

## **BUILDING SCHOOLS AND HOSPITALS REQUIRES SOLUTIONS NOT SCAPEGOATS!**

Unity Statement of the *Solutions Not Scapegoats Coalition* on Premier Danielle Smith's  
Proposed October Referendum

*The Solutions Not Scapegoats Coalition* of workers in Alberta are taking action to protect migrant rights. The Alberta government is now proposing that we should vote on whether migrants have access to basic human rights. This is their “solution” to our overburdened social services. Workers in Alberta see through these false “solutions”. We know that blaming migrants does not build hospitals or schools. We know that removing the rights of some workers will make it harder for all of us to fight for better wages, working conditions and to demand improvements to our social services.

- **Workers want better schools and better hospitals NOT divisions in our communities!** By asking us to vote on whether migrants should have access to basic human rights, the government wants to make it look like this is a popular idea.
- Divisions in our communities only makes it easier for the **few elite in government and their friends to privatize our public services and line their pockets.**
- The **Alberta Government has implemented deeper cuts to education.** These cuts—*not* immigration—are the reason behind staff shortages and larger class sizes.
- The **Alberta Government has been privatizing our healthcare services.** This has led to a two tiered healthcare system leading to longer wait times or higher out-of-pocket costs for working families.
- **Migrants pay taxes!** Migrant workers pay into the social services they hardly access. Some migrant families living in Alberta are already being denied access to education and healthcare.

So why is the Alberta Government blaming migrants?

- **Workers have been rising up!** Major disputes have erupted across the province. Healthcare workers, teachers, education assistants, and public service employees, represented by unions like Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE), the United Nurses of Alberta (UNA), the Alberta Teachers' Association (ATA), and the Alberta Union of Provincial Employees (AUPE), pushed back against wage freezes, mass layoffs, and the erosion of collective bargaining rights.
- **The Alberta Government is using multiple tactics to weaken our ability as workers to demand better wages and working conditions!** These include legal maneuvers to limit the right to strike, spreading misinformation, and shifting the blame onto migrants and other scapegoats.
- This is **aligned with the federal government's passing of Bill C12** and the long-used government tactic of **using, abusing, blaming and disposing of migrant workers.**

**Let's be clear: the provincial and federal governments have no intention of reducing the number of migrant workers in dangerous, precarious, and low-paying jobs. This referendum is focused on denying those workers the right to social services. Services they already contribute to. To keep undercutting labour and human rights and to divide the working class.**

As workers — regardless of immigration status — we need to continue to build our collective strength. In response to this referendum, we are building solidarity with all workers. Together we can continue to educate, organize, and mobilize for real alternatives that put people over profits.

We call for labour unions, worker organizations, neighbourhood committees, faith groups, migrant servicing organizations, grassroots migrant organizations, and individuals to:

- Sign onto this statement in defence of workers rights!
- Use this statement, and supplementary materials developed by the International Migrants Alliance as the grassroots alliance of migrant workers in Alberta, to organize your networks.
- Participate in and support the public forums and education series being led by the International Migrants Alliance.
- Host your own discussion forums and activities to promote and defend workers' rights.
- Join the *Solutions Not Scapegoat Coalition* in opposition to the October Referendum and in defence of migrant rights!

**Add your organization and logo:**

- International Migrants Alliance - Alberta Coordinating Committee (Migrante Alberta, Familia Latino Migrante, Alberta Workers Association for Research and Education, Climate Justice Edmonton, Calgary Climate Hub)
- Iglesia Filipina Independiente

