settlement and integration services. We urge you to open up new channels to permanent status that are equitably accessible by all temporary migrant workers, and to remove eligibility restrictions on federally funded settlement services.

Sincerely,

Tanya Chute Molina  
Executive Director