

Action Committee against internal and international human trafficking

February 24, 2025

Presentation by Renaude
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www.cathii.org (annual report in
English and French)



- Religious communities and faith groups
- Founded in 2004 following awareness-raising activities on human trafficking and the implementation of the Trafficking Protocol
- Founded the Quebec Coalition Human Trafficking in 2013
- Member of the Talitha Kum International Network, the Canadian Council for Refugees and other groups

Advocacy:

put an end to closed work permits (have open work permits)

government agency to receive and issue work permits, to prevent abuse by employment agencies in particular



- Our sources are first and foremost our partners and friends who are in direct contact with temporary foreign workers (RATTAMAQ, CIT, CCR, etc.) and the symposiums where we heard their testimonies...
- The report, published in July 2024, stems from the 2023 visit to Canada by the UN Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Slavery.
- We took part in one of the meetings with the Special Rapporteur in September 2023.



Some data on the Temporary Foreign Worker Program

- Work permits issued under the TFWP in 2023: 183,590 permits.
- Sectors: agriculture, agri-food, health care, domestic services mainly

- The Temporary Foreign Worker Program is the responsibility of Employment and Social Development Canada, and is run in partnership with Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) and the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA). In Québec, this is done in partnership with the provincial government.
- Work permits issued under the TFWP in 2023: 183,590 permits.
- Source: <https://www.ledevoir.com/societe/837322/amnistie-internationale-denonce-tour-situation-temporary-workers>
- Sectors: agriculture, agri-food, health care, domestic services mainly

The main issue at stake in this closed work permit system for temporary migrant workers with the TFWP program is the following

- linked to a single employer



Temporary work permit linked to a single employer

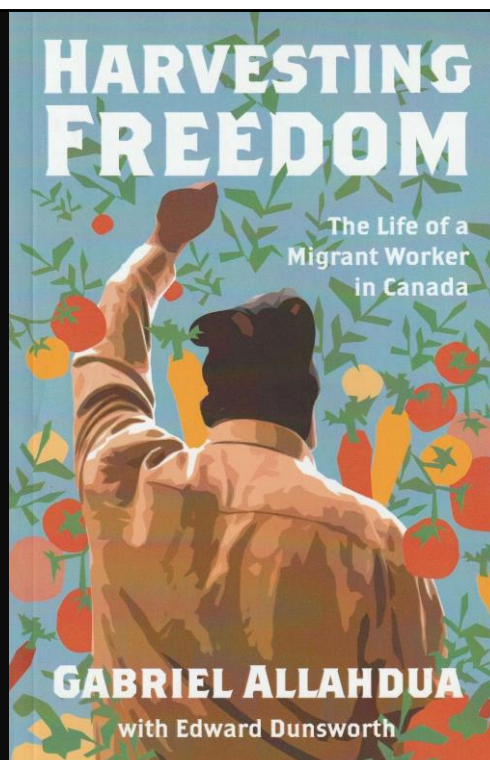
- Inequality between the power of the employer and that of temporary employee
- Risk abuse, exploitation (long hours, low pay, failure to respect hourly rates, demand for extra work, inadequate housing, taking risks in reporting abuse, accidents, little legal recourse, risk of harassment of all kinds, competition between employees, false promises, withheld passports, isolation, difficulties accessing care, threats, physical and psychological violence, etc.).
- leave employment without another work permit, which is difficult to obtain due to time constraints.
- Employment agencies abusing temporary migrant workers, false promises, asking for money to place them elsewhere....
- Few inspections in the field by the authorities

Credible testimonies and reports

- "The more we talk about it, the better it is for the workers. [They] are chained to a specific employer who is tied to their work permit. It causes situations that we might have trouble [imagining] in Canada and even here in Québec."

- - Mélanie Gauvin, Director, Réseau d'aide aux travailleuses et travailleurs migrants agricoles du Québec

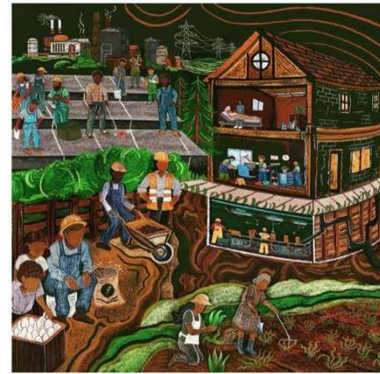
- Source : <https://ici.radio-canada.ca/news/2008704/foreign-workers-slavery-farm-conditions>



Gabriel
(RATTMAQ report)

Credible testimonies and reports

<https://amnistie.ca/sites/default/files/2025-01/Rapport%20sur%20les%20travailleurs%20migrants%20AI.pdf>



« LE CANADA M'A DÉTRUITE »

EXPLOITATION DES TRAVAILLEUSES ET TRAVAILLEURS
MIGRANTS AU CANADA

AMNISTIE
INTERNATIONALE

Credible testimonies and reports

Infographie: Le travail forcé existe au Ca

Nous espérons que cette ressource appuiera les campagnes de sensibilisation sur le traite de person

Canada.
[Télécharger ici](#)

LE TRAVAIL FORCÉ EXISTE AU CANADA
LE CAS DES TRAVAILLEURS ET TRAVAILLEUSES MEXICAIN·E·S DE WASAGA/BARRIE, CANADA

INTRODUCTION

En 2019, plus de 60 travailleurs et travailleuses originaires du Mexique se sont trouvés piégés dans un réseau d'exploitation du travail à Wasaga-Barrie, en Ontario. Les autorités locales ont pu intervenir grâce à un signalement et à un soutien de la part de notre organisation. Cette affaire est le sujet de notre rapport.

Pourquoi les Mexicains migrent-ils?

- La recherche économique, le passage et les difficultés économiques, ainsi que l'absence de perspectives d'avenir ont poussé à chercher un avenir plus sûr ailleurs.
- La crise de la dette, les tensions politiques et les conflits armés ont poussé à chercher un avenir plus sûr ailleurs.
- La violence et les menaces de la part de groupes criminels ont poussé à chercher un avenir plus sûr ailleurs.

Qu'est-ce que les droits des citoyens?

- Le statut de résident permanent ou de citoyen canadien permet d'accéder à un certain nombre de droits.
- La plupart des migrants n'ont pas le statut de résident permanent ou de citoyen canadien.
- Les migrants sans statut de résident permanent ou de citoyen canadien ont des droits limités.

LES FAITS!

24 000
Le nombre moyen de migrants en Ontario en 2019.



Canadian Council
for Refugees
Conseil canadien
pour les réfugiés

Credible testimonies and reports

Il faut «cesser de recourir» aux permis de travail fermés, dit un comité à Ottawa

[Actualité] / [Politique]



Photo: Marie-France Gauthier (La Presse). De nouveaux chemins vers la résidence permanente doivent être ouverts, recommande aussi un rapport publié mercredi.

Sarah R. Champagne

Publié le 6 nov. 2024
Politique

Les permis de travail fermés exposent les travailleurs étrangers temporaires « à l'exploitation et aux abus » et Ottawa doit cesser d'y recourir, a conclu un comité permanent de la Chambre des communes dans son rapport présenté mercredi après-midi.

Credible testimonies and reports

RADIO-CANADA MENU

ICI Nouvelle-Écosse

A la une En continu Arts Sports Vidéojournal

Info | Économie | Emploi | Nouvelle-Écosse

Trois défenseures des travailleurs étrangers des Maritimes appuient un rapport de l'ONU

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Près de la moitié des immigrants qui arrivent en Nouvelle-Écosse font partie du programme des travailleurs agricoles saisonniers. Ci-dessus : des travailleurs de la Jamaïque à l'œuvre dans une ferme en Nouvelle-Écosse. (Photos d'archives)

La Presse canadienne
Publié le 25 août 2024 à 9 h 05 HNE

Credible testimonies and reports

Le Canada, «terreau fertile» pour l'esclavage moderne: le rapporteur de l'ONU persiste et signe

[Actualité] / [Société]



Photo: Marie France Coëlleur/Archives La Presse. Dans le cadre de son rapport, l'envoyé spécial des Nations unies, Tomoya Obokata, a visité Ottawa, Moncton, Montréal, Toronto et Vancouver pour rencontrer des associations, des travailleurs eux-mêmes, des employeurs, des universitaires ainsi que des représentants gouvernementaux.

Sarah R. Champagne
Publié et mis à jour le 13 août 2024
Société

Dans son rapport final, un envoyé spécial des Nations unies conclut que le Programme des travailleurs étrangers temporaires du Canada constitue un terrain propice à des formes contemporaines d'esclavage. Tomoya Obokata pointe l'existence d'« un important déséquilibre de pouvoir » lorsqu'un travailleur est lié à un seul employeur par son permis de travail.

Our vision in light of the Gospel



Workers of the last hour are entitled to the same treatment as those of the first hour. The dignity of the individual is at the heart of the Church's social teaching.

<https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/2>



Pope Francis' appeal, May 6, 2020

"On the occasion of May 1st, I received several messages concerning the world of work and its problems. I was particularly struck by the condition of farm workers, many of them immigrants, who work in the Italian countryside. Unfortunately, they so often find themselves severely exploited. It's true that the crisis affects everyone, but people's dignity must always be respected. Therefore, I endorse the appeal of these workers and all exploited workers, and invite us to make this crisis an opportunity to put the dignity of the person and the dignity of work at the center."

Our plea

put an end to closed work permits and
replace them open work permits

that a government agency be
responsible for receiving and allocating
work permits for temporary migrant
workers, to avoid abuse by placement
agencies and employers



We join several civil society organizations in calling on the Canadian government to

replace closed work permits with unconditionally open work permits, and to open up unhindered access to permanent residence for all migrant workers from all continents (whatever their salary level or profession).

In addition, we ask that a government agency be responsible for receiving and issuing work permits for temporary migrant workers, to prevent abuse by placement agencies and employers.

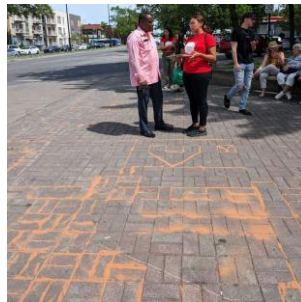
Possible courses of action

Meet an expert, a film, sign a postcard or letter, listen to testimonials from temporary migrant workers, review the press...



With the members of CATHII, each year we come back to our request and choose a specific period of the year - either autumn or spring... always involving young people - intergenerational transmission (Young TK Ambassadors - students, etc.).
Simple means: meet an expert, watch a film, sign a postcard

EnSable
like Talitha Kum's Young
Ambassadors Canada under
the responsibility of CATHI...



Their flagship project is undoubtedly Agissons enSable, inspired by the Red Sand Project. The young ambassadors chose this means of raising awareness to encourage people to make a gesture of solidarity towards the victims of human trafficking in the public space. The symbolic act of pouring small scarlet grains into sidewalk cracks serves to highlight the existence of a vulnerable population at risk of falling between the cracks of the social safety net. It is also a collective work that claims recognition for this group and responsibility for ensuring they receive adequate services in their destination country.



Possible courses of action

From January to April 2024, in communion with members of Talitha Kum West and North Africa, to highlight this corridor of temporary migrant workers to Canada...



Possible courses
of action for
communicating,
meeting elected officials
or candidates

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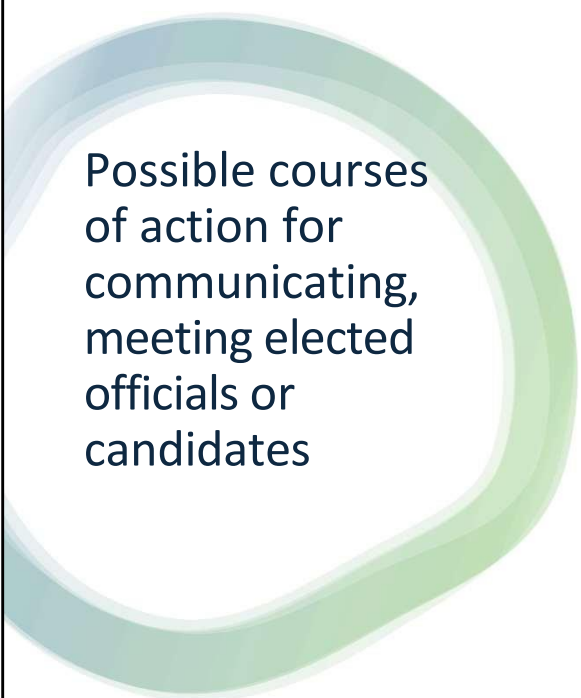
11: Number of communications to be made giving us a chance to be taken seriously by elected officials...

Many times the strength of numbers attracts attention...

Many times the number of times we address our requests attracts attention...

Having a varied press review in these sources and credible reports that support our requests...

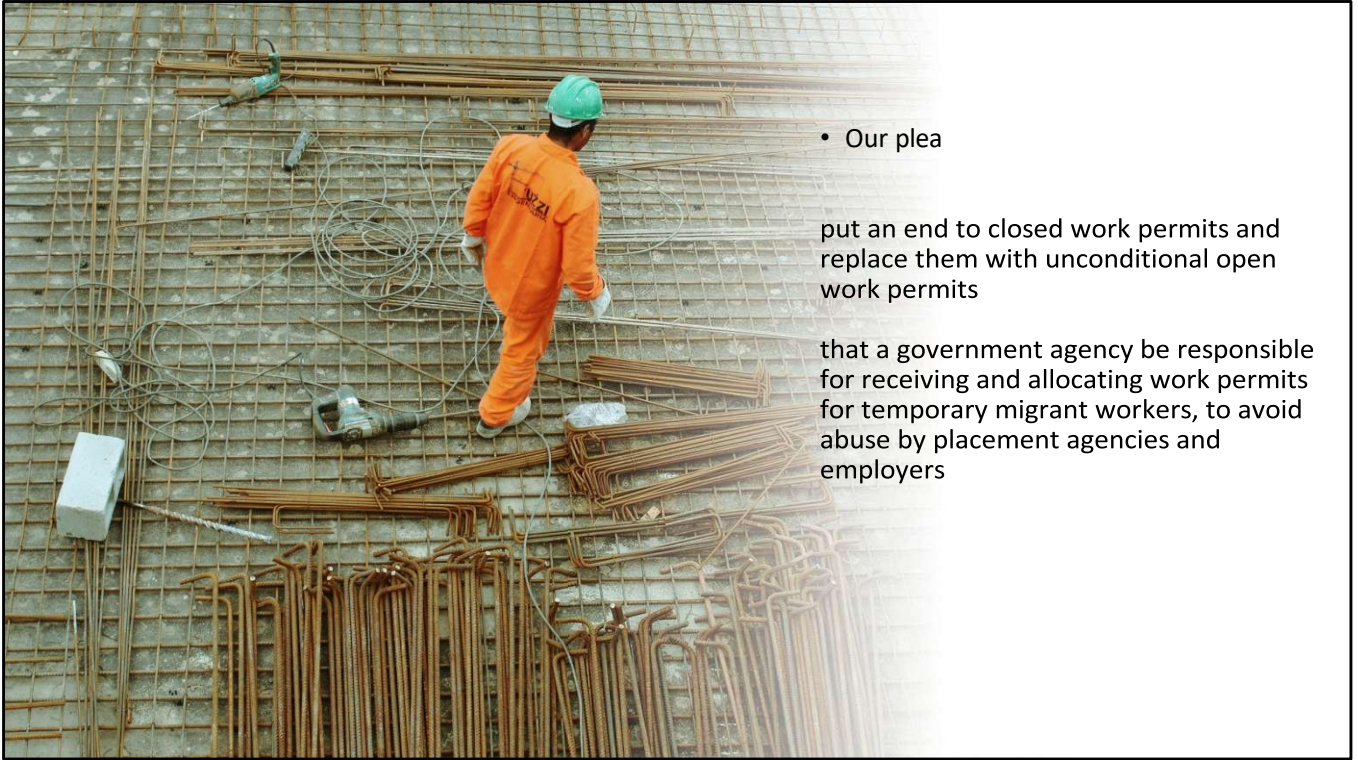
Always follow up on our requests...for years to come...



Possible courses
of action for
communicating,
meeting elected
officials or
candidates

- Motivations
- Message
- Getting to know your elected representative
- Team
- Keeping in touch
- Long term

1. **Identify and share your motivations**
2. **Formulate a simple message presenting the problem and the solution(s) - if possible say how you are involved in the solution**
3. **Get to know your MP (biography, positions taken)**
4. **Building an advocacy team and allocating roles**
5. **Make appointments (handing out cards, handing over letters, presentation and dialogue time, etc.).**
6. **Ask your elected representative if he or she intends to talk about the problem and solutions within his or her party, with a minister, etc.**
7. **After the meeting, make a short summary, follow up with the MP, send one or more newspaper articles, one or two testimonials from people affected by the situation to be changed... keep the lines of communication open... make sure there's a backup....**



- Our plea

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