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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A pathway to citizenship for undocumented construction workers

Toronto, Ontario — Up to 6,000 undocumented construction workers already living and working in Canada will be provided a pathway to citizenship.

The Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship announced that the federal government will be providing a pathway to legal status for undocumented immigrants currently living and working in Canada.

It is critical that we move more quickly on building homes. Ensuring that the thousands of workers already contributing to our construction sector are able to seek legal status in Canada, rather than asking workers who are already in Canada and are working essential jobs to leave, helps to keep those jobs stable, while taking strides to meet Canadians' urgent housing needs.

The federal government will also be forming a tripartite advisory council - comprised of federal government officials, union representatives, and business leaders - that will work to address three key areas:

1. Normalize non-status construction workers;
2. Identify how many construction workers we need across the country;
3. Foreign apprenticeships: We want Canadians to have access to our apprenticeships, and for all other spots, how do we facilitate or enable newcomers with the skills to enter apprenticeships

The Transport and Internal Trade Minister has indicated that the federal government is working toward facilitating easier credential recognition across the country - so a carpenter in Ontario can work as a carpenter in all other provinces. This will help ensure that workers with the right skills can work jobs anywhere in Canada.

The constituency of Davenport is home to a large number of construction workers and members of labour unions, including LIUNA Local 183, LIUNA Local 506, and IUPAT 46. For more than 9 years, I have advocated for a pathway to citizenship because for too long, our immigration system has not facilitated a legal pathway for skilled trades workers who migrate into Canada. Many employers have been forced to hire undocumented workers as a result, despite the fact that these workers live in Canada, work in our trades, and have families here with them.

This announcement makes me proud that our federal government is stepping up to support these



HOUSE OF COMMONS
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CANADA

Julie Dzerowicz
Member of Parliament / Députée
Davenport



critical workers, protect good jobs, and advance home-building across the country.

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For more information, kindly reach out to Claudia Stoyke in my office at:

Telephone: (613) 992-2576

Email: Julie.Dzerowicz@parl.gc.ca

Ottawa
Room 502
Justice Building
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6
Tel.: 613-992-2576

Constituency
1202 Bloor Street West
Toronto, Ontario
M6H 1N2
Tel.: 416-654-8048
Fax.: 416-654-5083

Ottawa
Pièce 502
Édifice de la Justice
Ottawa (Ontario)
K1A 0A6
Tel. : 613-992-2576

Circonscription
1202, rue Bloor ouest
Toronto (Ontario)
M6H 1N2
Tél. : 416-654-8048
Télé. : 416-654-5083

Julie.Dzerowicz@parl.gc.ca