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Let's make sure migrant workers win justice during the Ontario Labour Law reform process.

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Dear Eugenie,

Migrant workers and their allies have been showing up at the *Changing Workplace Review* consultations across the province, calling for fairness, full protections and work without fees (scroll below for pictures).

You can join in too. Here are two things you can do right now.

1. **Email the Special Advisors** retained by the province, and ask them to ensure migrant workers have real protections (CWR.SpecialAdvisors@ontario.ca). For ideas of what to say, click [here](#).

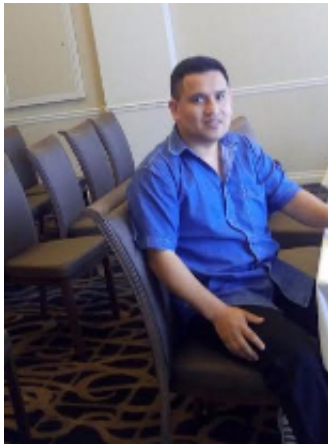
2. **Meet with your Member of Provincial Parliament** and stress the importance of justice for migrant workers. If you can go to or organize such a meeting, [click here to let us know](#). We will connect you with others in your area and send you materials to coordinate.

Thank you!



Mississauga - Sam Sharpe, a

Toronto - Restaurant worker and Workers Action Centre members, Senthil Thevar told the Special Advisors, "My boss used to give me work for 12 to 14 hours. No vacation pay, no benefits, and if I was sick, I had to pay from my own pocket. Finally I became too sick, and it forced me to quit the job. I was on the streets. I don't know anybody. I don't know any labour laws. We don't know where to complain. We need a better law to protect foreign workers."



London - Farmworker Juan Ariza along with members of Justicia for Migrant Workers, and members of London District Labour Council spoke in London. Adrian Monroe, a Jamaican farmworker insisted the previous day, "We don't know what's a Sunday. Sometimes those guys don't even have time to cook food for themselves, they don't even have time to clean their laundry and yet they still have to go out and work."

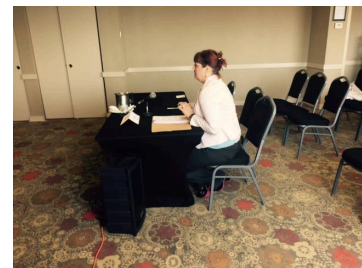
farmworkers and Yris, a Live-in Caregiver organizer with the Caregivers Action Centre spoke to the Special Advisors. Yris insisted, "How do we want children to grow happily when workers caring for them are exploited and stressed out? If we want happy, healthy children emotionally and physically, caregivers, their substitute mothers, also need that healthy, good working environment. This will be beneficial for the children and for us as workers."



Windsor - Justicia for Migrant Workers, Legal Assistance Windsor, and Windsor Workers Education Centre presented in Windsor. Thelma Green, a farmworker from Jamaica, noted, "We keep silent because we are afraid of what will happen. We all have to make a big sacrifice to come to Canada. and work and sometimes we are treated as slaves."



Guelph - Professor Janet McLaughlin and Fuerza Puwersa Organizer Mina Ramos spoke to the Special Advisors. Ramos insisted, "The workers I talk to know that they are being disrespected when it comes to employment standards even if they are not specifically familiar with our labour laws. Over the years they've realized that most citizens don't work 60 hour weeks with no rest without getting paid overtime; that one shouldn't be afraid of calling in sick. Still, when you know you are replaceable and you have a family to provide for back home, you keep your mouth shut. This needs to change. There needs to be less fear and more protection for migrant workers in Canada."



Kingston - Teresa Williams of Northumberland Community Legal Centre presented in Kingston insisting, "There must be random inspections and Ministry-initiated enforcement. Workers must feel that they can truly

exercise their rights, without fear of reprisal, or worse, being ignored by the Ministry of Labour."

Fairness

- Labour laws must be proactively enforced.
- Community members must be able to complain about bad bosses.
- Migrant workers must be able to stay in the country while their complaints are being processed.
- No harassment or bullying at the workplace.
- Make contracts enforceable.



Full Protections

- Migrant workers deserve the same rights as everyone else.
- There should be no special rules and exemptions by occupation.
- Agriculture workers and Caregivers must be able to unionize, and bargain collectively and sectorally.



Work without Fees

- License recruiters, and register employers.
- Make recruiter and employer registries public.
- Hold employers and recruiters jointly financially liable for all fees paid to work by migrant workers.
- Joint liability must include any fees paid at any point in recruitment process.



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